



SPONSORS

March 2013

My Side of the Conversation

Wow! Between a month of horrible weather, depressing local and national news (may I say TOO much Information?), a scary economy, and the flu epidemic, I have been hard pressed to write notes of good cheer!

However, I am happy to say that we have lots of good cheer generated by our members who are pulling themselves out of some lean times, we have new benefit providers who have great offers for you; lots of new members signing up to join you and other Chamber members in quest for success; and this staff, in the Chamber office, working longer and harder to provide the best services in the area and set the bar high for any other business organizations.

Follow our calendar, Facebook, and invitations to stay ahead of the game. Don't get left behind.

Our strength is our members; our goal is your satisfaction.

Julia Maxton

SMRCOC, President



March Guest Column

WELCOME TO THE DAYTON METROPOLITAN AREA IN THE STATE OF CONFUSION AND THE UNITED STATES OF UNCERTAINTY by Doug Harnish of Market Metrics

The title probably says it all. The Dayton area certainly has its problems and a clouded economic outlook, but it is no different than any other metro area throughout the nation. The entire nation is confronted with the lack of leadership, broken government at all levels, and the prospect of crushing tax burdens that destroy all hope of a better lifestyle in the future or the incentive to work harder.

Let's focus on the Dayton Metropolitan Area with some discussion regarding the more macro market interspersed. The local economy is really dependent on three major components; government, education, and medicine. Admittedly, two decades ago no one would have thought that any of these areas of employment concentration are economic drivers. The immediate risk is that all three are being challenged to continue to be employment centers and/or economic drivers. Government as an employer is shrinking and the most sizeable employer in the Metro Area; Wright-Patterson Air Force Base may be subject to the draconian, pronounced "stupid", cuts imposed by sequestration. Admittedly, the defense budget is enormous, cloaked in secrecy, and difficult if not impossible to manage, but simply imposing cuts without regard to the programs affected is as I stated above – STUPID! The potential negative effects of furloughs and the ripple effects through the local market are devastating. Unfortunately, while the potential problems resulting from cutbacks at W-PAFB have captured the headlines, similar furloughs and staff reductions have been underway for some time in our local jurisdictions resulting in the curtailment or elimination of vital public services. It is fascinating to observe the dependency of State and local governments on money trickling down from the levels of government above have become permanent line items in the budgets of the receiving entities. Government at all levels needs an intense course in the mastery of sources and uses of funds; i.e., basic finance. Curing any dependency is painful and the loss of external funds to support local governments is no exception. This leads to another observation that in the corporate world form follows function. Governments have not been allowed to exercise changes in their form to follow changes in their function. In the future, this probably means some serious consolidation of functions and streamlining of jurisdictional boundaries to enable the delivery of essential services within the tax revenues generated. Thus, government as an economic driver is not likely to contribute much in the way of growth in the foreseeable future.

Education is another primary economic component of the local market. The area is fortunate to have three strong, local colleges, plus numerous smaller institutions as well as the various local public and private schools. However, the pipeline of young students directly correlates to the trends in birth rates; albeit lagged by about eighteen years, as well as the needs of members of the workforce for educational advancement, continuing education, and specific skills training. These subsets of education are likely to take more prominent roles in the educational arena in the future. In addition, the research institutes at Wright State and the University of Dayton are both aggressively working toward more commercialization of the developments that take place in the university environment. The success of these efforts could directly influence local employment opportunities in the future.

Primary and secondary education is challenged in the local area. Our public schools are dependent on tax revenues tied to tax bases that have decreasing market values in many cases. State funding has been mercurial in recent years and the system of generating revenue in general is antiquated; in fact unconstitutional according to the State Supreme Court. You can only do so much with less and less revenue to support local public education. The long-term effects are not promising. If children are not ready for post secondary education; if they so choose, then the pipeline for students in our institutions of higher learning will dry up. Additionally, children who graduate from high school and cannot read, write, or do simple math are not job ready. Teachers have been far too focused on preserving children's self esteem in the classroom at the long-term loss of the children's self esteem when they enter the real world and cannot compete. This does not bode well for the ability of the local area to attract employers and/or to expand employment within the companies who are already here.

The final major employment component in the local market is medicine. This has been a growth industry in the local area for several years in direct response to the aging population; a condition exacerbated by the loss of the more youthful population in search of employment in recent years. Remember that the "baby boomers" are now the "senior citizens" in the population. This bubble will shrink and then what? Given the extensive expansion of bricks and mortar to support the growth of the health care delivery network to serve aging boomers, this system will likely have significant excess capacity in the next couple of decades. It is still anyone's guess as to how the overall affects of affordable health care, aka "Obama care", will impact the health delivery systems and/or the availability of healthcare to everyone. I am convinced that everyone knows that the insured pay the healthcare costs of the uninsured and trying to guarantee that no one is turned away from care due to a lack of insurance is noble and humane. The question is whether the same government that cannot even agree on a budget can efficiently oversee the administration of healthcare. There are examples in the world of both public and private healthcare systems that efficiently and effectively deliver services to the masses. It is our cobbled together public and private system that gives me the most concern. I remind myself that Canada is only a short drive north and maybe I could qualify for citizenship. It also reminds me that this is a U.S. border that appears to do what it is there to do, but that is another commentary.

In summary, the Dayton Metropolitan Area has been battered by the recent recession and the collapse of the housing bubble. Our core City of Dayton has declined to slightly more than 50% of its magnitude forty years ago and the entire metro area has virtually no growth in population or households projected in the near-term. Vacancy and abandonment of real property of all types renders new development of any type highly speculative and very risky; i.e., not financeable. It is not hopeless, but we need vision, leadership, and innovation to succeed in the future.

Update on Montgomery County College Promise

By Gary Smiga Executive Director

We are pleased to announce that the South Metro Chamber Service area is well represented in the program this year. Of the 53 College Promise students that have been accepted into the program this year 8 are from local districts. There are six from West Carrollton, and one each from Miamisburg and Centerville.

The selected students, upon the successful completion of high school and meeting the entrance requirements to Sinclair, Wright State, Central State, Denison and Kettering College will be awarded scholarship that allow them to attend college at little to no cost to them or their families.

By breaking the cycle of poverty for up to 500 Montgomery County Students the College Promise Program will have a profound impact on not only their quality of life but also on the quality of life of each of our communities.

This is a valuable program that assists not only the student but our region. The program requires that each student have his or her own mentor. The program is always in need of mentors. If this is something that might be of interest to you please check out their web site at www.mccocp.org.

Member Services Moment

The South Metro Regional Chamber Introduces Go Metro!

Go Metro is a free down loadable app from Google Play (I phone app will be available soon) connects the community at large with interactive and updatable mobile web sites with social media links, email tools and other features such as coupons from local business, job postings and news and event listings.

This is an exclusive service offered through the South Metro Chamber to help local businesses grow and allow public and non-profit organizations promote their services, events and fund raisers. It also allows visitors easy access to the Chambers information page that lists governments, utilities and other services and organizations.

This is yet another way that the South Metro Chamber is supporting local business, promoting economic stability and providing the communities of the region an additional way to connect with citizen and business.

To down load the app follow the link above. For more information on how your business can become part of this economical program please contact the Chamber at 937 433 2032 ext 102 or email info@smrcoc.org.

South Metro Chamber partners with Dayton Interns

The South Metro Regional Chamber is pleased to be partnering with Dayton Interns. Did you know that 68% of students that interned in the area stay in the area. We can stem the drain of our brightest and best students. For information on how your company can be involved contact Dayton Interns directly at 937 985 1462.

SOUTH METRO REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2013 CALENDAR

SAVE THESE DATES!

EVENT RESERVATION POLICY

All reservations for Chamber events have a cancellation date, usually one week prior to the event (check our website at www.smrcoc.org or event invitation). This date represents a guarantee from the Chamber to the event facility concerning payment and commitment, no exceptions. Please be responsible and honor that date to assist this office in managing our budget. All event registrations will only be accepted IN ADVANCE by check or credit card. We will not offer payment at the door.

No refunds after cancellation date or 3 days prior including lack of attendance. Adults only!

Reservations required. (937) 433-2032 x 200

Date	Event	Location
Fourth Tuesday of each month	Metro Breakfast at Champps Americana	Champps Americana
Jan 22, Feb 26, March 26,	FEATURING IMPORTANT SPEAKERS ON MAJOR TOPICS	7880 Washington Village Dr.
April 23, May 28, June 25	Buffet Opens at 7:30-9:00 a.m.	Centerville
July 23, Aug 27, Sept 24	\$12.00 per person /Members	
Nov 26	\$17.00 per person/ Non Members Members / Non Members - \$25.00 at door Reservations required.	
	Sponsored By: Hunter Consulting Co., Weber Jewelers , Southview Medical Center, Key•Ads, The Ohlmann Group, Freund Freeze & Arnold, Oberer Realty, Prime Printing	
	Women Who Work series	
First Wednesday of each month	Holiday Inn Express Hotel	Holiday Inn Express
Feb 6, March 6, April 3,	5:00-7:00 p.m. Light Refreshments Served	7701 Washington Village
May 1, June 5, Aug 7, Sept 4,	~ Reservations not necessary ~	Centerville
Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4	Sponsored By: Weber Jewelers, Holiday Inn Express, Key•Ads	
	Regional Inforum—Sponsored by South Metro Chamber of Commerce and Thompson Hine LLC	
Wednesday	What's All the Fuss About Fracking?	Thompson Hine
April 10	7:30-9:00 a.m.	Austin Landing
	~Reservations Required ~ Limited Space	10050 Innovation Dr.
	Complimentary Breakfast Briefing	Suite 400
	Presented by Nathan Hunt, Environmental Lawyer, Thompson Hine LLP	Dayton
Wednesday	"Annual" Networking Party	Five Seasons Sports Club
June, 19	5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	4242 Cloy Rd
	Sponsored By: Hunter Consulting Co., Weber Jewelers,	Dayton
	The Ohlmann Group , Southview Medical Center, Graceworks Lutheran Services,	
	Key•Ads, Five Seasons Sports Club	
Wednesday	Annual Breakfast & Business Awards	NCR Country Club
October, 30	7:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	4435 Dogwood Trail
	No payment at the door	Kettering
	Sponsored By: Hunter Consulting Co., Weber Jewelers, Wright Patt Credit Union,	
	Southview Medical Center, Key•Ads, The Ohlmann Group, Freund, Freeze & Arnold,	
	Oberer Realty	
Wednesday	Holiday Business Showcase	Miami Valley Hospital South
November, 13	5:00-7:00 p.m. ~ Admission \$5.00	2400 Miami Valley Dr.
	Members - \$100.00 per 6' display table	Centerville
	Non Members \$150.00 per 6' display table	
	Call for more information	
	Sponsored By: Miami Valley Hospital South	

WATCH FOR MORE ADDITONS.....

South Metro Chamber 2013

Business Open Houses!

(Adults only, reservations required, guests welcome)

No-charge events

Thursday	Zig Zag Gallery	101 E. Alex Bell Rd., Ste. 172
November, 7	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Centerville

NEW ADDRESS

683 Miamisburg Centerville Rd.
Suite 210
Dayton, Ohio 45459

Follow Chamber members, news and events on our web site at www.smrcoc.org or follow us on Facebook

To become a member of the South Metro Regional Chamber contact us at memberservices@smrcoc.org

Go Metro!



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“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

We advocate for businesses and serve Members' needs to assure economic vitality in our region.

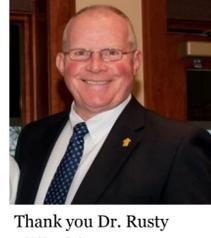
NEW ADDRESS
683 Miamisburg Centerville
Rd.
Suite 210
Dayton, Ohio 45459

Check out our web site
at www.smrco.org and
follow us on Facebook

Member Services Moment

A reminder to all Chamber members, the deadline is quickly approaching to enroll in the Chamber Group Workers Comp Plan. Call the office today to request an AC-3 to receive a quote from our third party administrator Hunter Consulting or contact Hunter direct at 513 231 4023. This is a great plan and can provide a savings of up to 52% on your businesses Workers Compensation.

We will be unveiling an exciting new product at the February 26th Metro Breakfast. An innovative and cost effective way to stay in contact with your customers to expand business base and visibility. Joins us at Champp's Americana on Washington Village Dr at 7:30 A.M. To learn more. Reservations may be made by calling the reservation line at 937 433 2032 ext 200.



Thank you Dr. Rusty Clifford for your great year of leadership in 2012 as Chairman of the Chamber Board of Directors

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economic vitality in our region.*

Go Metro!