



Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce Weekly Update

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HEALTH CARE TOP TARGET: From the results of the recent chamber survey, it's fairly safe to say that thousands of the 43 million Americans without health insurance live in Ross County. The survey, completed by 83 chamber members, showed that 42 percent didn't offer health insurance as an employee benefit and that of the 58 percent who do offer it, 60 percent had decreased coverage to help save on the skyrocketing premiums. Complete results of the survey can be found on the chamber's website, www.chillicotheohio.com.

HEALTH CARE, PART II: For those companies interested in saving money on health care, the next Networking Luncheon could prove a bonanza. Health Savings Accounts, mentioned by President Bush in his State of the Union address, are being considered a real alternative to traditional insurance plans. Jerry Phillips of Network Financial Services will discuss HSAs and their pros and cons at the luncheon Wednesday, Feb. 25 at the Chillicothe Country Club. It runs 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and each firm represented will have 30 seconds to talk about their business. The cost is \$10 at the door and \$12 if you want to be invoiced.

HEALTH CARE, PART III: Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) said he plans to introduce legislation soon that would require ALL employers with 50 or more workers to provide health insurance. The bill would include language that no employer would have to spend more than 12 percent of payroll for health care coverage. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce plans to strongly oppose the bill.



NEW DIRECTORS JOIN BOARD:

Three new directors officially take their place on the chamber board in February for three-year terms. They are, from left, Christina Schramm of Chillicothe Nursing and Rehabilitation, Mac Peters of Citizens National Bank and Mike

Long of Sunrush Construction. Out-going directors are Monesa Skocik of Horizon PCS and Marion Waggoner of the Scioto Society. Bill Beatty of Hanson America/Basic Construction Supplies becomes the new chairman, replacing Mike Hall who completed his second stint as chairman. The new vice chairman is Cherie French with Ed Behanna as treasurer and Lawrence Brown of L.W. Brown Enterprises and Lee Bendtsen of MeadWestvaco as board officers. All will be introduced at the annual dinner Feb. 26.

TICKETS GO IN THE MAIL NEXT WEEK: While we had hoped to get the tickets for the annual dinner in the mail by late this week, it now will be Monday or Tuesday.

OPENING WAS JUST GRAND: The Needler family was on hand this week as the ribbon officially was cut for the new Community Markets grocery in Central Center. The former Big Bear store joins Sack N Save as part of the group. Aisles named after local streets and other renovations were done right away to freshen the store's appearance. Long-time Manager Jeff Anthony continues to lead his troops.



NURSING HOME

WORKSHOP DATE MOVED: The Ohio Valley Safety Council workshop for nursing home employees on OSHA standards was postponed to Tuesday, Feb. 17 from this past Tuesday because of the snow. Registration is still possible by calling the chamber at 702-2722 or going online.

TWO SEMINARS AVAILABLE: Two groups are sponsoring seminars:

- The Building Industry Association of South Central Ohio is holding the 10-hour OSHA course for construction. It will be five hours each on Feb. 18 and 19, from 1-6 p.m. at the Horizon Technology Building. Reservations are required by Feb. 13 and cost \$75 per person. At the door, the cost is \$85. For more information, call Judy Tomlinson at 772-4113 or e-mail homebuilders@bright.net.
- The new SHRM South Central Human Resource Council and OSU Extension Service are offering two seminars on one day. From 8:30-11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 11, the FISH Philosophy workshop will be held and from 12:30-4:30 p.m., the workshop is "Communicating Through Relationships and Building Relationships through Communication." Lunch will be served between the two. The cost is \$30. The sessions will be held in the Ross County Service Center. For more information or to register, contact Sonya Brown at Personnel Solutions at 779-5352.

SAVE THE DATE FOR BOWLING: The annual Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowl for Kids' Sake event is set for Saturday, March 27 at Shawnee Lanes from 2-4 p.m. More details are available by calling 773-2447.



GARDENING SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE:

Applications for the Adena Scholarship sponsored by Herrnstein Chrysler-Mitsubishi are now available at the dealership. The scholarship is for a local person to attend the Historic Landscape Institute presented by the University of Virginia and Monticello in Charlottesville, VA

June 6-18. The recipient also agrees to volunteer 80 hours to help with the gardens at the Adena State Memorial. March 8 is the deadline for applications to reach the institute.

VENDORS LICENSES: Here's who received licenses recently from the Ross County Auditor:

- Tin Man, 1623 Snyder Road, Kingston
- Kevin Calvin Golf Shop, 12100 Pleasant Valley Road, (he's the new pro at the Jaycees Public Golf Course)
- Judy Baker, 10303 State Route 28, Frankfort
- C&M Computers, 2997 Old U.S. 35, Washington C.H.
- Schwartz Family Books, 1656 Sulphur Lick Road
- Ault Enterprises, 1200 N. Malone Road

CHAMBER CALENDAR:

- Monday, February 9-Marketing and Membership Committee, noon, chamber
- Wednesday, February 11-Pathfinders leadership session
- Thursday, February 12-Ohio Valley Safety Council luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Ross County Service Center. Joan Gates, a lawyer with Thompson-Hine, will discuss practical applications in dealing with the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. [Safety luncheon registration](#)
- Tuesday, February 17-Ohio Valley Safety Council workshop on safety for nursing home and long-term care employees; 8:30-11:30 a.m., Ross County Service Center, \$25 per person. [Nursing home workshop registration](#)
- Tuesday, February 17-Governmental Affairs Committee, 3:30 p.m., chamber
- Tuesday, February 17-Pathfinders Steering Committee, 3:30 p.m., chamber
- Wednesday, February 18- Business After Business at the Heritage Center of the Ross County Historical Society, West Fifth Street, 5-7 p.m. [BAB registration](#)
- Wednesday, February 25-First Capital District, 8:30 a.m., chamber
- Wednesday, February 25-Networking Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Chillicothe Country Club, featuring Jerry Phillips of Network Financial Services on the newest trend in health insurance -- Health Savings Accounts. To register: [Networking Luncheon registration](#)