



The JCCC News

December 2009

WV Economic Outlook

Check it out on Youtube.com

Wes Harvey

JCCC, Program Director

On November 11th, I spent part of my day at the 16th Annual West Virginia Economic Outlook Conference. This was a great look into the business climate, labor market, and potential growth areas within the state. This conference is sponsored by the WVU College of Business and Economics and provides keen insight into the challenges and opportunities that are likely to be present in the upcoming year.

Discussed at the conference were several ways that WVU helps the state become more competitive. Research programs bring in between \$150 to \$200 million of external funds annually creating and improving many different segments of the economy. For each dollar that the state invests in WVU, the university returns \$20 back into the economy. Overall, WVU and its affiliates generate about \$4 Billion annually of economic impact into the state. In addition, the university will be exploring new partnerships with businesses that will prove beneficial to all involved.

There were several speakers that headlined the Veteran's Day Conference. One of them is David A. Wyss who is the

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BAH at I-77 Ford Mercury

Business After Hours Supports County Adopt-A-Family Programs

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I would like to thank all of those involved in making the December Business After Hours a tremendous success. Jim and Robin Blankenship hosted this event at their business, I-77 Ford Mercury. Together, we raised hundreds of dollars and gathered almost 200 food items that will be distributed between the Ravenswood and Ripley Adopt-A-Family Programs. We had a great turnout for the evening, and everyone had a great time. If you were unable to attend, but would still like to help out with these programs, please contact me at 304-373-1117. Thanks again and have a Merry Christmas and wonderful holiday season!

WV Chamber Holds Chamber Networking Meeting

On November 12th and November 13th the WV Chamber held a two day event for chamber executives across the state. The mission of the meeting is to provide the chamber executives with the information and the resources to help us provide more to our members. The materials and discussions really helped to educate and inform the attendees on a wide range of state and federal issues.

On day 1 some of the topics that were covered were the Employee Free Choice Act, cap-and-trade, and health care reform. In addition considerable time was spent on policy recommendations for 2010, and the outlook for the 2010 Legislative Session. In fact, there will be a 2010 Legislative Outlook conference that I attend. If there are questions on issues that you want me to address with the WV Chamber, please be sure and email those to me. We finished up the afternoon with a conference call with the US Chamber to gain their perspective on the Consumer Financial Protection Act, and how to properly file and handle 990 tax forms for a chamber of commerce.

On Friday, we learned more on the challenges facing the coal

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chief economist with Standard & Poor's. Overall, he feels that the recession is over and that the U.S. has hit the bottom. However, the recovery will be long and slow, and things are at a bottom which is when things will appear bleak. The housing market which has been a drag for three years appears to have stabilized, and our overseas trading partners are showing improvement which is helping with exports. He sees the financial system in a better state and that the stimulus packages have helped with consumer and government spending.

Even though there are some things that are better, there are several things that are still quite disconcerting. The private nonresidential construction continues to plunge. He was quick to point out that this is the longest and deepest recession since the 1930s. Although unlikely the recession could drag on if certain factors, such as drastically higher oil prices come into play. To watch Mr. Wyss you can go to www.youtube.com and search for "WV Economic Outlook Conference". There are two segments listed and he is Part 1. In addition, I would be happy to share materials from the conference if you contact me.

Dr. George W. Hammond, Ph.D. spoke specifically to the outlook for West Virginia in 2010. You can view his discussion on the WV economy by viewing Part 2 of the WV Economic Outlook Conference on www.youtube.com. He provided substantial data on the trends in the labor market across the state. Data on home foreclosures, coal production, exports from the state, and other areas were provided. One thing that was discussed is the income gap for West Virginia when compared to other states. This gap will initially close, but will then stay about 15% to 20% below the national average. Another problem that we face in the state is that our population continues to age. In all age groups except the 65+ range, we are going to see decreases in the coming years.

Thus to sum it all up Dr. Hammond expects the WV labor market to stabilize in the first half of 2010 and to recover slowly in the second half of the year. In addition, it will take our state until 2013 to regain the lost jobs of the most recent recession. This is a substantially longer time period than the rest of the nation. The low unemployment levels of 2008 are not forecast to return anytime in the next 5 years, and the income of those in WV will lag that of the country for the foreseeable future.

November Business Meeting: Perry Bryant with WVAHC Discusses Health Care Reform

On, November 19th, the lunch meeting of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce was held at the Parchment

Valley Conference Center. I would like to thank Frank Miller and his staff for their hospitality, the wonderful food, and the facilities that were provided. Our topic covered in November was the one on the mind of virtually all Americans. This was the issue of health care reform.

I think that many would agree that there are some changes that need to be made, but how to fund and what changes need to be made are where the disagreements begin. Mr. Perry Bryant gave us his perspective as the Executive Director for West Virginians for Affordable Health Care of what may be to come if we have a universal health care system instituted in the country. I urge all of you to stay informed and to make individual contact with your representatives and let them know how you fell on this and any other issue. If you need contact information for your representative, please don't hesitate to contact me, and I will gladly provide this to you.

Future Meetings Set for 2010

Please mark your calendars for upcoming meetings of the JCCC. At noon on January 28, 2010 we will be meeting at Jackson General Hospital to learn more about the efforts of the Jackson County Anti-Drug Coalition and issues relating to a drug free workplace. Valuable information on how to get more involved with this groups work will be provided as well as how to handle drug issues in the workplace.

The February meeting will present another topic that many employers will want to take part. On February 25th at noon, Jennifer Burgess with OSHA will discuss the free on-site consultations that their agency offers. The program's goal is to improve the safety of the workers and to implement programs and procedures within your business that will adhere to OSHA guidelines. Because OSHA wants businesses to utilize this service, these consultations are confidential and without repercussions. In fact, it is possible to qualify for a one year exemption from routine OSHA inspections.

Worthless Check Seminar

On December 4th there was a worthless check seminar held at the Jackson County Courthouse which I was able to attend. Magistrate Tom Reynolds arranged for Caroline Stoker to host this event. Ms. Stoker is an expert when it comes to processing the paperwork and the legal nuances surrounding worthless checks. The county has highly trained staff to assist you in the process of collecting on worthless checks written to your business. If you would like more information on the procedures or forms needed please contact me at wharvey@jacksonchamberwv.com or Amy Leonard at 304-373-2316. Amy handles worthless checks in Jackson County and will be glad to assist in any way.

CALENDAR OF JCCC EVENTS

JANUARY MEETING

PLACE: JACKSON GENERAL HOSPITAL

TIME: NOON

DATE: JANUARY 28, 2010

Monthly Lunch Meeting – Amy Haskins with the Jackson County Health Department will be discussing issues relating to a drug free workplace and the efforts of the Jackson County Anti-Drug Coalition.

FEBRUARY MEETING

PLACE: RAVENSWOOD (TBD)

TIME: NOON

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2010

Monthly Lunch Meeting – The topic will focus on the free on-site consultation services that OSHA provides to small and medium sized business.

MARCH MEETING

PLACE: TBD

TIME: NOON

DATE: MARCH 25, 2010

MONTHLY LUNCH MEETING – LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP FOR 2010

APRIL

PLACE: TBD

TIME: NOON

DATE: APRIL 29, 2010

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOW THROUGH JANUARY 3RD, 2010

WHAT: 6TH ANNUAL WINTERFEST

WHEN: OPEN NIGHTLY FROM 6:00 - 9:00 PM

WHERE: CEDAR LAKES

DECEMBER 18TH & DECEMBER 19TH

What: Christmas Play by Jackson County Players

When: 6:30 PM

Where: Cedar Lakes

DECEMBER 19TH

What: Breakfast with Santa

When: 8:00 to 10:00 AM

Where: Jackson General Hospital

industry in the state. FACES of Coal did a presentation on current issues affecting the coal industry in the state. One of the main problems facing the state's coal industry is the lack of direction provided by the EPA. There are a line of permits that have been placed in a holding pattern and some issued permits have been pulled for further review. This is causing some projects to be idled and has begun to negatively affect the economy in certain areas of the state. For our members that want to learn more about FACES of Coal or wish to support their efforts, please visit them at www.facesofcoal.org.

Other issues that we covered during the meeting were how to organize effective business activism and response. This training session helped us to identify resources available and to assist with the prioritization of goals. We wrapped up the meeting with a roundtable discussion of "Best Practices" for local chambers of commerce. Overall, the WV Chamber provided all of us invaluable information that will improve the range of services that we provide to you, our members.

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!!!*

As you take part in the holiday season, I hope that you enjoy all that you do. Please be safe in your travels and activities. Thanks again for a wonderful 2009, and I look forward to great things in the year to come!





104 Miller Drive
 Ripley, WV 25271
 Phone: 304.532.3565
 Fax: 304.372.1153

Membership Application

Firm _____

Representative _____

Street Address _____

Mailing Address _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ FAX _____

Classification (i.e. Yellow Pages) _____

E-mail _____

Website Address _____

As the representative from the above firm, I hereby apply for membership to the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, Inc. to help promote the growth and prosperity of our community.

Signature _____

Date _____

Membership Type

ORGANIZATIONAL \$150.00 – Any non-profit organization primarily operating in Jackson County wishing to join with the JCCC to achieve common goals.

INDIVIDUAL \$50.00 non-voting - Any individual having an interest in general welfare and prosperity of Jackson County.

SUBSCRIBING – Any firm, corporation, association, government entity, and/or individual doing business in or residing in Jackson County.

1-5	\$150.00
6-15	175.00
16-25	200.00
26-35	225.00
36-45	250.00
46-55	275.00
56-65	300.00
66-75	325.00
76-85	350.00
86-95	375.00
96-105	400.00

Two part time employees equal one with application. Dues will be refunded if application is not approved by the Board of Directors of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce.

Over 106: .50 per employee.
 Maximum \$1,000 per year