

Program Committee of the Tri-Chamber Foundation

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Tri-Chamber Foundation Program Committee

Meeting Notes

23 January 2008

CareerLink at Bloomsburg

Chairperson: Luanne Bittenbender (luanne.bittenbender@ccfnb.com)

Vice Chairperson: Bill Forsythe (wforsyth@centralcolumbia.k12.pa.us)

In Attendance: Diane Bubb, Pennsylvania CareerLink; Bill Forsythe, Central Columbia High School; Paul Francis, Junior Achievement of Northeast PA; Tracy Gillespie, Tri-Chamber Foundation Co-Facilitator; Dean Girton, Girton Manufacturing; Dylan Golomb, Bloomsburg High School Student; Mark Hauck, Pennsylvania CareerLink; Fallon Heddings, Bloomsburg High School Student; Tom Kapelewski, Decorator Industries; Stephanie Kessler, Tri-Chamber Foundation Co-Facilitator; Lorraine Kreisler, Press Enterprise; Ashley Miccio, Bloomsburg High School Student; Tammy Mrozek, Bloomsburg High School; Allison Nauman, Bloomsburg High School Student; Steve Phillips, BIDA/BIP/SPIRIT; Alane Presswood, Bloomsburg High School Student; Megan Smith, Bloomsburg High School Student; John Trombetta, Foundation for Free Enterprise; Melissa Turlip, Junior Achievement of Northeast PA;

Agenda Items: Welcome; Approval of November 2007 Meeting Notes; Joint Meeting of Tri-Chamber Foundation Board of Directors, Program Committee, and Marketing & Communications Committee; Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week; Junior Achievement; TIP Program Update; Distribution of Strategic Plan; Staff Report; New Business/Comments/Questions.

I. Welcome

Vice Chairperson Bill Forsythe called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

II. Approval of November 2007 Meeting Notes

Mr. Girton moved to approve the notes from the November 2007 Program Committee meeting and Mr. Phillips seconded the motion, which then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

III. Joint Meeting of the Tri-Chamber Foundation Board of Directors, Program Committee, and Marketing & Communications Committee

Program Committee members were reminded that there will be a joint meeting of the Tri-Chamber Foundation board of directors, the Program Committee, and the Marketing & Communications Committee on 7 February 2008. The meeting will be held at Portabella's Catering in Lightstreet and is scheduled from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Invitations for this event were sent out earlier in January. Committee members were reminded to RSVP to Ms. Kessler, if they had not already done so.

IV. Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week

John Trombetta from the Foundation for Free Enterprise made a presentation about Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week (PFEW). Mr. Trombetta thanked the Tri-Chamber Foundation

for providing scholarships for local high school students to attend this annual summer program, which in the past has been held over four weeks in July and August at Lycoming College in Williamsport. He announced that beginning this summer, a fifth week-long session would also be held at Pennsylvania College of Technology, also in Williamsport. He reported that beginning this summer, the student registration fee would be \$135 per student. After showing a video clip about the PFEW program, the committee heard testimonials from Bloomsburg High School students who had attended PFEW 2007. Anyone who would like either a business informational packet or a student educational packet should contact Mrs. Gillespie. Student registration for PFEW 2008 has already begun, and the organization is also looking for businesses to volunteer to help with this year's program. The Foundation for Free Enterprise has already sent information about PFEW 2008 to high schools, and the Tri-Chamber Foundation will report on the program to local superintendents.

V. Junior Achievement

Melissa Turlip and Paul Francis from Junior Achievement of Northeast Pennsylvania gave a presentation about their new facility that recently opened in Pittston. This facility has enabled them to offer two new programs to regional students, one for fifth-graders and one for eighth-graders. Both programs commence by having local business representatives go into the classroom to teach students about various aspects of economic education and culminate with students making a day-long trip to the Pittston facility to put what they've learned to hands-on use. Information about Junior Achievement's new facility will be shared with local superintendents at an upcoming meeting so they may then pass it on to any educators in their district who might be interested in the program.

VI. TIP Program Update

As Rose Goin and Chris Young were absent from the meeting, there was no TIP program report given at this meeting. This item will be included on the next Program Committee meeting agenda.

VII. Distribution of Strategic Plan

Program Committee members were given the finalized Tri-Chamber Foundation strategic plan, which was adopted at the 3 January 2008 Tri-Chamber Foundation board of directors' meeting. The strategic plan will be discussed in greater detail at the February 7th breakfast meeting.

VIII. Staff Report

Mrs. Gillespie and Ms. Kessler gave the following staff report:

1. **Classroom in the Hospital** – Classroom in the Hospital at Berwick Hospital Center will be held on Wednesday, May 14 this year. Information about this program will be sent to high school contacts in February.
2. **Classroom in the Mall** – This year's Classroom in the Mall program will be held on the following dates: February 20, March 19, and April 16. (The same students will attend all three sessions.) Information about this year's program was sent to the contact person at each high school in early January. Two students per high school are being invited to this.
3. **Joint Breakfast Update Meeting** – On Thursday, February 7, there will be a joint meeting of the Tri-Chamber Foundation board, the Program Committee, and the Marketing & Communications Committee. This breakfast meeting will be held at Portabella's Catering in Lightstreet from 8-10 a.m. Invitations for this meeting were sent out in mid-January. Anyone wishing to attend should RSVP to Stephanie Kessler by January 31.

4. **Annual Spring Full Membership Breakfast** – This year’s full membership spring breakfast meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, from approximately 8:15-10:00 a.m. at Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School. Invitations will be sent out in March.
5. **WorkKeys** – Kate Lomax from the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC) is working with local high schools to offer the WorkKeys program to approximately 19 students at each school. This is being done through a grant through CPWDC.
6. **Publications** – The Tri-Chamber Foundation’s web site continues to be updated by Bill Duffy of Duffy System Solutions. The winter newsletter is in the process of being completed and should be sent out in early February. Also, Tri-Chamber Foundation brochures are in the process of being updated.

IX. New Business/Comments/Questions

Mr. Forsythe reported that several regional superintendents had testified in favor of Graduation Competency Assessments the previous Friday. He said that this initiative did pass and that local school districts had signed on to this. He suggested that Bloomsburg Area School District Superintendent Joe Kelly and Central Columbia School District Superintendent Harry Mathias be invited to the next Program Committee to discuss this.

The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chairperson Forsythe at 9:25 a.m.