

The JCCC News

www.jacksonchamberwv.com

February 2010

Jackson County Anti-Drug Coalition Speaks at January Lunch Meeting

Wes Harvey

JCCC, Program Director

On January 28, the JCCC lunch meeting was held at Jackson General Hospital. Amy Haskins with the Jackson County Health Department came to discuss the efforts of the county's Anti-Drug Coalition. Provided to all members were handouts with employer related information ranging from the workplace impact of substance abuse to why a good drug-free workplace can go bad.

Substance abuse impacts businesses all across the country and our community is not immune. In 2007 almost 20 million Americans used illicit drugs. That is roughly 8 percent of the population. Heavy drinking, defined as having 5 or more drinks on 5 different occasions within the past 30 days, accounted for 17 million Americans in the same year. An even larger number, 22 million, were classified as substance dependent. Greater than 75 percent of illicit drug users were employed and the statistics were similar for heavy alcohol users. A final number to chew on is that 60 percent of the adults categorized with substance dependence or abuse were full time employed.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Anti-Drug Coalition Speaks at Chamber Luncheon
- 1 Tourism Day at the Legislature
- 2 Athletic Outfitters Expands Services
- 2 2010 Jackson County Welcome Guide
- 3 Chamber Meeting Schedule and County Events
- 4 JCCC Membership Application

Tourism Day at the Legislature

Wes Harvey

JCCC, Program Director

The West Virginia Department of Tourism hosted Tourism Day at the Legislature on February 11, 2010. Ron Gaskins and Wes Harvey went down to Charleston for the day to shine some light on county events and give people a good reason to visit Jackson County. Given that the weather was not the best, we felt that the turnout was quite good. Some of our elected representatives stopped by our booth as well as a couple of members that were in Charleston. Several people that stopped by seemed excited about the possibility of a day trip to the area, and I have a feeling that some new faces will visit in the year to come.



Wes Harvey at the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce display for Tourism Day at the Legislature (photo by Ron Gaskins of WV Fine Photography)

I also met with representatives of the Mountain State Art & Craft Fair. They are very excited about the upcoming Fair and wanted to relay that they are currently looking for sponsors. Each year the Fair spends about \$80,000 to market and promote this great event. Thousands of people flock to Jackson County each July, and the Fair is a tangible economic boost for the area. If you wish to be a sponsor, please contact me for more information.

Continued on page 3

So how is this affecting your bottom line and how prevalent is it in your industry? Certain industries have higher alcohol usage rates than others. The same is true for illicit drug use. It is known that workers who are abusing alcohol and illicit drugs have higher rates of absenteeism and turnover.

Losing worker productivity or having to retrain new employees will destroy your bottom line. Smaller businesses are more vulnerable to the damaging effects of these problems with nine out of every ten substance abusers working for employers with less than 500 employees.

Recognizing the problem is the first step but what next. A good idea is to implement a Drug-Free workplace. The return on investment should save your company significant money after one accounts for insurance premiums, accidents, absenteeism, and employee turnover just to name a few. You can visit the [United States Department of Labor](#) to download brochures and materials that will help with establishing a drug-free workplace. Information packets on some of the materials discussed at the meeting are on hand at the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce office in Ripley. Feel free to pick one up or let me know so that I can drop one off to you.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention one of the biggest endeavors of the Anti-Drug Coalition, and that is to help the young people in our county. By trying to positively influence our youth, the Anti-Drug Coalition is hoping to curb problems down the road by building a strong foundation now. There are some really scary statistics out there on how our youth are being exposed to drugs and alcohol at younger ages. Greg Matics wrote a great article on the meeting with the Anti-Drug Coalition. Here is the link to that article from [The Jackson Herald](#).

For those of you that were not able to attend the meeting and would like to have information in regards to how to address issues with youth and what to look out for, please contact Amy Haskins at the Jackson County Health Department at 304-372-2634. The Jackson county Anti-Drug Coalition meets regularly on the first Monday of each month in the Ripley City Hall. The youth meeting begins at 5 p.m. followed by the general meeting at 6 p.m.

Athletic Outfitters expands Services

Athletic Outfitters in Ripley recently expanded its services to include the ability to provide promotional materials to businesses and organizations within the area and across the country. Business owner Cole Waybright stated that he was looking for ways to help out local businesses. "A lot of times

people may order out of a magazine or online and when the item comes in, it just isn't quite what you expected," Waybright said. "With the items we offer, we will be able to provide exact replica proofs. You are going to know what you are going to get."

With this expansion Athletic Outfitters now offers more than 300,000 promotional items that range from mugs, pens, and key chains to etched wine bottles or engraved Rolex watches. For many items the turnaround is pretty quick too, with most ready in just a couple of weeks. If items are needed quicker, then rush orders may also be available depending on the exact nature of the order.

In addition to promotional gifts, Athletic Outfitters now has the ability to handle everything from designing a logo or website to creating a PowerPoint presentation or a handout that meets your business' needs. "There were several goals in mind when we chose to expand our business' services. One was to become a one stop shop for our customer. Another was to provide the most bang for the buck. We want to sit down with our customer and help give the ideas that he or she needs. It is important to work within each business' budget, but still provide a high quality product that achieves their marketing objectives," said Waybright. "With the addition to our business, I feel that we have done this!"

Athletic Outfitters is open 6 days a week and can be found online at www.athleticoutfittersstore.com. If you want to give Athletic Outfitters a call, their number is 304-372-9385. Remember the next time you need something for your business, try to buy it locally in Jackson County. Helping our members with networking opportunities is a primary function of any chamber. We want businesses in Jackson County to be prosperous and offer a variety of services. If your business has expanded its offerings, please let us know so that we can tell others about it here in our newsletter.

Jackson County 2010 Welcome Guide Now Available

The new Jackson County 2010 Welcome Guide published by the Jackson Newspapers is now available. The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce is proud to feature our members in the center spread. Copies are available at our office or at the Jackson Newspapers office. Please contact me at wharvey@jacksonchamberwv.com if you need copies dropped off to you.

CALENDAR OF JCCC EVENTS

FEBRUARY MEETING

PLACE: RAVENSWOOD @ GREEN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

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

MONTHLY LUNCH MEETING – HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

WHAT: **JACKSON COUNTY PILOT CLUB 15TH ANNUAL DINNER**

WHEN: FEBRUARY 20TH @ 5:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR 6:00 PM WELCOME AND DINNER

WHERE: MCCOY'S CONFERENCE CENTER IN RIPLEY, WV

CONTACT: CAROLYN WAYBRIGHT @ 304-372-1995 OR JEAN SMITH @ UNITED BANK

WHAT: **VALUE OF NUTRIENTS** – HERD HEALTH PROGRAMS AND CONTROL OF BVD

WHEN: FEBRUARY 24, 2010 @ 6:00 P.M.

WHERE: WVU EXTENSION OFFICE @ JACKSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

CONTACT: 304-372-8199

WHAT: **RAVENSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL DEPT. ANNUAL DINNER THEATER**

WHEN: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27TH @ 5:00 PM AND 7:00 PM AND SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28TH @ 1:00 PM

WHERE: RAVENSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

CONTACT: RENEE DELONG @ 304-273-5772 OR 304-532-0036 OR JOYCE PITCHFORD @ 304-541-8732

WHAT: **ANNUAL MAIN STREET SPAGHETTI DINNER**

WHEN: MARCH 6, 2010 @ 6:00 PM

WHERE: EPWORTH METHODIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP CENTER IN RIPLEY, WV

CONTACT: 304-372-1637

WHAT: **22ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD DINNER (RAISES FUNDS FOR LITTLE KANAWHA DISTRICT BOY SCOUTS)**

WHEN: 6:30 P.M. MARCH 23, 2010

WHERE: PARCHMENT VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER IN HILL HALL

CONTACT: TIM BAILEY @ 304-988-0409 OR WES HARVEY @ 304-532-3565

WHAT: **3RD ANNUAL WEST VIRGINIA CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL**

WHEN: 10:00 A.M. UNTIL 4:00 P.M.

WHERE: MCCOY'S CONFERENCE CENTER IN RIPLEY, WV

CONTACT: SHEREE KNOTTS @ 304-531-1133 FOR MORE INFORMATION. ADMISSION IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC.



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