

**Tri-Chamber Foundation
Monthly Meeting Minutes
6 September 2007
CareerLink at Bloomsburg**

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Minutes

Officers

*Joseph Kelly, Chairperson
Sally McGuire, Vice Chairperson
Joseph Scopelliti, Secretary/Treasurer*

Directors Present: Susan Adams, Columbia Mall; Ed Edwards, Columbia-Montour Chamber of Commerce; Tom Fletcher, Bloomsburg University; Joseph Kelly, Bloomsburg Area School District; J.J. Cleaver, Berwick Area School District; Joe Scopelliti, PPL; Valarie Anderson, Berwick Area Chamber of Commerce; Kate Lomax, CPWDC; Jim Medalie, Kleerdex;

Others Present: Tracy Gillespie, Tri-Chamber Foundation Co-Facilitator.

Agenda Items: Welcome; Approval of 31 July 2007; Treasurer's Report; Staff Report; RCEP Grant; Name Change; Strategic Plan, Web Site; Donation Request; New Business/Comments/Questions.

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Edwards made the motion to approve the 31 July 2007 meeting minutes as presented and Mr. Fletcher seconded this motion. The motion then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Scopelliti gave a copy of this report, which showed that the organization had a balance of \$32,098.52, as of 6 September 2007. He also reported that our name will appear on the DCED website in a few weeks after review of paperwork recently submitted. Also, the Alcoa Grant money for *School Counts!* must be used by November 2007; any money not used must be returned.

Staff Report

Mrs. Gillespie gave the following staff report:

- 1) **Financial Program Through First Columbia Bank** – At the July 25 Partnership Steering Committee meeting, Mrs. Gillespie reported on a program being run through First Columbia Bank. The aim of this program is to help students, at all grade levels, better understand personal finance. Information about this program will be distributed to superintendents at their December meeting.

- 2) **Student in the Workplace Week 2007** – Ms. Kessler and Ms. Gillespie will send letters and registrations to businesses and Schools on September 10, 2007.
- 3) **School Counts** – Four schools have submitted completers for 2006-2007 school year certificates (see attachment). Mr. Kelly requested that Mr. Coz Curry be asked to place School Counts! on the next PAC Meeting agenda where he will again emphasize the importance of the program to district superintendents and ask that they contact Ms. Gillespie with the numbers and names of last year’s program completers. This year’s School Counts! program has already begun and is proving to be very successful. We have visited two schools during new student orientation nights and have scheduled dates with every district to collect pledges during lunch periods – all by the end of September. Local businesses/schools have donated give-a-way items for pledging students.

Vreeland’s Harley Davidson – pens, pencils, stickers
 Columbia Mall - \$25 gift certificate
 Nespoli Jewelers – women’s bracelet & charm
 Walkers Jewelers – men’s watch
 Front Street Bagels – (11) ½ dozen bagel gift certificate
 Columbia-Montour A.V.T.S. – year sports pass
 Wagner’s Trophies – (2) school t-shirt

Berwick	9/11	Tracy Gillespie/Rose Goin
Bloomsburg	9/12	Tracy Gillespie/Stephanie Kessler
CMAVTS	9/13	Tracy Gillespie/Luanne Bittenbender
Southern	9/13	Tracy Gillespie/Deb Nevius
Millville	9/18	Tracy Gillespie/Dean Girton/Jim Eves
Central	9/19	Tracy Gillespie/Tom Kapelewski
Benton	9/20	Tracy Gillespie/Lou Sappe
Danville	9/25	Tracy Gillespie/Luanne Bittenbender

Also noted, Mount Carmel High School is participating with our program and will kick off *School Counts!* this month.

The Central PA Chamber of Commerce Business & Education Partnership is offering the program to Milton and Warrior Run High Schools as well using our program as a model.

- 4) **Educator in the Workplace** – 10 educators participated in the summer program; 4 will receive Act 48 credit hours and 6 will receive the \$300 stipend. To date, 4 educators have completed the program and submitted all documents required.
 Mr. Kelly explained that Act 48 requirements and guidelines have become very strict. The activity must be specifically connected to the educators’ subject taught and the requirements for proving this are very strict. Therefore, our program will very likely offer only the \$300 stipend for 2007-2008 school year. Mr. Edwards suggested that he would initiate a discussion (and possibly an invitation to the next board meeting) with Carl Girton and/or Lou Ramos, State Board Members, regarding ‘How can our group be more effective?’ with such things as new Act 48 regulations and a greater emphasis on PSSA testing in our schools.

RCEP Grant – WorkKeys - Ms. Lomax reported that she and Ms. Kessler have been working together to provide funding to our area districts to implement the WorkKeys program. The next regional meeting is to be held on September 22, 2007.

Tri-Chamber Foundation Name Change

After discussion, Mr. Edwards made a motion to change from *Columbia-Montour Area Business & Education Partnership of the Tri-Chamber Foundation* to '**Tri-Chamber Foundation**' and authorizes staff to make changes as needed for such materials as letterhead, business cards and promotion items with the provision that the group by-laws be reviewed assuring authorization to make such change and if found to not have authority, the Berwick and Columbia-Montour Chambers of commerce will ratify the name change at their next board meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Medalie.

Strategic Plan – Mr. Ken Roush is currently reviewing changes made to the plan in July.

Web Site – Mr. Scopelliti made a motion to hire William Duffy of Duffy Network Solutions to update and maintain the Tri-Chamber Foundation web site for a trial period of six months beginning in October, 2007. Mr. Duffy will receive \$40/hr for the first two working hours of the month and \$30/hr for any additional hours needed. A review will be held during the April meeting. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion. Due to the current name change, Mr. Medalie offered that Kleerdex would purchase a new domain name for our group - trichamberfoundation.com – thank you to Kleerdex Corporation and Mr. Medalie.

Donation Requests – Ms. Tracy Golder, Health Occupations Instructor from Columbia-Montour A.V.T.S. requested assistance from the Tri-Chamber Foundation to help cover costs for student membership in a student based organization called Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). \$240 was requested. Mr. Scopelliti asked to table the request until a committee was formed to develop guidelines for funding. Ms. Gillespie will organize the committee and schedule a meeting for the beginning of October. Mr. Edwards and Ms. Lomax volunteered to be a committee member. Ms. Gillespie will also ask Mr. Tim Carr, Co-Op Coordinator at Columbia-Montour A.V.T.S. and also director, Mr. Cos Curry.

New Business/Comments/Questions – **After** discussion by Mr. Scopelliti, Mr. Edwards made a motion to engage a CPA at Mr. Scopelliti's discretion, to file a 990 for our foundation. Mr. Fletcher seconded the motion. Mr. Scopelliti also explained that the School Counts! program does not qualify for tax credit because the program is not associated with 1) subject material and 2) advanced subject material. It was suggested that this be addressed as a needed change to members of the state board. Ms. Lomax reported that the Greater Susquehanna chamber is adopting the Classroom in the Hospital and Student in the Workplace program. Also, there is a plastics grant available allowing students to work co-op at a rate of \$8/hr for 1 semester to a year.

It was reported that the next meetings were scheduled for October 4, November 1, and December 6, all beginning at 12:00 p.m. at the CareerLink at Bloomsburg.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Gillespie
Co-Facilitator