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Akron, Ohio 44308-1192

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President Daniel C. Colantone
Chair Thomas J. Strauss

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Vice President,
Marketing & Communications
Rebecca Guzy Woodford
guzy@greaterakronchamber.org

Manager, Publications
Tamera Grimmett
grimmett@greaterakronchamber.org

AKRON AREA economic indicators

	July 2008	July 2007	Change %
EMPLOYMENT (Wage & Salary)			
Summit County	281,100	286,800	-2.0
Portage County	86,300	87,000	-0.8
Medina County	90,500	91,900	-1.5
Ohio	5,648,300	5,711,800	-1.1
National	146,867,000	147,315,000	-0.3
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)			
Summit County	6.7	5.3	26.4
Portage County	6.8	5.2	30.8
Medina County	6.2	5.3	17.0
Ohio	7.2	5.7	26.3
National	6.0	4.9	22.4
AKRON PMSA NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT (in thousands)			
Manufacturing	46.6	47.1	-1.1
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	67.4	67.7	-0.4
Information	4.4	4.5	0.0
Financial Activities	14.2	13.9	-1.4
Professional and Business Services	51.7	51.8	-0.2
Educational and Health Services	47.5	46.8	1.5
Leisure and Hospitality	34.0	33.7	0.7
Other Services	13.6	13.8	0.7
Government	44.5	43.6	2.1
AIRPORT PASSENGERS (Totals)	149,757	129,752	15.4
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1982-84=100)			
All Urban Consumers	206.9	197.0	5.0
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS			
Nonresidential	\$50,482,000	45,599,000	10.7
Residential	\$43,877,000	106,292,000	-58.7

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Akron-Canton Airport, U.S. Census Bureau, McGraw-Hill Construction 9/08

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS benefits

Welcome New Members!
Please patronize our new Chamber members. The Greater Akron Chamber thanks you for helping us support the region's business community.

Check Out Our Members' Events!
The Chamber is offering its members more opportunities to connect. If your company is holding an event that's open to the general public and you'd like to get the word out, let us know.

Our Members are Making Headlines!
Got news? We'll post it!

Visit the Member section of
www.greaterakronchamber.org

directions

Greater Akron Chamber

Fall 2008

www.greaterakronchamber.com

330.376.5550

WHAT DO THE EXPERTS
think
about the economy?



Dr. Kenneth Mayland,
President, ClearView
Economics, LLC

Dr. Jack Kleinhenz,
CEO, Kleinhenz & Associates

Perspectives from experts on the near-term economic outlook and its implications for business.

Guest speakers: Ken Mayland and Jack Kleinhenz

Register online at: www.greaterakronchamber.org

nov. 13, 2008
7:30 am
Breakfast & Program
Rosemont Country
Club, Fairlawn



Sponsored by:
economic outlook 2009

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bridgestone americas FOCUSES ON AKRON SITE

Proposal to build new tech center in the company's birthplace requires board approval. **BRIDGESTONE**

A team of experts from Bridgestone Americas has recommended the company build a new, state-of-the-art technical center in Akron and keep 1,000 related jobs in the community. Bridgestone has signed letters of understanding with the State of Ohio, Summit County, the Summit County Port Authority and the City of Akron that set the framework for the project.

"We're pleased we have the framework of an agreement with officials in Akron, Summit County and the State of Ohio that will allow us to stay in Akron and build a first-class technology building," said Mark Emkes, Chairman and CEO of Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc. (BSAH) and Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire (BFNT). "We're working together with Akron, Summit County, the Port Authority and Ohio officials in hopes of getting a final agreement. While we're excited to have this agreement framework, we still have some work to do before we can break ground."

To be finalized, the recommendation must be approved by the boards of directors of BFNT, BSAH and Tokyo-based Bridgestone Corporation. The agreement also requires final approvals of all the appropriate government entities.

The announcement took place this past July in Akron during a company event celebrating the 1988 alliance of The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company with Bridgestone Corporation that transformed the companies' combined operations into the world's largest tire and rubber company.

"Since Harvey Firestone founded his tire and rubber company more than 100 years ago in Akron, we've had a wonderful relationship with the Akron community and we have deep roots in Ohio," Emkes said. "The last 20 years have been marked by numerous achievements for our company, and we feel that building a new world-class technical center in the city of Firestone's birth is good for our *Continued on page 2*



economic DEVELOPMENT

GREATER AKRON CHAMBER PRESENTS A BUSINESS LEADERS mission to china APRIL 13 – 21, 2009

The Greater Akron Chamber is sponsoring a trip to China. In cooperation with Citisinc International, Inc., this experience is available to all Chamber members, family and friends.

Experience China with other members of the Greater Akron Chamber. You will learn about how the Chinese business system operates and how it can help you better

your business. The trip will include memorable sites, both ancient and modern, and a multitude of first-hand, unforgettable cultural experiences.

The 9-Day Tour Includes:

- Round-trip international airfare
- 4-star & 5-star hotel stays
- Airport taxes throughout trip
- 3 full meals per day



- English-speaking tour guides
- Admission to all tours and attractions

All for just \$1,899* per person (space is limited)

Pre-tour Orientation Briefing

An invaluable pre-tour briefing for all passengers will be held on **November 3** from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the downtown Akron-Summit County Public Library.

Trip Highlights Include:

- Traveling with other business leaders and Chamber members in an informal setting with experienced and knowledgeable guides
- A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience China at a very affordable price
- Some of the cities on our itinerary are located in areas with the largest concentration of manufacturing activity in the world.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Guzy at (330) 237-1227, by email at guzy@greaterakronchamber.org, Tony Rinella at (330) 237-1250, by email at rinella@greaterakronchamber.org or visit our web site at www.greaterakronchamber.org.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE city of akron!

The City of Akron was named an "All-America City" for the third time in three decades. Mayor Plusquellic led a delegation of Akron area residents from government, business, non-profit and neighborhood organizations to Tampa, Florida in June for the annual competition sponsored by the National Civic League (NCL).

Akron is one of 10 cities nationwide to have received the All American City distinction from the National Civic League. About 100 cities nationwide applied for the honor in 2008. Akron was one of 16 finalists that

were required to make formal presentations to a panel of judges in Tampa, Florida at the NCL national meeting in June.

According to the National Civic League, "the All-American City Awards recognizes communities for collaboration, inclusiveness, and successful innovation. All-American Cities demonstrate community-wide civic accomplishments, cross-sector cooperation, grassroots participation and creative approaches to issues such as the need for low-income housing, support for at-risk youth, downtown revitalization and healthcare for the uninsured."



Members of the Akron delegation that accompanied Mayor Plusquellic to the annual competition smile for the camera.

CHAMER ATTENDS automechanika TRADE SHOW



Automechanika is the only industry event in Canada dedicated to all elements of automotive aftermarket including parts, repair, accessories and service. More than 100 companies exhibited and thousands of key aftermarket suppliers converged on Toronto to network and showcase their products and services on the global stage. Automechanika has become one of the largest international shows for the expanding automotive aftermarket industry. The Greater Akron Chamber partnered with the State of Ohio Canadian Market Office and the Northeast Ohio Trade & Economic Consortium (NEOTEC) to participate in the show for the first time.

More than 50 meetings were conducted with companies both at the Automechanika Show and offsite with Canadian based companies that operate satellite operations in the Greater Akron Region.

The continued weakness in the U.S. Dollar is making locations like Ohio more attractive to Canadian manufacturers looking to invest in the United States. It presents us with a great opportunity to take advantage of this situation.

Canada is Ohio's largest export market; 50 percent of all exports leaving the state are destined for Canada. With regard to investing in Ohio, Canada is currently ranked 4th among direct foreign investment in the state.

"Automechanika is an efficient way to get the pulse on Canadian companies to see what their plans are with regard to future investment in the United States," stated Ron Straatsma, Managing Director for the State of Ohio Canadian Market Office. "Most Canadian companies are already exporting to the United States. The next logical step is to get them to consider investing in the United States. Working with Team Ohio and the Greater Akron Chamber is an effective way to market the State of Ohio to the Canadian business community."

bridgestone americas FOCUSES ON AKRON SITE

Continued from page 1

teammates, good for our company, and it makes good business sense."

Bob Handlos, Vice President, Product Development, BFNT, served as leader of the team charged with evaluating options both in Tennessee and Ohio for updating or replacing the nearly 100-year-old technical center currently in use. Handlos wanted to ensure many voices were heard during the process and sought input about the new technical center from teammates in a wide variety of disciplines.

"I want to thank all of the government officials in both Tennessee and Ohio who have worked so hard on this project. Our team was extremely impressed with the professionalism of the teams in both states, and with the innovative and creative proposals submitted by both locations. I especially want to thank our teammates for their patience, support and feedback during this process," Handlos said. "As we've said all along, we deserve to work in a world-class facility. We are now one step closer to realizing that dream."

When Bridgestone Holdings announced this summer that it wants to recommit to the Akron area by building a new technical center, it brought to mind another rubber pioneer's recently renewed pledge to the region and its residents.

In 2007, the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company said it would build a new world headquarters in Akron near the east Akron site of its current location. Plans also call for the creation of a commercial and retail center called Akron Riverwalk on Goodyear property. The project will result in \$1 billion of new investment in an older section of the city, and will allow the city to retain 3,000 jobs at the global tire maker.

CHAMBER AT new york TRADE SHOWS



The Greater Akron Chamber recently attended the Medical Design and Manufacturing Show (MD&M) in New York. With more than 1,000 leading suppliers to the medical device manufacturing industry exhibiting their products and services and thousands of attendees, MD&M is the largest event of its kind in the world. Over the past 25 years, national and international companies have seen MD&M as an opportunity to showcase the latest technological advances in medical grade materials, components, computer aided design and health care manufacturing products. The Chamber attends MD&M on an annual basis in an effort to meet with exhibitors from the Greater Akron Region and prospective companies to locate within the area. This year, more than 20 companies from Northeast Ohio participated in the show.

In addition to attending MD&M while in New York, the Greater Akron Chamber also conducted meetings at two additional trade shows—the East Pack Expo, the East Coast's largest packaging and processing show, and the Green Manufacturing Expo, an inaugural show focused on environmentally-friendly manufacturing processes and products. The Chamber cultivated several promising leads.

"The New York show provides great exposure to our Akron based company," stated Richard Sabo, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for item North America. "In the past, the show has resulted in both high-quality leads and sales. I appreciate the fact that the Greater Akron Chamber works the show in an effort to attract business to our community. Again, it all comes back to exposure."

historic renovation IN DOWNTOWN AKRON



The Chesler Group recently announced its intention to restore the historic Andrew Jackson House in downtown Akron across from Central-Hower High School. The Cleveland-based Chesler Group is a redeveloper of commercial buildings with a special emphasis on the renovation of historic structures. The company has completed more than 25 projects in Cleveland, and the renovation of the Andrew Jackson House is the first time the company has worked with the City of Akron and the Greater Akron Chamber.

Upon restoration, the Andrew Jackson House will provide headquarters for the GAR Foundation. The GAR Foundation has distributed over \$155 million to a number of charitable organizations since its inception in 1967, and it is among the largest private foundations in Northeast Ohio. As

the anchor tenant, the GAR Foundation will house its administrative and program staff, as well as provide public space for community events. In addition, the Andrew Jackson House will also provide office space for the Akron-based staff members of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

"GAR Foundation's relocation to a restored landmark building in downtown Akron represents a unique opportunity to visibly reflect and tangibly support the foundation's commitment to the vitality of Northeast Ohio's core cities," stated GAR Foundation President Robert W. Briggs.

The Andrew Jackson House was constructed between 1868 and 1870 and has been vacant for more than 20 years. The renovation and restoration of the 15,558-square-foot structure began in August and will

take approximately one year to complete. It will incorporate environmentally-friendly "green" design and construction strategies for energy, lighting, water and material use to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification; a voluntary national standard for developing sustainable buildings. The structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"Mayor Plusquellic's office has been extremely accommodating. Without question, Akron is open for business," stated Michael Chesler, President of the Chesler Group. "We are actively looking for additional opportunities and projects in this market. We are in love with Akron."

ARCHAngels PRESENTERS RAISE \$32 MILLION

The Akron Regional Change Angels (ARCHAngels), the Greater Akron Chamber's partner in entrepreneurial support, conduct quarterly events where companies present their business plans to potential investors after completing a rigorous application and review process. Companies that have presented have attracted \$32 million in follow-on funding since November 2005. According to the network's recently completed survey, 22 of the 41 presenters over the past three years have received follow-on funding.

"We've heard plenty of anecdotal success stories, like an investor writing a check to one of our presenters on the floor," said ARCHAngels founding member Gordon Schorr. "But we didn't know how widespread our success was. To learn that more than half of our presenters received funding is phenomenal."

ARCHAngels do not have a formal fund, but encourage sidecar investments from their more than 300 members. Representatives of BioEnterprise, JumpStart, North Coast Angel Fund, Columbus' Ohio TechAngels, faculty and students from five local universities, and city, county and federal government representatives regularly attend the events.

innovation alliance

ENHANCES NORTHEAST OHIO ENTREPRENEURIAL SUPPORT

The ARCHAngels are collaborating with the Lorain County Community College Foundation (LCCCF) to enhance the existing Innovation Alliance Fund that serves the 21-county Northeast Ohio region. The Greater Akron Chamber's economic development department staff are members of the ARCHAngels Deal Flow Committee and provide input on potential applicants and projects.

ARCHAngels founding members will assist LCCCF in screening applicants for \$25,000 to \$100,000 early-stage Innovation Alliance Fund grants. LCCCF will share due diligence information with ARCHAngels and direct appropriate companies to ARCHAngels for assistance. This process provides an opportunity for early stage companies in the Greater Akron Chamber's three-county region (Medina, Portage and Summit Counties) access to potential funding to complete product development and take their product or service to market.

"The monumental gap in Northeast Ohio's seed funding is well documented," stated ARCHAngels founding member Barry Rosenbaum. "ARCHAngels are putting our wholehearted supported behind LCCCF's unique funding model as an excellent way to start filling the gap."

Established in 2007, the Innovation Alliance Fund is the only fund in the nation that can accept charitable donations for investment in private companies. The fund has made ten investments in its first three funding cycles, distributing \$700,000 in state and corporate funding. Some of the companies receiving funding have been located in Summit County.



OH! POLYMER SUMMIT

The Greater Akron Chamber, in collaboration with The University of Akron Research Foundation, recently attended the OH!Polymer Summit in Columbus. The summit has become a major networking event for Ohio's

polymer industry, a major – and growing – component of the state's economy. A record crowd of more than 400 attended this year's summit. The polymer industry is particularly relevant to the Greater Akron Chamber's membership. We are widely recognized as the polymer center of the United States and have the second-highest ranked polymer school in the world (*U.S. News and World Report*) housed at The University of Akron.

The \$49 billion polymer industry ranks second only to agriculture's \$93 billion in Ohio's Gross State Product. As more bio-plastics are developed, the line between these two critical industries is being blurred. This overlap was made even more evident as the National Agriculture Biotechnology Council's opening luncheon which was co-hosted by OH!Polymer, a state program designed to promote the industry. Ohio Governor Ted Strickland addressed the group and stressed the potential of bio-polymer collaboration.

"This was the first time we have been able to publicly stress the synergies between the polymer industry, biotechnology industry and agriculture," stated Barr Klaus, Vice President for Advanced Polymer Company Attraction with PolymerOhio. "The State of Ohio is both logistically and technologically well positioned to lead the nation – and the world – when it comes to polymers."

The theme of this year's OH!Polymer Summit was "Sustainability." Discussions centered around designing products with an emphasis on their "end of life" rather than "next use". An example of such a design is the biodegradability of everyday consumer products. The keynote address given by Bill Carteaux, President and CEO of the Society of the Plastics Industry, dealt almost exclusively with how a focus on "green" business strategies can rejuvenate a mature industry and provide new and sustained growth to Ohio.

The Greater Akron Chamber is an active member of OH!Polymer and participates in the annual summit.

nexen tire OPENS TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Nexen Tire, a Korean-owned company that first established its American subsidiary in 2005, recently announced the opening of a Tire Technology Center in the Village of Richfield. Nexen Tire was founded in 1942. It has a worldwide workforce of 2,900, and sales are projected to reach \$1 billion by the end of the decade. In addition to the Tire Technology Center in Richfield, Nexen Tire has North American operations in both California and Georgia.

Nexen Tire's investment in Richfield will have two phases. The first phase will create 15 jobs and includes the establishment of the Tire Technology Center, and the second phase will create an additional 25 jobs in Richfield. The second phase is still in the early development stages, but it is expected to include the construction of an expanded technical center in 2013 that will allow the company to conduct more simulations and tire testing in-house.

George Kamvouris, Vice President for Nexen Tire America, stated "We located our operations in Akron because of location, workforce and the fact that the rubber industry has a 100-year history here. We are focused on developing tires in Akron by the end of the year."

"We are excited to have Nexen in the Stonegate Corporate Park here in Richfield," stated Ralph Waszak, Director of Economic Development with the Village of Richfield. "With three freeways coming together in our community, it is a strategic location for companies looking to attract a quality workforce from throughout Northeast Ohio. We are looking forward to working with Nexen Tire to assist with their expansion plans over the next several years."



UA RESEARCH FOUNDATION BLOGS

entrepreneurial and economic outreach

The University of Akron Research Foundation (UARF), another Greater Akron Chamber partner in entrepreneurial support, is reaching out to the entrepreneurial and economic development community with a new blog. *UniversityED.blogspot.com* includes weekly entries by UARF employees and serves as a forum for discussion, questions, comments and education about The University of Akron's economic development initiatives and issues concerning regional economic development.



collaboration REGIONAL

CoreNet global summit IN SAN DIEGO

The Greater Akron Chamber, along with its economic development partners, including the City of Akron, Ohio Department of Development and the Stark Development Board, comprised a 15-member Team Ohio delegation that attended the CoreNet Global Summit in San Diego. Scheduled twice a year, CoreNet is the largest gathering of corporate real estate executives in the nation. The biannual convention provides communities the opportunity to speak directly with the individuals who are influencing the decision-making process with regard to corporate expansions and relocations.

More than 150 exhibitors and 2,000 attendees participated in the CoreNet Global Summit in San Diego. The Greater Akron Chamber again provided the leadership as the emcee of the Team Ohio reception which was attended by more than 300 guests from across the country.

With gas more than \$4 and diesel more than \$5 a gallon, one of the major topics of discussion was a renewed emphasis on transportation costs and how it relates to both location and workforce development. The general consensus is that Ohio, due to location, infrastructure and access to waterways, is well positioned to minimize the impact of increased energy costs on companies doing business in the state.

CoreNet provides the Team Ohio delegation with the opportunity to communicate our attributes and strengths to an audience we need to be speaking with. The relationships that have been developed over the years have proven to be invaluable as we market the Greater Akron Region to national and international businesses. We are receiving positive feedback and solid leads from the site selectors we are meeting.

GREATER AKRON economic development guide 2009 IS COMING SOON

Reserve your ad space now!

The *Greater Akron Economic Development Guide 2009* is the region's most important collaborative advertising opportunity for promoting economic growth. This newsstand-quality publication will target new business prospects, as well as potential new employees and residents. More than 10,000 copies will be distributed throughout the year.

The print magazine, however, is just one part of the complete integrated marketing program for the *Greater Akron Economic Development Guide*. The program increases the reach and impact of your advertising message through an online edition of the magazine that features additional content and relocation resources, a photographic

streaming video tour of the community, a targeted distribution network, and the option of a customer retention and acquisition program.

For more information on advertising in the *Greater Akron Economic Development Guide*, contact Jeff Smith at (330) 376-5550, toll-free at (800) 621-8001, or by e-mail at jsmith@jnl.com.



HANNOVER trade fair 2008

The Greater Akron Chamber, along with its local economic development partners including the City of Akron, Portage and Summit Counties, Akron Global Business Accelerator and Stark Development Board, comprised a 20-member State of Ohio delegation that recently attended the Hannover Trade Fair in Hannover, Germany. Dating back to the end of World War II, the Hannover Trade Fair is the world's largest industrial trade show. This year, more than 5,100 exhibitors from 60 nations participated along with 200,000 attendees.

"Energy" was one of the main themes of this year's fair with an emphasis on conventional and renewable power generation that is economically feasible and environmentally friendly. The Hannover Trade Fair gives companies from throughout the world the opportunity to speak directly to both customers and vendors. In addition, it gives the State of Ohio the opportunity to explore new markets for export and pursue investment opportunities at home.

"In this global economy, it is imperative that the City of Akron have a presence at international shows like Hannover," stated Mayor Don Plusquellic. "As a direct result of our meetings and the relationships that we have been able to forge over the years, we have attracted foreign investment and jobs to our city."

The State of Ohio delegation placed a major focus on alternative energy. A number of meetings were scheduled with the world's largest wind turbine manufacturers, including WPN, the largest developer of wind farms in Europe. In addition, the delegation met with more than 40 companies involved with biofuels, biogas, fuel cells and solar development.

The State of Ohio delegation conducted nearly 400 meetings during its time in Hannover. These meetings included 12 companies (both domestic and international) that have existing manufacturing, distribution, sales or joint ventures in Ohio. Also included were 85 companies that have shown an investment interest in Ohio and 143 companies that have requested general information about business incentives and opportunities in our state.

"With the value of the dollar at a historic low, the incentive for European companies to invest in the United States has never been greater," stated Portage County Commissioner Chuck Keiper. "The exchange rate combined with our educated workforce, location and quality of life make Ohio an extremely competitive location for international companies."

GREATER AKRON REGION HOSTS "FAM" tour

The Cleveland + business partners, including the Greater Akron Chamber, hosted a group of eight site selection consultants during the weekend of August 1-3 to participate in a Familiarity "FAM" Tour of our area. The consultants work with national and international companies to identify areas for possible expansion and/or relocation opportunities. The objectives of the FAM Tour are to develop relationships with "A List" consultants while highlighting the business case for investment in our region, emphasizing quality of life and strengthening regional economic development cooperation. Representing the Greater Akron Chamber were Rick Rebadow, Senior Vice President for Economic Development, Gregg Cramer, Senior Director for Business Development and Sheri Shields, Manager of Business Development.

The FAM Tour was structured around two major sporting events: the Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinee Dinner in Canton and the Bridgestone Invitational-World Golf Championship at Firestone Country Club. Prior to the Enshrinee Dinner, the consultants attended a reception hosted by Tim Timken, Chairman of the Board of the Timken Company, at Brookside Country Club. While at the reception, they had the opportunity to meet NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, several NFL owners and former enshrinees. The Timken Company and Diebold hosted the consultants at the Enshrinee Dinner. The consultants were also treated to a day at Firestone Country Club during the third round of the tournament. FirstEnergy provided a villa on the 16th green, and representatives from both the public and private sectors were on hand to welcome the consultants to our community.



In addition, the consultants spent an afternoon at The University of Akron where Mayor Plusquellic and representatives from the university provided an overview of the diversification and strength of the economy in the Greater Akron Region and The University of Akron's role as an economic development resource.

The initial feedback from the consultants was overwhelmingly positive. Without question, perceptions of our area changed for the better over the weekend. Within about 48 hours, the community was introduced to groups who have contacts with Fortune 500 companies trying to relocate as well as expand their businesses.

Jason Brecheen with Swearingen Real Estate in Dallas, Texas said his view of the area was altered over the August weekend. "Before my trip to Northeast Ohio with Team NEO, my perception of the region was not much more than it being the Rust Belt. After learning about the universities and technology in the region, as well as the incredible people, my perceptions quickly changed," Brecheen said.



BEST LIFE MAGAZINE RANKED "100 best places" TO RAISE A FAMILY.

AKRON GLOBAL BUSINESS ACCELERATOR RECEIVES incubator innovation award

The Akron Global Business Accelerator (AGBA) of Akron, Ohio, received the National Business Incubation Association's (NBIA) 2008 Incubator Innovation Award May 6 at NBIA's 22nd International Conference on Business Incubation in San Antonio. AGBA received the award for its Global Technology Commercialization Initiative.

The Global Technology Commercialization Initiative is designed to support new domestic start-ups and to attract foreign firms involved in advanced materials, advanced energy, biomedicine, information technology, and instrumentation/controls/electronics. The initiative provides clients with enhanced services, risk assessment and evaluation, advanced market identification and increased networking opportunities.

Business incubation programs like the Akron Global Business Accelerator catalyze the process of starting and growing companies by providing entrepreneurs with the expertise, networks and tools they need to make their ventures successful. NBIA estimates that in 2005 alone, North American incubators assisted more than 27,000 start-up companies that provided full-time employment for more than 100,000 workers and generated annual revenue of more than \$17 billion. Approximately 5,000 business incubators operate worldwide.

The National Business Incubation Association is the world's leading organization advancing business incubation and entrepreneurship. Each year, the NBIA Incubation Awards honor the business incubation programs, graduates and client companies that exemplify the best of the industry.

The Incubator Innovation Award recognizes incubators that have developed and implemented innovative activities that help them better serve their clients or more effectively accomplish their missions.



advocacy

sick leave NO LONGER ON BALLOT!

Recently, Ohioans for Healthy Families, lead by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), announced they would be removing the Mandated Paid Sick Leave or

Ohio Healthy Families Act from the November 2008 ballot. This is great news for the business community!

The proposal would have mandated all employers with 25 or more employees provide seven paid sick days to all employees along with numerous recording keeping and administrative requirements. Thank you to all our members that have expressed concern and taken action in response to this detrimental proposal. Our collective voice was heard and proved to be powerful to force the issue off the ballot.

Even though the proposal will not be on the November ballot, it is not a dead issue. It is being reported that the issue will appear again as a proposed national law on Capital Hill and that Governor Ted Strickland would support a national paid sick day bill.

The Chamber will continue to monitor and notify you of developments on the issue. Please contact Megann Eberhart, Manager-Advocacy (330) 237-1262 or eberhart@greaterakronchamber.org with questions or concerns.

ELECTED OFFICIALS reception

Governor Ted Strickland was our special guest along with Congresswoman Betty Sutton, Ohio Supreme Court Justice Maureen O'Connor, and over 30 other elected officials for the Chamber's Annual Elected Official Reception on May 19 at Portage Country Club. Sponsored by Summa Health System, Akron-Canton Airport and Oriana House, members had an unique opportunity to speak with elected officials one on one to share issues and concerns important to them. For a full list of elected officials who attended the reception, visit the Government Affairs section of the Chamber's web site.



Tracy Jensen, North Akron Savings Bank, speaking with Governor Strickland.



Dennis Kleidon, Kleidon & Associates, with wife Rose Kleidon speaking with Governor Strickland.



University of Akron President, Luis Proenza, speaking with Tom Straus, Summa Health System and Governor Strickland.



Cuyahoga Falls Mayor Don Robart with David Regula, Akron-Canton Airport.



Norton Mayor David Koontz speaking with Governor Ted Strickland.

Sponsored by:



THE GREATER AKRON CHAMBER IS PLEASED TO PRESENT OUR

Legislative Action Center

Members can now easily stay **connected** with elected officials, become **engaged** in shaping public policy and stay **informed** on upcoming elections and legislative issues important to the advancement of the Greater Akron Region. Please log on to: <http://www.bipac.net/page.asp?content=startpage&g=akron>

2008 election

AND VOTING INFORMATION

This year, Ohio voters will elect candidates for President, members of the United States Congress, Justices of the Ohio Supreme Court, members of the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives and decide the outcome of important statewide ballot issues. With so many potential changes and choices facing Ohio voters, it is vital to become educated and aware of the many different candidates and issues that matter to you, your job and your family. Visit the Legislative Action Center on the Government Affairs page of the Chamber's web site for customized candidate voter guides and information on statewide issues.

Voters in Ohio now have the opportunity to cast their ballots early via mail or in person at some locations. Early voting or the new no-fault absentee voting will be available during the General Election beginning September 30, 2008. To download an early voting form or to find out more about voter registration options, visit our EZ vote system in the Legislative Advocacy Center on the Government Affairs page of the Chamber's web site.

CHAMBER SEEKING NOMINATIONS OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS TO HONOR local elected officials recognition LUNCHEON AT THE 5TH ANNUAL

The vitality of the Greater Akron Region is dependent on the vision and collaboration of our local elected officials. Each year, the Greater Akron Chamber recognizes one elected official in Medina, Summit and Portage Counties for their commitment to economic development and community improvement.

The Chamber is seeking nominations of elected officials from members to be recognized in 2008. All local elected officials who represent Medina, Summit or Portage Counties are eligible for nomination including county commissioners, mayors, city council members, state representatives, etc.

To nominate an outstanding elected official in your county, please visit the Advocacy Events & News section of the Government Affairs page on the Chamber's web site at www.greaterakronchamber.org for more information and to download the nomination form. Nominations are due **Friday, October 17, 2008.**

The 2008 honorees will be recognized at the 5th Annual Local Elected Officials Recognition Luncheon on Friday, December 5, 2008, at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn. Please mark your calendar to attend this special event!

SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS & TECHNOLOGY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

On May 22, ground was broken and construction began for the addition to the National Inventors Hall of Fame. The addition and current space at the museum will house the new math, science, technology, engineering and mathematics community learning center. The school is a collaboration with the City of Akron, Akron Public Schools, The University of Akron, and the National Inventors Hall of Fame. The school will open in the fall of 2009.



Joining Mayor Don Plusquellic (center-left) are children from Akron's King School with teacher Debbie Deidrich; and (L-R) Bob Reffner, NIH Board; Bill Considine, Akron Tomorrow; Marco Sommerville, Akron City Council President; Linda Omobien, Akron School Board President; Past Akron Public School Superintendent Dr. Sylvester Small; University of Akron President Dr. Luis Proenza; Maryann Wolowiec, Project Manager; Ken Jones, 5th Ward Akron City Council; and Dan Colantone, Greater Akron Chamber. Photo Courtesy of Ken Love.



news FROM THE STATEHOUSE

The Government Affairs staff continuously monitors public policy and mobilizes members to advocate on behalf of Greater Akron's business community. Please visit the Chamber's web site and view the Government Affairs page for complete legislative information. Here are some of the issues we have been working on:

ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR OHIO – On June 12, 2008, Governor Ted Strickland signed the \$1.57 billion bipartisan economic stimulus package. The package aims at stimulating job creation and laying the foundation for future prosperity by funding projects in the high growth sectors of energy (advanced, renewable, green), bio-medicine, bio-based products, and logistics (transportation/infrastructure). To support these high growth sectors, money has also been designated for workforce development initiatives.

CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS/BUDGET CORRECTION – The Governor signed the

\$1.3 billion bill on June 24, 2008. The bill makes corrections to the current state operating budget to ensure that the budget will be balanced at the end of the biennium, June 2009. The legislation also allocates funding for capital projects in the state. The tri-county area will approximately receive over \$49 million for various projects.

STATE ANNOUNCES OMBUDSMAN TO HELP BUSINESS WITH STATE REGULATIONS – In response to Governor Ted Strickland's Executive Order – "Implementing Common Sense Business Regulation," fourteen ombudsmen have been identified in a variety of state agencies. The ombudsmen will be able to assist businesses as the problem-solving liaison. Please visit the Legislative Updates portion of the government affairs web site to view the complete contact list.

OHIO BUREAU OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION (BWC) – The Board of Directors have approved another decrease to the maximum discount available for participants in the group rating program. Effective July 1, 2009, the maximum will be decreased from 85 percent to 77 percent. The year-long study by Deloitte Consulting,

which was initiated in HB 100 to measure the performance of Ohio's workers' compensation system and compare Ohio's workers' compensation system to other state and private compensation systems, is still being conducted. The study is expected to continue until December 2008.

STATE TO WORK ON STREAMLINING PROCUREMENT AND INCREASE MINORITY AND DISADVANTAGED PARTICIPATION – On June 25, 2008, Governor Ted Strickland signed two executive orders designed to improve the state's procurement process and increase minority and disadvantaged business participation. Visit the Legislative Updates section of the Government Affairs page on the Chamber web site for more information and how to participate.

WAIVER FOR FIRST TIME VIOLATIONS ON PAPERWORK/HB 285 – Governor Ted Strickland signed into law HB 285, which requires certain state agencies or regulatory authorities to waive administrative fines or civil penalties for paperwork violations that are first-time offenses committed by a small business.

entrepreneurship



GREATER AKRON CHAMBER AND THE AKRON URBAN LEAGUE PARTNER IN minority business development

The Greater Akron Chamber and the Akron Urban League are partnering to create the Minority Business Development Organization (MBDO). This initiative will promote and support minority businesses by facilitating training, strategic management, networking and mentoring opportunities with major corporations. In addition, it will work to ensure minority businesses in Ohio have access to the assistance needed to be productive and profitable.

Unlike the Akron Urban League's existing Minority Business Development Center (MBDC), which works primarily with individuals considering starting a business

or who actually own a small start-up business, the MBDO will service larger, more established minority businesses in their effort to expand, establish procurement and supplier relationships with major corporations or government contracts, and assist with obtaining required certifications. The MBDO will also help majority corporations with their supplier diversity efforts. "This initiative represents a critical element toward the implementation of our new strategic plan," noted Rick Rebadow, Senior Vice President of the Greater Akron Chamber. "We are very pleased to partner



Akron Urban League



L to R: Triva Manley, Gregg Cramer, Tracey Lang and Rick Rebadow.

with our colleagues at the Urban League in this unique opportunity." The Chamber will also house an Urban League staff member at their facility in support of these outreach services.

Funding for this partnership comes from the Ohio Department of Development's Minority Business Enterprise Division. The Akron Urban League was one of only two recipients to receive funding for this effort.

"The Akron Urban League and the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce are already outstanding partners with the State of Ohio, helping to expand opportunities for emerging entrepreneurs in the urban core and increasing awareness of many contributions minority businesses make to Ohio," said Lt. Governor Lee Fisher, who also serves as the Director of the Ohio Department of Development. "Their expertise will complement the work of our Minority Business Enterprise Division, and their partnership is critical to the development of direct and inclusive services that will broaden economic opportunities of Ohio's minority business community."

Bennett L. Williams, President and CEO of the Akron Urban League, expressed her view regarding the partnership: "The Greater Akron Chamber offers excellent programs, services and resources. We look forward to working with the Chamber to assist and encourage more minority businesses to take advantage of these and other opportunities," she said.

advertise ON THE CHAMBER'S web site!

The Greater Akron Chamber is proud to offer web site advertising to our members. For a low monthly rate, Chamber members can connect with the hundreds of people who are visiting

our site each month! On average, the Chamber's web site receives 26,975 visits quarterly. Choose from six section pages: About the Chamber; Business and Economy; Government Affairs; Living and Working; Members; and Visiting and Playing. Not an advertiser already on the Greater Akron Chamber's web site? Well what are you waiting for? Send an e-mail to Tammy Grimmert grimmert@greaterakronchamber.org or call (330) 237-1246.



advertise IN DIRECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Connect with the Greater Akron Chamber's Newsletter.

Make the most of your advertising dollars through the Greater Akron Chamber! Advertising in our newsletter, *Directions*, allows Chamber members to target over 6,000 local business men and women. For pricing and deadline information, contact Tammy Grimmert at (330) 237-1246.

SCORE EXPANDS FREE business workshops

Akron SCORE has expanded its free Workshop Program which is designed to benefit those already in business or considering taking the big step, reports Gary Sutherland, chapter chairman.

The workshops are presented by highly experienced business people who willingly answer questions. Topics include:

- Business Basics
- Business Plans
- Marketing on a Mini-Budget
- Leadership & Management Skills
- Financial Management
- Not-for-Profit Basics

The workshops are held both mornings and evenings at the SCORE offices, 1 Cascade Plaza – 18th Floor, in downtown Akron. Morning sessions run from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and evening sessions from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. They are also held at Wayne College, Kent State University, Medina, Portage Lakes Career Center and other locations as requested.

Business Basics: A three-hour interactive workshop covering the key essentials

critical to starting a successful business. Designed for start-ups and persons contemplating going into business. Resource materials are included.

Business Plans: A well-conceived business plan is the entrepreneur's road map. Includes an overview of the business, product or service offered, financial resources required, marketing demographics, production needs, plus other key elements. This workshop will show you how to proceed and commit your ideas to a clear, concise written document that is a clear guide for you, lenders and/or investors. Resource materials are included.

Marketing on a Mini-Budget: Overview of key marketing components and low-cost marketing techniques to help the business grow and prosper. Learn to market your company without breaking the bank. Designed for persons in business. Includes resource materials.

Leadership & Management Skills: How to improve in the areas of communication, motivation and teamwork with employees, customers and suppliers. The objectives

All SCORE workshops are offered free of charge.

For workshop schedules, additional information and registration, call the SCORE office at (330) 379-3163 or via the Internet at www.akronscore.org.

are increased business and positive relationships with all three constituencies. Resource materials included.

Financial Management: Business finance, financial records and banking overview. How to control your money. Learn how everyday business transactions affect the balance sheet, income statement and cash flow. Designed for start-ups and those already in business. Resource materials included.

Not-for-Profit Basics: Learn the requirements and essentials of doing business as a Not-for-Profit Corporation. Designed for start-ups or those already in business. Resource materials are included.

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young PROFESSIONALS



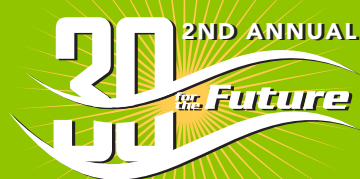
HARD AT WORK

Greater Akron's Young Professional's organizations are hard at work improving our community and the lives of those who live in it! These organizations also provide young, working professionals with opportunities to develop their skills and connect with a social network of people who share their interests.

CHAMBER HONORS 30 FOR THE FUTURE AWARD RECIPIENTS



The Greater Akron Chamber celebrated the accomplishments of thirty Greater Akron Region young professionals at the 2nd Annual 30 for the Future Awards Gala on Monday, September 8, 2008, at Carousel Dinner Theatre, sponsored by Huntington Bank.



"Goal-oriented, hard-working, creative, committed, effective, persistent. Our 30 for the Future recipients demonstrate all of these winning leadership characteristics," said Dan Colantone, President and CEO of the Greater Akron Chamber. As part of the Chamber's strategy to attract and retain talent in the region, the "30 for the Future" award honors young professionals (ages 25-39) whose stellar contributions impact their industries and the Greater Akron Region. A list of the award winners follows:

Heather Barnes, Brouse McDowell
David Barnhardt, Akron Zoo
Tracy Carter, Summa Health System
Randy Cole, GovTech Solutions, LLC
Hezekiah Davidson, Right Hand Management & Productions, Inc.
Brian Deagan, Knotice, Ltd.
Jennifer Doyle, Summa Health System
Michelle Drago, Apple Growth Partners
Todd Eisinger, HomeSense Enterprises
Diettra Engram, Summit Education Initiative
Bridget Garvin, Cascade Locks Park Association
Scott Hindel, Community Bible Church
Geoff Karcher, The Karcher Group
Brett Kimmell, United Way of Summit County
Mark Krohn, Brennan, Manna & Diamond, LLC

Raymond Lampner, Brockman, Coats, Gedelian & Co.
Shana Lee, Kent State University
Daniel Leslie, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
Joy Malek Oldfield, Hill Hardman Oldfield, LLC
Christine Mayer, GAR Foundation
Matt McCallum, Hitchcock Fleming & Associates
Brian Miner, Hasenstab Architects
Michael Moldvay, Bober, Markey, Fedorovich & Company
Melissa Montisano, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.
Heather Nagel, Heaven Can Wait
Brian Ray, National City Bank
Jeff Sumner, Corporate Technologies Group, Inc.
Barry Thoman, Meaden & Moore, Ltd.
Laura Tinney, Our Lady of the Elms
Erin Wojno, Wojno Development

The 30 for the Future award recipients were nominated by members of the Greater Akron Chamber and regional profit and non-profit organizations, including many of the region's young professional organizations. An independent Advisory Council selected the recipients based on the finalists' Leadership Documents, which showcased professional and community accomplishments, team-building, leadership and creativity in overcoming obstacles.

Over 400 community leaders, friends and family members gathered to honor the award recipients at the gala. Heather Burns, morning show host for 91.3 The Summit emceed the evening. Summit County Executive Russ Pry and Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic were on hand to congratulate the winners.

In addition to being honored at the September 8 gala, the recipients are also profiled in a special section of *Northern Ohio Live* magazine's October 2008 issue. Contact Jeff Walmsley at (330) 237-1214 or walmsley@greaterakronchamber.org to receive printed copies. For more information on each of the award winners, visit www.greaterakronchamber.org.

We extend our congratulations to all of this year's recipients, and we look forward to celebrating an equally talented group selected next year!

Presenting sponsor: Gold sponsor:

Award/Invitation: Media sponsor:

Presented by:

plug in TO THE YOUNG PROFESSIONAL'S NETWORK (YPN)



The Greater Akron Chamber's Young Professional's Network (YPN) is a personal and professional development program designed to help the Greater Akron Region's Young Professionals CONNECT to each other and to our community.

Membership in YPN is free, fast and easy – all you have to do is join the YPN mailing list. Most YPN events charge for admission, from \$10 to \$50, depending on the event. These prices generally include food, entertainment, and non-alcoholic beverages.

Q. How can I PLUG IN?

a. There are two ways you can plug in to the YPN:

1. Become a YPN member. (e-mail byers@greaterakronchamber.org to join YPN's mailing list)
2. Attend YPN events.

Q. What's in it for me?

a. Participation in YPN will help you enhance your career, your community and your commitment to the Greater Akron Region. You'll develop new skills, meet new people and try new things. Most of all, you'll have fun!

For more information contact Theresa Byers at (330) 237-1228 or byers@greaterakronchamber.org

MEMBERCHOICE

A Benefits Plan for Greater Akron Chamber Members

TO FIND OUT IF THE MemberChoice Benefits Plan IS THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOUR BUSINESS, contact your independent insurance agent or Theresa Byers at the Greater Akron Chamber (330) 237-1228.



Group Health Insurance Through our new health care alliance, Chamber members are able to save up to 5% on their health insurance premiums! SummaCare offers a wide variety of fully-insured and self-insured products to fit the needs of employers of all sizes, even the sole proprietor. Their growing network of providers includes over 35 of the area's finest hospitals and thousands of providers, including nationally ranked Summa Health System and Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Statewide and national networks are also available.

Vision Advantica EyeCare provides vision care plans to employer groups of 10-plus employees and managed care organizations. With over 7,000 providers nationwide and contracts with most major retail outlets,



Advantica EyeCare's offerings include easy-to-administer plan designs, vision exams, eyeglasses, mail order contact lens service and LASIK surgery. They have also just enhanced their vision plans to cover Photochromic (lenses that change in sunlight) and Progressive Lenses. The Advantica advantage offers you and your employees the finest in eye care professionals.

Group Dental HumanaDental has partnered with the Greater Akron Chamber to provide members the full range of fully-insured and employee-paid (voluntary) dental insurance products. The products are designed to fit any need; and if you obtain a quote through a Chamber broker, you are eligible for a discount. HumanaDental is passionate about service and provides one of the top three largest PPO dental networks of over 93,000 dentist locations.

Life & Disability Insurance In the face of rising benefit costs and increasing employer concerns, you need a carrier that stands out among the rest. Anthem Life has your answers. Flexible coverage from Anthem Life Insurance means employers can afford to protect those who matter most. Designed especially for small businesses, Anthem Life offers Greater Akron Chamber members a competitive life insurance plan including the ProtectionPack, which bundles life and disability coverage into one convenient package.

Group Workers' Compensation CCI (Compensation Consultants, Inc.) offers Greater Akron Chamber members up to 85% savings through their Workers' Compensation Group Rating program. CCI has provided Ohio employers with total workers' compensation cost control solutions for over 50 years. Their experienced staff works behind the scenes to create an individualized approach to the specific needs of your business.

Shipping Greater Akron Chamber members can receive preferred pricing and customized solutions with DHL and Roadway. Whether you're shipping envelopes, packages, crates or pallets, these carriers can provide a solution. Members can now ship overnight with no weight limits, no billing hassles, and low flat rates.



Language Translation Services Advanced Language Translation Inc. (ALT) is an ISO-certified provider of translation and localization services in over 30 languages and offers a 10 percent discount on all services to Greater Akron Chamber members. ALT provides translation of documents, websites, software interface and user documentation, as well as foreign language desktop publishing, voice-over, terminology management, software internationalization, and validation services. ALT develops and manages the entire process from start to finish, eliminating the need for multiple vendors, and allowing companies to concentrate on their core business.

Electronic Merchant Services (EMS) Electronic Merchant Services (EMS) is a leading provider of merchant processing services and electronic transactions. As a Greater Akron Chamber member, you are given access to special rates and discounts as well as an elevated level of service. EMS lets you offer convenient, electronic payment methods to your customers, while you get the benefits of low rates and additional savings. You can also take advantage of gift and loyalty card products developed to help you increase sales and improve customer relationships, giving you a competitive edge.



member TO member DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Save money and help support our local economy!

Choose Greater Akron Chamber member companies for your business and personal purchases! The companies included in our Member-to-Member Discount Directory have agreed to extend special savings to Chamber members and their employees. To take advantage of the savings, simply present your membership card at any participating merchant. Don't have a membership card? Call Theresa Byers at (330) 237-1228.

Attract customers and build relationships by becoming a participating merchant! If your business would like to participate in the Member-to-Member Discount program, contact Theresa Byers at (330) 237-1228.

To view the last Member-To-Member Discount Directory, go to www.greaterakronchamber.org.

The Greater Akron Chamber is pleased to introduce a new preferred benefits provider for office supplies.

Office Depot provides Chamber members a discounted rate on office supplies, technology, school supplies, printing, promotional products, and furniture.

Office DEPOT



calendar OF EVENTS

2008 GREATER AKRON CHAMBER NETWORKING EVENTS
Reservations for all Greater Akron Chamber events can be made online at www.greaterakronchamber.org or by calling (330) 376-5550.

october

KNOW (Knowledgeable Network of Women)

Ilene Shapiro, presents "Carpe Diem" - Seize the Day! Ilene will help teach you to imagine a tomorrow where you know yourself, where you learn from each experience and can leverage that experience to bring you economic possibilities, a sense of purpose, and a keen awareness of who you are and your impact on the world around us - that is, as they say, "priceless!"

Wednesday, October 15, 2008
Portage Country Club
240 N. Portage Path, Akron
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Chicago Title



Get Connected 2008

Each year, Akron-Canton Airport partners with the Greater Akron Chamber, Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Green Chamber of Commerce to host an exciting and unique after-hours. This is an excellent opportunity for you to interact with the 500 business people who attend this event. Admission is free to chamber members interested in enjoying a great night of networking and gourmet hors d'oeuvres and spirits.

Thursday, October 16, 2008
Akron-Canton Airport
5400 Lauby Rd., Green
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by NEOTEC



november

Economic Outlook 2009

Two experts give perspectives on the near-term economic outlook and its implications for business.

Thursday, November 13, 2008
Rosemont Country Club
3777 Rosemont Blvd, Fairlawn
7:30 a.m. registration;
7:45 a.m. served breakfast;
8:00 - 9:30 a.m. program
Sponsored by Brockman, Coats, Gedelian & Co.



YPN Speaker Series

Tuesday, November 18, 2008
Akron Urban League
440 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron
11:00 a.m.

Sponsored by FirstMerit



december

YPN Holiday Reception & Fundraiser

Join area YPs for drinks & appetizers and get into the spirit of the season by helping us raise money to purchase gifts for an adopted family.

Tuesday, December 9, 2008
Schumacher Homes
779 White Pond Dr., Akron
6:00 p.m.

5th Annual Local Elected Officials Recognition Luncheon

Join us in honoring local elected officials for their contributions to development and community improvement. Members nominate and select one official from Medina, Summit or Portage Counties to recognize.

Friday, December 5, 2008
Hilton Akron/Fairlawn
3180 W. Market St., Akron
11:00 a.m.

Sponsored by Dominion



All current and upcoming event details can be found at www.greaterakronchamber.org

GREATER AKRON CHAMBER'S SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL honors winners AND ELECTS BOARD



The Small Business Council of the Greater Akron Chamber

held its annual awards luncheon on June 6 at Sheraton Suites in Cuyahoga Falls. The event was sponsored by Apple Growth Partners. The Chamber and guests celebrated the accomplishments of the following local business leaders who were selected as the 2008 Excellence In Business award winners:

- Judy Akins, Cambridge Home Health Care
- John Summerville, Regency, Inc.
- Paul T. Schumacher, Schumacher Homes, Inc.
- Paul N. Thomarios, The Apostolos Group, Inc.

The Small Business Council also elected its Board of Directors for the 2008-2009 year. Tia Ramlow of GreatWork! Employment Services was elected Chair, and John Shulan of Shulan's Fairlawn Jewelers, Inc., was elected Vice Chair.

2008-2009 SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Archer, Apple Growth Partners
Don Baker, Baker Media Group
Elizabeth Bartz, State and Federal Communications
Bill Bennett, Bennett Construction Management, Inc.
Parker Berry, SeibertKeck Insurance Agency Inc.
Gary Bologna, Bologna Insurance Agency Inc.
Stephen Burt, CFBank
Liz Curry, Chicago Title Insurance Company
Jeffrey Fickes, Roetzel & Andress LPA
David Firestine, Witschey, Witschey & Firestine Co., LPA
Brad Hansen, Hudson Extrusions, Inc.
Dave Janosek, CBIZ Mayer Hoffman McCann
Bruce Jentner, Jentner Financial Group
PM Jones, Western Reserve Bank
John Joyce, Red Incorporated
Dennis Kleidon, Kleidon & Associates
Daniel Leslie, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network/
Leslie Financial Group
Jeff Lubash, Affiliated Services Group, Ltd.
Jay Mellon, AtNetPlus Inc.
Adam Miller, FirstMerit Bank
Jill Morrow, Speelman Electric Inc.
Nevin Nussbaum, Cohen & Company
Don Padgett III, World Golf Championship-Bridgestone Invitational
Tia Ramlow (Chair), GreatWork! Employment Services
Holly Rhoads, The Ruby Group
John Shulan (Vice Chair), Shulan's Fairlawn Jewelers, Inc.
Theodore Stathopoulos, Stathos Construction Co.
Dave Supelak, Schlabig & Associates
John Trecaso, Wachovia Securities LLC
Tom White, Tire Source

Corporate Clips

- **PBS 45 & 45** has launched a new corporate identity as **Western Reserve Public Media**.
- **Hattie Larlham** recently received the coveted World Class Customer Service Award.
- **The Karcher Group** was selected by Goldline Research as one of the 10 Most Dependable™ Web Designers of the Central United States.
- The partners of Roderick Linton LLP and Kathryn A. Belfance & Associates LLP announced the consolidation of their law firms and a name change to **Roderick Linton Belfance LLP**.
- **CenTrust Wealth Management, Inc.** was selected for the 2008 Best of Fairlawn Award in the Financial Advisory Services category by the U.S. Local Business Association.
- Fairlawn's **Personalized Wellness Center** announced its merger with Akron's RPFitness.
- **InfoCision Management Corporation** was recently recognized as a finalist in the Employer Achievement category of the Health Care Heroes Award.
- **Congregate Management Services** celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.
- **Hitchcock, Fleming & Associates** received recognition as a top U.S. agency in a special 2008 report from *BtoB* Magazine.
- **The Summit County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities** received the highest three-year accreditation awarded through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

ATTENTION MEMBERS: What's new with your company or organization? Any special awards or certifications, expansions, or new partnerships? Make your company news our Corporate Clips. Mail them to the Greater Akron Chamber, fax to (330) 379-3164, or e-mail to grimmnett@greaterakronchamber.org. We're pleased to share your good news!

CHAMBER MEMBERS IN THE spotlight

Congratulations
Greater Akron Chamber Members!

2008 Northcoast 99 Winners:
Presented by ERC (Employers Resource Council), the award honors 99 great workplaces for top talent in Northeast Ohio.

- Akron General Medical Center
- Apple Growth Partners
- Brockman, Coats, Gedelian & Co.
- Cintas Corporation
- Cohen & Company
- ComDoc, Inc.
- Hattie Larlham
- Kent State University
- R.E. Warner & Associates, Inc.
- The Reserves Network
- State Industrial Products, Inc.
- Summa Health System

2008 Diamond Award Winners were InfoCision Management Corporation and Sterling Jewelers, Inc. These awards are only given to three companies out of hundreds that enter each year. The 2008 Legacy Award Winner (given to those organizations that have won the NorthCoast 99 each of the first 10 years) was ADP, Inc. and 2008 Special Category Winners were Akron Children's Hospital for Service & Social Responsibility; FedEx Custom Critical for Recruitment & Selection; Malone Advertising for Compensation & Benefits; and Time Warner for Communications.

SAVE THE DATE

03.19.09

The Greater Akron Chamber's 102nd Annual Meeting is set for **Thursday, March 19, 2009**, at the John S. Knight Center. We are proud to have **Brockman, Coats, Gedelian & Co.** as our sponsor this coming year.



hattie larlham greater akron chamber

Artists work displayed at the Greater Akron Chamber

The Chamber is proud to showcase a number of paintings in the lobby of the Chamber's offices. Each piece of artwork in the exhibit was done by an artist enrolled in the Hattie Larlham Creative ARTs program.

The Creative ARTs Program:

Hattie Larlham's Creative ARTs program involves people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities in many artistic activities. The participants in the program get the opportunity to have control over the aspects of their artwork.

Each participant is paired with a *tracker*, who is a professional artist, to help the participant reach each artistic goal he or she is striving to achieve. The tracker and artist relationship is important to the entire process. The tracker and the artist's communication is an aspect that cannot be overlooked. Every artist has one session a week with

their tracker to create their art. The lines of communication between the two during their sessions proceed in a visual, verbal or perceptual form. The trackers are used as the mediators between the artist and the canvas and are not therapists in any way.

Right now, the program is inspiring the creative thoughts of 62 painters. There have been many new additions to the Creative ARTs program to broaden the outlets for the participants' creative minds. With more programs and choices for these participants, the more individuals will get to have this great opportunity not only in painting but in pottery, poetry, sculpting, digital photography and videography.

The Greater Akron Chamber is extremely pleased to be a part of this and welcomes anyone to come and view the exhibit. The paintings that are displayed are for sale, and all proceeds go the artists directly in a specialized trust.

2008-2009 GREATER AKRON RELOCATION GUIDE

The Greater Akron Chamber has published its relocation guide, promoting the Greater Akron Region to companies, individuals and families relocating to the region. The guide highlights the outstanding amenities that make our region one of the "coolest" places to live, work and play. Once again, a fully interactive web version of the guide with advertiser web site links will be available at www.greaterakronchamber.org. If you should need additional quantities of the guide, contact Tammy Grimmnett at grimmnett@greaterakronchamber.org or (330) 237-1246.