

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Chamber Members,

I hope the holidays were good for you and we can now settle down for winter and count the days to spring and eventually another baseball season. Last year was an eventful one that saw us host a number of successful events that I believe benefitted our members.

From our annual "Taste of Brooklyn" to our successful golf outing, everything turned out for the best. And maybe the best of all was the last luncheon we partnered with our Parma Chamber friends that featured a 911 survivor.

Mr. George Sleigh was incredibly interesting as he detailed his escape from the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Our members listened intently as he described the shaking of the building as the first plane crashed into the structure. His story of how with the help of others, he and his entire staff were able to climb down the stairs while encouraging on rushing firemen as they climbed upward was mesmerizing. And lastly the pictures he presented are forever in our minds as he told how everyone above his 92nd floor office perished in the tragedy.

The upcoming year prom-

ises to be a very interesting one as we prepare our programs and events. We hope to see you at this year's "Taste of Brooklyn" that features the Brooklyn High School Jazz Band for entertainment on February 4th. We are also planning on bringing in a number of candidates running for various state and local offices for you to question and help you chose this coming fall.

I hope to see you all soon and wish you nothing but the best in 2012 and just maybe a baseball season that we will never forget.

Doug Hogan
FirstEnergy

MEMBER OF THE YEAR!

Congratulations are in order to Ken Grodek with EmbroidMe! EmbroidMe was our 2011 Member of the Year Recipient. The award was presented at our Annual Meeting on November 10th.

The owners of Brooklyn EmbroidMe, Ken and Sue Grodek, have been strong supporters of the Chamber since they joined in 2003. They have assisted the Chamber in developing promotional materials for several of our past events, including the Cruise and Home Days. Most recently, Ken donated over 50 t-shirts for our Fall Fest volunteers. EmbroidMe graciously hosted a members' after hours at their facility last winter. Along with a free drinking glass, those in attendance received a free bag embroidered with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce logo and personalized with your name. Ken has also volunteered countless hours as a past President, Board member, and Programs chairperson. We are lucky to have such a supportive business as a Chamber member.

EmbroidMe offers many types of embroidery and promotional products including: embroidered golf shirts, polo's, hats, outerwear, shirts, custom embroidery, logo wear, team wear, corporate wear, pens, pencils, mugs, premiums, fundraiser's, souvenirs, and many other embroidery and promotional items. They are located at 4311 Ridge Road. They can be reached at 216-459-9250.



Ken Grodek is pictured above with County Councilperson Chuck Germana, Chamber President Doug Hogan, and Mayor Richard Balbier

The Chamber Bright Stars for 2011

The Chamber Bright Stars for 2011 were recognized on Thursday, October 27th at the semi-annual Chamber Leadership meeting and fourth annual Bright Star Awards presentation of the Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce (NOACC) at the Hyatt Regency Cleveland at the Arcade in Cleveland, Ohio.

Almost 50 chambers of commerce across northern Ohio nominated a person from their chamber as their "Bright Star," to recognize a chamber member who has "made a significant impact on the chamber through membership, retention, sponsorship, economic development, operations and/or education." Each Bright Star is an active chamber member for no less than two years and is likely to be an unsung hero or a dedicated behind-the-scenes volunteer.

These volunteers represent a wide range of involvement with their respective chambers, some having been a member and or officer or

committee chairman for 20+ years and some being newly involved but each of whom has given freely of his/her time, working hard for their chambers without any expectations.

This is the fourth year for the Bright Star Awards, and again has given an opportunity to recognize these volunteers among their peer groups, as chamber representatives, board members and spouses were also in attendance.

Wayne Lawrence, NOACC Chairman was pleased that this opportunity allowed the chambers and their communities to give these "Bright Stars" the thanks they deserve for everything they do to help their chambers succeed.

Ann Guess with Key-Bank was the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce's Bright Star recipient for 2011. She accepted her certificate from Wayne Lawrence, NOACC Chairman and received her trophy from Lute Harmon, Chairman of Inside Business

Magazine. Ann has been a very active member since she joined the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in 2009. When asked to be the Vice President of the Chamber in 2011, she stepped up to fill this vacancy, as well. Ann has put forth a lot of work and effort over the past 2 years to assure the Chamber and its various events were a success. She has spent countless hours the past 2 years on our annual Fall Fest, to organize volunteers, donate printing, and gather sponsorships, to name a few. Ann is always willing and eager to donate her time and support the Chamber and the Brooklyn community.

All the Bright Star photos and information from previous years is available at www.noacc.org/brightphotos.html. Photos and video from this year's event will be posted on the www.noacc.org website soon.



Ann Guess with Key-Bank, accepts her Bright Star Award, with Wayne Lawrence and Lute Harmon





CHAMBER MEMBERS SHOW HOLIDAY SPIRIT



Wesleski Transfer partners with Toys for Tots to make holiday dreams come true!

One of our members, Wesleski Transfer, partnered with USMC 3rd Battalion & 25th Marines Regiment, this holiday season to make their Toys for Tots campaign a success! . With the Marines, and the help of all of the many volunteers, and generous donors, they helped over 1,200 families in need, including 2300 children who were provided with toys, and bicycles on the toy give-a-way held to the public on December 22nd and 23rd, 2011.

Wesleski Transfer donated approximately 800 plus boxes, as well as staffing to help set up the Toys for

Tots warehouse in Brookpark. They also provided a driver and truck on the weekends during the month of December to help deliver toys to various locations in the greater Cleveland area. Some of the locations they delivered to include Berea Children's Home & Family Services , the Wounded Veterans event, Red Cross, and the Weed & Seed Justice Center Event, just to name a few.

The Wounded Veterans event in particular, took place at Midwest Railway Preservation Society on December 17th. Midwest volunteered their time and energy to provide the necessary engineers and staff to position a steam locomotive, and several passenger rail cars, and a caboose to

replicate the Toys for Tots logo at their location. Volunteers were on-site to decorate the train cars to replicate the Toys for Tots logo, as were the Marines in creating a military setting to support our troops. Wesleski Transfer provided two (2) large tractor-trailers to deliver the toys for the wounded Vets, and their families, the day of the event, as well as the event for the public.

Wesleski Transfer would like to thank all the volunteers and donators who made this event possible. They would also like to thank the following sponsors: Midwest Railway Preservation Society, Benchmark Craftsmen, Inc., Repros, Old Stone Church, Granger Frame, CSX, and Granite Steel & Processing.



Brooklyn Cares Holiday Program



The Brooklyn City Schools developed a program to help Brooklyn families in need during the holiday season. This program, called Brooklyn Cares, was organized by teachers Suzy Marquis and Hayely Toerek. The Brooklyn City School District vision is that the community of the Brooklyn City Schools, through collaborative efforts, will be a dynamic learning environment in which all students will maximize their intellect, as well as their physical, social, and emotional well-being. Everyone in the Brooklyn City Schools will be respected, acknowledge differences, have a sense of safety, belonging, and pride in their respective learning environments. The Brooklyn Cares program helped to foster this vision.

With the help of many caring groups and individuals, the Brooklyn Cares program was proud to help a total of 48 families and 115 children this holiday season. We are hoping to reach even more families during the holidays next year, but this program will also continue throughout the year. Please contact us if you are able to offer assistance to others. The strength of our community makes learning possible.

We would like to extend a special thanks to the following Chamber of Commerce members that helped to make this holiday season so wonderful for our community:

- Ferrous Metal Processing
- J.B. Stamping, Inc.
- Ameriflag, Inc.

Brooklyn Adult Activities Center/Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities

MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

Samuel Watkins, PNC Bank

Sam is a Brooklyn native and spent his childhood playing hockey at Brooklyn Rec. Center. He is a graduate of Padua Franciscan High School, an alumni of Bowling Green State University, and is currently studying for his MBA in Finance. For the past four years he has worked for National City/PNC Bank as a Loss Prevention Analyst and in his new role as Branch Manager. Prior to moving back to Brooklyn, he spent four years with Morgan Stanley in San Francisco and four years with Marriott International in Phoenix. Sam is newly engaged and recently bought his first home in West Park after spending five years as a resident of Brooklyn Acres. In his spare time he serves as the Vice President and Assigner of Regional Umpires Association and assists his fiancé in planning his wedding.

Chris Ellis, Hampton Inn

Chris was born and raised in Broadview Hts, Ohio. He spent his childhood playing baseball and Soccer. Chris moved to Florida when he was fourteen where he graduated High School. He returned to Cleveland to attend The University of Akron where he graduated with a degree in Finance. Chris has worked for the past 16 years with P and G Hospitality as Vice President of Operations. He is in charge of overseeing all of the Hotels the company has owned including the Hampton Inn in Brooklyn. Chris has served on many boards including the Streetsboro Convention and Visitors Bureau as President and The Cascade Crossing Development association in the same roll. Chris bought a condo in Downtown Cleveland five years ago. He loves living downtown and is very excited for all of the new developments that are happening down there. In his spare time Chris loves working out and playing Baseball and Racquetball.

Denise Christescu, Westbrook Village Apartments/K&D

Denise is a lifelong Clevelander (grew up on west side just minutes from Brooklyn) and is a graduate of West Technical High School. She left the multi-family housing industry to study Social Work at Cleveland State University in 2005. Denise returned to multi-family industry when the economy soured in 2009 and Social Work jobs became difficult to find. She has been happily with K&D Management LLC since May of that year as Property Manager at Westbrook Village supervising a staff of 15 and overseeing 627 apartment homes. She is a mother of four grown children and has one grandchild.

BE HEALTHY AND WIN

NOACC Wellness Challenge!
A chance to be healthier AND win prizes!!

The NOACC Wellness Challenge is a ten week team competition that begins January 23, 2012. Teams of 4 to 10 compete by logging 30 minutes of exercise a day while modifying their nutrition intake.

An average participant loses 8 pounds while increasing their exercise habits. Each participant receives a 306 page book which helps them make needed lifestyle changes. What makes the contest work is the weekly team meetings and wellness structure provided during the competition to meet each participant's individual goals.

For details of the competition see the NOACC Wellness Challenge website at <http://www.healthyohio.org/noacc>. You can also view the insert included in this newsletter for more information. Please contact Steve Musgrave, Wellness Council of Northeast Ohio, with any questions at 440.354.8057



Mastering ChamberMaster

Mastering ChamberMaster by logging into your member portal!

This section is dedicated to giving you tips on how to get the most of our partnership with ChamberMaster. We hope you find them useful!!

We are so glad that all of you have decided to be members of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. Benefits gained by being a chamber member are available in many ways. Remember to take advantage of excellent opportunities for your business to attract new customers and share information with our community and the world.

- **Log in today** to your chamber member portal to take advantage of these features!
- **Business Directory Listing** - your business information is available to consumers through the chamber's website – visitors can search by category, keyword or alphabetically
- **Online Informational Brochure** - your own page on the chamber's website which can include your business description, hours of operation, location information, and up to eight keywords (these help identify your business when a website visitor does a keyword search on the Business Directory)
- **Job Postings**– add your own job openings to the Chamber's website
- **Hot Deals** – include store coupons and special offers on the Chamber's website
- **Event Posting** - add your business' events to the Chamber's Online Events Calendar – chamber website visitors can add your event to Outlook, e-mail the details to a friend and request an automatically generated email reminder for your event
- **"Email to a friend" link** - visitors to your Online Informational Brochure may select a link to email your business information to a friend

Enter your login name and password to gain access to all of these features, update your information and more at www.chamberlogin.com. If you need your login information, please contact Valerie Thompson.

Try it out and contact us with additional questions or for more information.

Membership Dues



It is that time of year again...time to renew your membership to the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. 2012 invoices were emailed out in December. Payment can be made by check or credit card. If you pay by January 15th, you will receive your membership at a discounted rate. If you choose to pay after January 15th, a new invoice reflecting the increase will be sent to you. If interested in paying by credit card, please let Valerie Thompson know so she can send you the link.



Contact Us:

Phone: (216) 288-5484

Email:

asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org

We are on the web!
www.brooklynohiochamber.org

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Doug Hogan

VICE PRESIDENT
Ann Guess

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Quantum Digital Solutions

Pam Vizer
Polaris Career Center

Cynthia Walker
Brooklyn City Schools

Samuel Watkins
PNC Bank

UPCOMING EVENTS



Thursday, January 12th Luncheon - Join us on Thursday, January 12th for our 1st 2012 monthly luncheon. The speaker for this luncheon will be Lori Deitz, Lotus Notes/Domino Specialist with Polaris Career Center. She will be giving an overview of basic internet security practices for home and business. Lori will discuss internet browsing, physical security and social media security tips. She will also provide handouts with internet links to websites that will expand on the information presented. The luncheon is being held at Polaris Career Center, located at 7285 Old Oak Boulevard in Middleburg Hts. Networking and registration for all of our luncheons begin at 11:30am and lunch will be served at 12noon. The cost for this luncheon is \$15. **** Please note that the luncheon is being held at Polaris, food will be provided by Panera.**

Thursday, February 9th Luncheon – State of the City – Join us on Thursday, February 12th for Mayor Richard Balbier’s annual State of the City address. The luncheon is being held in the community room of Westbrook Village Apartments, located at 4000 Westbrook Drive off of Memphis Ave in Brooklyn. Networking and registration for all of our luncheons begin at 11:30am and lunch will be served at 12noon. The cost for this luncheon is \$15.

Saturday, February 4th, “Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz”, 7-10pm



The event is once again, being held at Ridge Manor Party Center. All of the net proceeds benefit the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce’s Scholarship Fund. This is the Chamber’s 6th year hosting the event! This event has had great success in the past. Because of the proceeds made in 2011, we were able to award three \$600 scholarships to Brooklyn residents and Rhodes High School students who will be attending an accredited college or university. We are hoping to do the same in 2012.

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 \$20 and includes food, beer, wine, door prizes, and entertainment. This year, we will also be selling raffle tickets at the event for a chance to win a cash prize!

We are looking for businesses that are able and willing to donate their time and food to the event. We are also looking for corporate sponsors to help offset the cost of the event and generate more money for the scholarship fund.

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

We would like to thank the following sponsors:

- Cleveland Peterbilt
- Dollar Bank
- Hampton Inn
- KeyBank
- PNC
- State Farm Insurance.

We would also like to the following food providers

- Aldo’s
- Applebee’s
- Panera Bread
- The Sausage Shoppe



The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Proudly Presents

A Taste of Brooklyn AND ALL THAT JAZZ 2012

Saturday, February 4, 2012

7pm - 10pm

Ridge Manor Party Center

\$20.00 donation per person



*Enjoy an evening of fun,
great food and entertainment!*



**Entertainment provided by
the Brooklyn High School Jazz Ensemble**

Tickets available through the Chamber of Commerce and Brooklyn High School
For more information contact Valerie Thompson (216) 288-5484

Net proceeds benefit the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund



6th Annual “Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz” Sponsors needed...

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual “Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz” on Saturday February 4, 2012. The event is being held at Ridge Manor Party Center from 7-10pm. All of the net proceeds benefit the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce’s Scholarship Fund.

We are looking for sponsors to help offset the cost of the event and generate more money for the scholarship fund. If you are willing to be a sponsor for the event, your name and logo will appear in the event program, on our website, in newsletters and emails leading up to the event and you will be recognized the evening of the event. The cost for a sponsorship is \$150. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please fill out the attached form.

This is the Chamber’s 6th year hosting the event! This event has had great success in the past. Because of the proceeds made in 2011, we were able to award three \$600 scholarships to Brooklyn residents and Rhodes High School students who will be attending an accredited college or university. We are hoping to do the same in 2012.

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 \$20 and includes food, beer, wine, door prizes, and entertainment. This year, we will also be selling raffle tickets at the event for a chance to win money! If you are interested in tickets or donating door prizes, please contact Valerie Thompson.

We thank you for your support!

Taste of Brooklyn Committee



Please fill out the sponsorship form below for the Taste of Brooklyn. The cost is \$150.

Contact Name _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Total: \$150

Pay by Check

Pay by Credit Card

Bill Me

Please make checks payable to Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. If paying by credit card, please email asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org to receive the necessary documents. Mail checks and forms to:

**Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 44038
Brooklyn, OH 44144**

If you have any questions, please contact Valerie Thompson at 216-288-5484 or asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org.



A PROGRAM BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
JOSH MANDEL
STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

State Treasurer Josh Mandel Helps Ohioans Save Energy and Money through ECO-Link

In an effort to help save you money and become more energy efficient, State Treasurer Josh Mandel sponsors the Energy Conservation for Ohioans (ECO-Link) program. This program provides reduced-rate financing through partnering banks for Ohioans completing energy-efficient improvements in their homes. State Treasurer Josh Mandel is proud both to serve Ohioans and promote energy efficiency through this program.

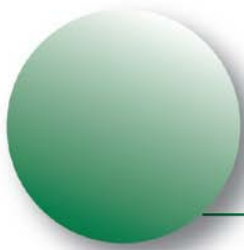
How can ECO-Link benefit you?

- Homeowners receive a 3% interest rate reduction on the life of qualifying five-year bank loans
- Homeowners can save between 10-30% off utility bills upon installing energy-efficient products
- Most energy-efficient improvements qualify homeowners for federal tax credits and additional rebates

Who is eligible?

- Ohioans who are owners of an existing home or condominium. Additional residential classifications may be eligible.
- Ohioans who are approved by eligible banks for qualifying loans.
- Ohioans making energy efficient improvements to their home using Energy Star rated products, or
- Ohioans using Building Performance Institute (BPI) or Residential Energy Service Network (RESNET) contractors certified to perform weatherization installations.

For additional questions please contact State Treasurer Josh Mandel's office at 1-800-228-1102 option #3 or e-mail at ecolink@tos.ohio.gov.



Please feel free to use in your chamber newsletter

What is a Workers' Comp TPA?

Workers' Compensation in the state of Ohio has a reputation for its twists and turns—a system of ever-changing rules and regulations. For this reason, a business employer often enlists the services of a third party administrator (TPA) to contain, reduce, and oversee any costs associated with a workers' comp program. While a managed care organization (MCO) is mandated by the BWC to facilitate the medical aspects of an injury reported, a TPA is responsible for managing the administrative components of a claim. TPAs assist in the decision-making regarding claim certification, settlement negotiations, re-imburements, accident and loss prevention, and overall financial management relating to workers' comp.

Who do you know?

Fellow NOACC chamber member and third party administrator, Benefits 1 Group (B1G) is composed of a team of highly trained professionals with an average of 25+ years of experience in the field of workers' compensation. At Benefits 1 Group, you will find qualified and accessible experts with a passion for service, planning, and solutions. As a regional neighbor, they are at your front door, ready to work for you as an extension of your own team.

Why enlist a TPA if I have no claims?

You may find that you are less prone to having injuries that occur in the workplace based on your field and its level of risk. Or, you may have a minimal history of claims because you have improved your workplace health and safety policies and protocols.

As a licensed TPA, Benefits 1 Group provides access to a group rated discount. Eligibility for this discount can substantially decrease your premium rate and ultimately impact your business' bottom line. B1G experts will continually keep you abreast on further discount programs offered by the Ohio BWC and ways to enforce a safer work environment.

Is a TPA a good option for me?

Everyone has different needs. As an employer, you want to know all of your options for cost containment in workers' compensation. Running an effective and affordable workers' comp program is integral to maintaining a sound, successful business regardless of size, claim frequency, and/or industry. This can be an overwhelming task as there are consistent changes taking place in BWC policy, the economy, and workforce.

To see if you qualify for a substantial group rating discount or could benefit from other services offered, simply visit www.benefits1group.com/noacc and fill out the on-line AC-3 form (this provides temporary authorization to review your information). Or, call Benefits 1 Group and they'll get you started and answer all of your questions: **216.765.4200 (toll free 877.765.4200)**

You are under no obligation to commit to any services by having this evaluation completed. By filling out the AC-3 form, you are simply giving Benefits 1 Group permission to provide a free assessment of your claims activity, premium rates, and ability to qualify for group rating.

We know time is scarce and you are busy, but we urge you to take just a few minutes to learn how Benefits 1 Group can save you money and put your mind at ease.

NOACC Wellness Challenge



Form a team today and represent your NOACC Chamber. With nearly 100 chambers, you will have spirited competition. By making this public challenge to other chambers, you and your teammates will have added incentive to meet your personal goals. You can also compete against other teams in your community following the same contest rules.

Objectives ...

- Lose weight and have fun!
- Enjoy team competition.
- Learn more about nutrition and exercise.
- Set your weight goal.
- Develop your exercise/nutrition plan.
- Track your success.

How does it work?

Contest requirements to be fulfilled are:

- Aerobic exercise (swimming, walking, jogging, etc.) for 30 minutes per day, 5 days per week.
- Each participant must set a personal weight goal between 0-20 lbs. (Weight loss is not a requirement. A team member may simply want to maintain current weight.)

When does the program start?

This 10-week program begins

January 23, 2012

So hurry and get your team together.

PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!

Prizes awarded for team and individual achievement of goals

How are teams made up?

- Team members can be coworkers, spouses or other community members
- Each team must have between 4-10 participants, one of which agrees to be team captain.

NOTE: at least half of the team members must have a weight loss goal of 7 pounds or more.

Reasons to join ...

- Affordable \$25 per person.
- 306 page Wellness book for each team member.
- Team and individual prizes for goal achievement
- Each team selects a unique name.
- Online nutrition education support
- Internet program access

Who can participate?

Anyone who would like to participate, either as a team captain or a team member!

For more information, call **440-354.8057**

<http://www.healthyohio.org/NOACC>
hsense@en.com

Sponsored by:



An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is the trade name of Community Insurance Company.
Registered marks Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Team Registration Form

Email _____

Name (print) _____ Phone# _____

Company _____ Address _____
number & street city, state, zip code

Chamber _____

Make checks payable and mail to:

Wellness Council
433 South State Street
Painesville, Ohio 44077
440.354.8057
email: hsense@en.com

Fee: \$25 per team member



Sponsored by:

