

## President's Message

Since the beginning of my term I've made it priority to reach out to businesses that are still in business but are no longer part of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. I want to personally find out why they left and invite each business back as a member of our business community if it's feasible. My ultimate goal is to reach an all time high with paid memberships from long time businesses in the community as well as businesses just moving in. We are currently at 86 members with 43 being paid. With that being said, please take this as a friendly reminder to pay your 2018 membership dues if you haven't done so already. :-)

One of the many advantages of being a member of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is the networking between businesses. In the past we've offered monthly luncheons with informative speakers to help generate interest. During the first half hour before lunch is served everyone is given an opportunity to network. But what if you come late? What if you don't come at all? You miss that small window of opportunity. This month we are doing something different. We are not offering a luncheon with a single speaker as the draw. This month we are spotlighting you, our area businesses. I want to encourage each of you to come to this months [Member Spotlight Luncheon on March 8th](#) to showcase what it is that your business offers the community and other businesses! I'm looking forward to hearing everyone speak and to get all the information you provide!

Best,

Jessica M. Cliff

President, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce

Program Director, U.S. Shuai Chiao Kung Fu Academy



# Taste of Brooklyn Saturday, April 28th 7-10pm



The Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz will take place on Saturday April 28th from 7-10pm. The event is once again, being held at Copper Stone Catering & Event Center. All of the net proceeds benefit the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce's Scholarship & Education Fund. This is the Chamber's 12<sup>th</sup> year hosting the event!

This event has had great success in the past. Because of the proceeds made in previous years, we have been able to award countless college scholarships to Brooklyn and Old Brooklyn residents and teacher grants to Brooklyn City Schools. We are hoping to do the same for years to come!

Taste of Brooklyn features a "taste" of cuisine from local restaurants and establishments. The Brooklyn High School Jazz Band entertains all of those in attendance. The cost is \$15 presale and \$20 at the door. Tickets include food, beer, wine, and entertainment. We will also be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win gift baskets and 50/50 tickets! If you are interested in sponsoring the event, the cost is \$200. All sponsors receive 2 admission tickets for the event.

If you are able to help out in any way or if you are interested in purchasing tickets, please let Valerie Thompson know.

[Click here for flyer...](#)

[Click here for sponsorship info...](#)

[Click here for food vendor info...](#)



**Thank you to our food vendors...**

**Buffalo Wild Wings**

**Carrabba's Italian Grill**

**Copperstone Catering &  
Banquet Center**

**Geppetto's**

**Hofbrauhaus Cleveland**

**Polaris Career Center**

**Rockne's**

# Taste of Brooklyn tickets available...

**Tickets available for purchase, cash or check, at the following locations:**

Brooklyn City Schools Board of Education (9200 Biddulph)

Dollar Bank (Ridge Park Square)

U.S. Shuai Chiao Kung Fu Academy West (6775 Memphis Avenue)

Westbrook Village Apts./K&D (4000 Westbrook Drive off of Memphis Ave)

**Tickets can be purchased via credit card by visiting the following site:**

<https://www.paypal.me/Brooklynchamber>

**The cost is \$15 presale and \$20 at the door.**



**Thank you to our sponsors...**

**Andy Celcherts**

**Copperstone Catering & Banquet Center**

**Dollar Bank**

**Hampton Inn**

**Jinisha Patel, State Farm Insurance**

**KeyBank Operations Center**

**Mayor Katie Gallagher**

**Ridge Park Square**

**Richard & Barbara Balbier**

**The Floor King**

**Wally's Auto Service**



# Meet our 2018 Board of Directors...



## **Andy Celcherts, Brooklyn City Council**

Andy, a 1973 graduate of Brooklyn High School, went on to Cleveland State University to earn a B.A. in Business. Upon graduation he worked for the Ohio Department of Taxation from 1977 to 2008 when he retired to be a care giver to his parents. Andy has been the Board Chair for the Latvian Cleveland Credit Union as well as serving as the treasurer for the Friends of the Brooklyn Library and is also a member of the Brooklyn Historical Society. While on Brooklyn City Council from 2014 and 2015 he served on the Finance Committee, was School Board Liaison, and was also chair of the public works committee where he developed a 5-year residential street revitalization plan resulting in 11% savings in tax dollars. Andy is also currently involved with the Fall Festival Committee, Safe Routes to School Committee, Superintendent's Advisory Council, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and Volunteer for Campus Life.

## **Mark Gleichauf, Superintendent Brooklyn City Schools**

Mark is in his third year as a member of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and as Superintendent of the Brooklyn City Schools. He is familiar with the Brooklyn community as he also served as a teacher, coach and middle school principal for the Brooklyn City Schools from 1991-2000. As an educator he has also served as an elementary school principal, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Deputy Superintendent while working in the Lakewood City Schools and the Cuyahoga Falls City Schools. As principal of Grant Elementary School in 2004, it was named a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School. In 2015 Mark earned a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Concordia University in Chicago. His other education includes a master's degree from Cleveland State University and a bachelor's degree from John Carroll University. He is excited to be a member of the Brooklyn Chamber Board because of the great support it provides the students of Brooklyn through scholarships, teacher grants and the new Hire-an-Intern Program. He is looking forward to continued strong partnership between the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, the city's businesses and the Brooklyn City Schools.

## **Ken Grodek, EmbroidMe**

Ken Grodek, Owner of Embroidme, will be our newest board member as of January, 2018. He may be a new board member, but he is not new to the Board or Administration of the Chamber having served as a board member from 2004-2007 with a 1 year stint as President in 2005. Ken is a lifelong Cleveland area resident, having grown up in the Old Brooklyn area and settling in Brooklyn as a resident in 1990. He attended Padua for high school, graduating in 1983, and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Cleveland State in 1988. His previous career before embarking on his own venture was as a Program Manager/Manager of New Product Pricing for MTD/Shiloh Automotive from 1984-2001, and then as Director of New Business Sales for Viking Industries from 2001-2003. In 2003, his entrepreneurial urge took over and he opened the first EmbroidMe franchise in the state of Ohio. There are now more than 200 of them throughout the US, Canada and Australia. Ken has been married to Sue, who he met at a high school job, going on 29 years and they have 2 boys, Teddy (27) and Dan (25). Sue is a first grade teacher in the Brooklyn school system, Ted has a Political Science degree from Rice University and will be graduating from Law school this spring and Dan graduated in 2016 from The Ohio State University with a degree in Welding Engineering. In his free time, Ken is an avid golfer, bowler and overall Cleveland sports fan.

## **David Hill, Dollar Bank**

David Hill is the Branch Manager for Dollar Bank located at Ridge Park Square in Brooklyn. He has nearly 20 years of experience in the banking and financial services industry. In his current role, David is responsible for leading a team of eight staff members; working closely with an internal team of experts to provide various banking services to the Northeast Ohio community. David graduated with a degree in business administration. Additionally, he successfully completed the four year program of Pennsylvania Bankers Association Advanced School of Banking with honors. David's roots are professionally planted in the Brooklyn community in which he actively promotes the city and Dollar Bank to local business owners. David has held the position of Treasurer and President of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and he currently stands as the Vice President of the Brooklyn Chamber. He is personally involved with numerous community events in Brunswick where he resides. David can be reached at his office at (216) 749-4725 or dhill824@dollarbank.com.

## **Karen Kirsh, First Energy**

Karen Kirsh, Manager of External Affairs at FirstEnergy is a liaison to 22 local cities and is committed to providing the highest quality of customer focus. Prior to that Ms. Kirsh was an Account Executive at Medical Mutual. Ms. Kirsh received an MBA from Cleveland State University and Bachelor of Science from Kent State University. She is also a graduate of the Cleveland YWCA Women's Leadership Boot Camp. Ms. Kirsh served as the Vice President and President of the Garfield Heights Chamber where she was honored twice as the Distinguished Chamber Ambassador of the Year. Ms. Kirsh is also a Trustee for Providence House Crisis Nursery, where she has served as Vice Chair of the Marketing and PR committee, External Affairs Committee and helped to form a County Relations Task Force. She served as Secretary for the Fairview Park Schools Business Advisory Council for 15 years. Karen and her husband, Matt, are great supporters of the Chamber and its events.

## **Nick Maroulis, Youth for Christ/Campus Life**

Nick Maroulis has been a Brooklyn resident since 1974, and is a 1988 Brooklyn High School graduate. Nick and his wife Joanne have been married since 1993 and share three children Leah, Colette, and Nicholas, as well as one grandson, Caleb. He and his wife have been serving the community since 2006 with Campus life. In 2011, Nick left his mechanic profession of about thirty years so that they could dedicate 100% of their time to working with the youth in the community. He looks forward to continuing to serve the City of Brooklyn in the years to come.



## **Jennifer Piechowski, KeyBank**

Jennifer Piechowski is currently the Senior Vice President and Director for Commercial and Corporate Lending Operations. She has Senior Leadership responsibilities for all loan operations within Key's footprint for corporate and commercial lending, equipment leasing and standby letters of credit. Jennifer is known for her clarity of thinking, problem-solving capabilities, and passion to win and drive for results. Jennifer has been with Key for 20 years and has held several positions throughout her career with increasing leadership responsibility. Jennifer is an active member of various banking organizations, Loan Sales and Trading Association (LSTA), Commercial Finance Association (CFA), Key Executive Women's Network (KEWN) and other Banking Operational Leadership committees. Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management from Baldwin Wallace University.

## **Amy Sabelli, Rockne's**

My name is Amy Sabelli, General Manager of Rockne's at Ridge park Square. I have been with the restaurant for 15 years. I graduated from Huron in 1988 and moved to the area. I'm married with 2 sons, youngest ready to graduate this year. Thank you for inviting me to be part of the chamber. I'm excited for the year!

## **Jeff Suhay, PNC Bank**

I am the Branch Manager, at PNC Bank at the corner of Memphis and Ridge. I have been the Branch Manager there for a little over 4 years, starting there in October 2014. I have been with PNC/National City Bank since January 2005. I grew up in Parma and still live there. I attended Padua HS. I have a Bachelors Degree in Finance.

## **Andi Udris, City of Brooklyn**

Andi Udris is a native of Cleveland, Ohio with nearly 40 years of economic development experience. Andi started his career in Washington, D.C. with the US Department of HUD and then worked for the cities of Cleveland, Cincinnati, Kansas City, MO and Ft Wayne, IN as the economic development leader. Udris also owns a majority interest in the Hofbrauhaus Cleveland and is an adjunct instructor at Cleveland State University in the College of Urban Studies. Udris has his Bachelor and Master degrees in Business Administration from Cleveland State University and is married to his wife Cindy with whom they have three children.

# **Board of Directors**



## ***2018 Scholarship Applications***

Because of the success of our annual Taste of Brooklyn events, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that we will once again, be offering 2 scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each!

The first scholarship will be awarded to a graduating Brooklyn High School senior who currently resides in the City of Brooklyn and will be attending a recognized college or university full time in the fall. The second scholarship will be available to any Brooklyn High School senior, Brooklyn or Old Brooklyn resident who will be attending a recognized college or university full-time in the fall. We encourage you to pass this information along to anyone who may qualify!

Completed packets must be postmarked by April 13, 2018. Please click below for more information.

[Scholarship Criteria and Application 2018](#)

# ***DUE it Right...***



It is that time of year again...time to renew your membership to the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. 2018 invoices have been emailed and mailed out several times and payment is now past due. Payment can be made by check or credit card. **Members with outstanding balances not paid by March 31st, will be removed from the Chamber.** Let us know if you have any questions or if you need a copy of your invoice.



# Polaris Chef Training Instructor Receives Outstanding Educator Award

Polaris Chef Training instructor, Chef Chris Olszewski, was recently honored with the Ohio Restaurant Association's (ORA) Outstanding Industry Educator Award. This award honors an educator who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the advancement of the Ohio foodservice industry. Chef Olszewski was recognized at the ORA Industry Awards Celebration, which was held in conjunction with the 2018 Mid-America Restaurant Expo at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

According to Patty Halper, Executive Director of Ohio ProStart, Olszewski is very deserving of the award. "Chef O's dedication and commitment goes well beyond the typical school day, and his passion, talent and perfectionism command high standards of quality from his students. We're very proud of Chef O's accomplishments and wish him many years of future success."

Olszewski is a nine time Ohio ProStart Teacher of Distinction winner, a ProStart Teacher of Excellence honoree, a two time recipient of the National Restaurant Association Teacher Excellence Award and was previously honored with the Northeast Ohio Media Group Crystal Apple Award. Olszewski has been the Chef Training Instructor at Polaris for 18 years, where he and his students manage a popular student-run restaurant, Mise en Place. He has also coached many successful culinary and restaurant management teams who have won state championships and placed at national skills competitions. Last spring, the Polaris culinary team won its second consecutive national championship at the National ProStart Invitational Competition in Charleston, SC. Prior to joining Polaris, Olszewski spent seven years as Executive Chef at Don's Pomeroy House in Strongsville, Ohio. He received his formal training at the Stouffer's Culinary Apprenticeship Program in Cleveland, and he has been a member of the American Culinary Federation for 27 years.

Congrats, Chef O!



**Contact Us:**

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**We are on the web!**  
[www.brooklynohiochamber.org](http://www.brooklynohiochamber.org)

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Jeff Suhay  
PNC Bank

Andy Celcherts  
Ex-Officio

Andi Udris  
Ex-Officio

Mayor Katie Gallagher  
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## Upcoming Meetings and Events

### Member Spotlight Luncheon March 8th

Join us for this unique networking luncheon event on March 8th! This will be a great opportunity to network with other members, while also advertising what you have to offer to the community. Each member in attendance will be given the chance to sign up when they arrive to speak for 3-5 minutes. This will be done on a first come first serve basis. We encourage everyone to bring any literature they may want to share with others. The luncheon will be held at KeyBank and the menu will be provided by their culinary staff. All those attending will need to be preregistered and have a valid driver's license or ID when entering the building. We are unable to accept walk ups at this luncheon. The luncheon will begin at 12noon. The cost for members is \$15 and non members is \$20. Hope to see you there! [Click here to register...](#)

### Taste of Brooklyn Teaser Luncheon April 12th

Join us on April 12th as we host a members only preview of the amazing food that will be served at Taste of Brooklyn this year! Several of the Taste of Brooklyn restaurants will be on hand to provide a sampling of their menu, as well as answer any questions you may have. We will also have Taste of Brooklyn tickets on sale for \$15 a piece. The luncheon is being held at Copper Stone Catering & Event Center. The luncheon will begin at 12noon. The cost for members is \$15 and non members is \$20. Hope to see you there! [Click here to register...](#)

### Did you know you can easily pay for your membership dues with a credit card?

As most of you know, the Chamber processes their credit cards through PayPal. They have a feature that allows us to create a link to give out to those that want to pay by credit card. You simply click on the link and fill out the information, including the amount. You can use this link to pay for membership dues, luncheons, event sponsorships, etc. If you have any questions, please let me know. Below is the link for those interested.

<https://www.paypal.me/Brooklynchamber>

