

The StrongLand Quickletter

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SERVING SOUTHERN ARMSTRONG & NORTHERN WESTMORLAND COUNTIES

Chamber Mission . . . To advance the economic, industrial, professional, cultural and civic welfare in order to improve the "Quality of Life" in communities served by StrongLand.

JOIN ME IN WELCOMING OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

... **FRANK AMATO, Jr.**

A special thank you goes out to **Al Pulice**, **Giant Eagle**, for having led the StrongLand Chamber of Commerce through 2011 as "**a most excellent Chairman.**" Thanks to Al, our major goals and objectives were met and the Chamber received recognition for providing a great program for its Members and the Communities.

Frank Amato Jr., **Amato Financial Services**, is now stepping into the role of Chairman to carry the Chamber forward as 2012 unfolds. Frank has been involved in the Chamber for a good number of years as a **Board Member, Tour de StrongLand Committee Member and Bike Race Chairman, not to mention, Government Relations Committee Member and Golf Outing Co-Chair.** We are pleased that Frank brings a fresh perspective to the work at hand, eager to serve the needs of each and every StrongLand Member.

Frank's "**Message to Members**" is included in this edition of the **StrongLand QuickLetter**. Please take the time to read it over and let Frank hear your ideas and needs, as a member, to help him build his work plan into the New Year. Frank is young and eager to serve this Chamber, but he can not do it without your help! ■

STRONGLAND'S "BUSINESS TO BUSINESS" TRADE SHOW

..... **March 22, 2012**

Spring is the time for renewal and the **StrongLand Business to Business Trade Show** is the perfect place to "**Think Spring**" by attracting new customers while you lower overhead by locating cost-saving sources for supplies and services. It's a place where you can display your products and services with the emphasis on what businesses can do for each other to **strengthen commerce** in the Alle-Kiski Region.

Come to the **Clarion Inn, Tarentum Bridge Road** on **Thursday, March 22, 2012** to celebrate the beginning of Spring and to promote who you are and what you do. Set up an **eight foot table display**, complete with business cards and brochures that tell your story. Feel free to roam around to find new customers while you look for local suppliers who can help you cut costs. The price of \$100 includes a covered 8 foot table/chairs and one buffet luncheon ticket. There's even some time when the event will be open to the public so that they pass by your table and find out more about you and your business. Please review the enclosed flier to find out how you can get leads and set up a healthy business schedule for this spring and summer. Call us at 724-845-5426 if you want more information or to save a space in this banner event. ■



2012 Calendar of Events

| | | |
|------------|----------|---|
| Jan. 31 | 5:30 pm | Student Entrepreneur Graduation, Penn State New Kensington |
| Feb. 01 | 8:30 am | Academic Quiz Bowl, Kittanning High School |
| Feb. 10-12 | | StrongLand HomeExpo , The Galleria at Pittsburgh Mills Mall |
| Feb. 15 | 7:30 am | Membership/Marketing Combine Committee Meeting, Giant Eagle Conference Room |
| Feb. 16 | 8:30 am | Academic Quiz Bowl, Burrell High School |
| Feb. 16 | 12:30 pm | Education Committee Mtg., Conference Rm., Parks Bend Business Center |
| Feb. 21 | Noon | Golf Committee Meeting, Chamber Office |
| Feb. 22 | 9:00 am | Armstrong County Commissioners' Meeting, Kittanning |
| Feb. 29 | Noon | Committee Chair Meeting, Chamber Office |
| Mar. 05 | Noon | Finance Committee Meeting, Chamber Office |
| Mar. 06 | Noon | Special Events Committee Meeting, Chamber Office |
| Mar. 07 | 8:30 am | Academic Quiz Bowl Final, Penn State New Kensington |
| Mar. 08 | 7:30 am | StrongLand Board Meeting, Allegheny Township Community Building |
| Mar. 12 | 7:30 am | Membership/Marketing Combine Committee Meeting, Giant Eagle Conference Room |
| Mar. 15 | 12:30 pm | Education Committee Mtg., Conference Rm., Parks Bend Business Center |
| Mar. 19 | Noon | KVE/Economic Development Board Meeting, Chamber Office |
| Mar. 21 | 9:30 am | Westmoreland County Commissioners' Meeting, Greensburg |
| Mar. 22 | 9:00 am | Business to Business Trade Show , Clarion Hotel & Conference Center |

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Inserts...

- A Message From Our Chairman
- Membership Plaque Sticker & Window Decal
- StrongLand HomeExpo Volunteer Request
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- Lenape Adult Education
- Valley Points YMCA

STRONGLAND H.S. MATH LEAGUE CONCLUDES-QUIZ BOWL KICKS OFF

Thanks to the great work of **Dr. David Wells**, Penn State New Kensington Professor; the StrongLand Math League has concluded another successful year of serving students from our nine local high schools. Over 100 of our area's best math students came together for two separate meets at **Penn State New Kensington**. The following are the winners in this year's competition: **The Kiski School** came in with First Place, **Burrell** and **Kiski Area** tied for Second Place and **Freeport Area** was awarded Third Place. This is the last year that Dr. Wells will be able to coordinate the event. He conceived the event more than 18 years ago, but will now be taking his retirement along with relocating to South Carolina. **We owe him a great debt of gratitude and wish him much luck with his future plans.**



In the meantime, the **StrongLand Quiz Bowl** just held its first meet at Leechburg High School this past week. It's too soon to tell the winner but **Kittanning Area High School** is currently in First Place for Junior Varsity and **Burrell** has taken an early lead in the Varsity Division. February 1st the eight high schools in this competition, will get together in Kittanning for the Second of Four Meets. We will keep you posted as this exciting academic competition unfolds. We thank the following sponsors for helping to make this year's Quiz Bowl possible: **Bozzone Family Foundation, Burrell Rotary, Five Starr Catering and Byers Taxi Service.** ■



STRONGLAND GOLF OUTING TEES OFF FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR ...FIND OUT WHERE IT WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR ...GOLF COMMITTEE OFFERS TEAM DISCOUNT

The **StrongLand Golf Committee** recently met to review proposals for this year's Chamber golf outing from all the wonderful golf courses that belong to the StrongLand Chamber. This is never an easy decision to reach, according to committee members, but after a grueling discussion the committee selected **Oak Lake Golf Course** as the site and **Friday, June 22nd** to be the date. They will begin with a continental breakfast, followed by an early tee-off to help make the day fun and end with an early picnic dinner of ribs and chicken, where the outings fabulous prizes will be awarded to players. It's not too soon to begin planning for this terrific outing. The cost per golfer will be a modest **\$115 per golfer** and to encourage teams to sign up the price for each registering team will only be \$420; a savings of \$10 per player. Give the StrongLand Chamber Office a call now to hold your "**early bird**" spot at the 2012 StrongLand Golf Outing. Also, if you're interested in being a major sponsor you can give us a call at **724.845.5426** to hold one of our sponsorship positions for your company or business. Call soon because player space and sponsorships are limited. ■

VOLUNTEER TO BE A PART OF THE HOMEXPO THE ALLE-KISKI REGION'S LARGEST INDOOR EVENT

If you want to be a part of history within the Alle-Kiski Region, then you have to be a part of the region's largest indoor event, the **StrongLand HomExpo**. It's taking place on February 10, 11, and 12 at the Galleria at Pittsburgh Mills and will attract about **30,000 people**. That's about 15% of the entire regional population. Where else can you see that many people at one time in the same place. So whether you're a vendor in the event or not, can you afford a few hours to come and help out with the fun? There's a **Volunteer Participation Form** (Green) enclosed in this mailing that allows you the opportunity to help make this event the very best it can be. *We need people to help with set-up and tear-down, to be greeters, to run the special home show events within the mall, to help with our own StrongLand Booth, or to show people where they can go to tour the Riverview Model Home that will be set up, outside of entrance number one.* There are plenty of jobs to go around when you're dealing with over 100 vendors and thousands and thousands of participants. The best part is.... **WE ALL WILL HAVE A BALL!!!**

There's time for you to get a booth, table or kiosk, too! So call us at **724.845.5426** to get involved and make plenty of worthwhile contacts. ■



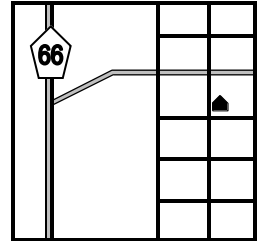
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WE'RE PUTTING A NEW REGIONAL MAP TOGETHER...**...STRONGLAND INVITES YOU TO BE ON THE MAP!!!**

The **Chamber's Membership/Marketing Committee** will be bringing in the services of **Hampton Publishing** to develop a new detailed map of the StrongLand Area and they will begin in mid-February by asking you, our StrongLand Members, to be on the map. You will shortly receive a letter that will tell you about the benefits and costs to have space on the official **StrongLand Map** as well as appear on the internet version of the map, too. The map will be similar to the current StrongLand Map, which is now four years old and in need of revision. The new map will be professionally done on large heavy weight paper and it will be in full color on both sides. One side will show the larger regional area while the other will show the details of each of our wonderful towns, including New Kensington and Arnold. **Please take the time to review the proposal and consider being an advertiser on this well utilized and sought after, map.** ■

**JOIN ME IN WELCOMING OUR NEWEST STRONGLAND MEMBERS...**

Anthony Massari
AMCOM OFFICE SYSTEMS
Coraopolis, PA
724.695.7391
Services: Office Equipment
Office Equipment Services

Dina Franco
DECOR AND YOU
Cranberry Twp., PA
724.822.1331
Services: Interior Design

Chris McLaughlin
UNIVERSAL WINDOWS DIRECT
Pittsburgh, PA
412.444.0533
Services: Windows

Michael Perry
ARK BASEMENT SERVICES, INC.
East Pittsburgh, PA
412.829.3664
Services: Basement Waterproofing
Structural Repair

Paige R. Duckworth
HOURGLASS PHOTO & STUDIO
Vandergrift, PA
724.568.3128
Services: Portrait Studio
Photography-Yearbook, School & Special Event

Sandy Rubright
WESTERN PA MUSIC AND ARTS
ACADEMY
New Kensington, PA
724.994.8872
Services: Choir – Community
Lessons – Private Instrumental & Voice
Dance

Malissa Cole
BELLY DANCE BY MALISSA
Leechburg, PA
724.510.6420
Services: Dance Studio
Dance Lessons

Karlin Miller
IRON HORSE MOTORS
Vandergrift, PA
724.568.1222
Services: Used Auto Sales
Off-Road vehicle Accessories

Michelle Lindsay Hardt
BIRDSFOOT GOLF CLUB
Freeport, PA
724.295.3656
Services: Golf Courses

Tina Mendicino
READS, INK BOOKSHOP
Vandergrift, PA
724.567.7236
Services: Used & New Bookshop
Retail

Andy Cannata
BUDGET CAR RENTAL COUPON
St. Cloud, FL
407.396.4152
Services: Discount Rental Car Provider

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