It is May already and although it is time for a quick breather, there is no time to rest for the Chamber. Over the past few months we’ve seen a flurry of activity and despite uncooperative weather at times, we had good attendance and experienced success. We’ve had a successful spring and we are now focusing our efforts on the remainder of the year and the upcoming events. Please look for our weekly Member News email and visit the events calendar on our website for the latest information. Also our annual membership directory push now starts in earnest, so be looking for your opportunity to participate.

A few fall events I would encourage you to look for are the Business to Community Expo, our State of Education Breakfast (both coming in October), and our first Beer and Wine Festival coming in September. All of these events will be great opportunities to stay connected to the current community environment and our ongoing efforts to bring value to your Membership.

I would like to take a moment and point out that a few days ago we celebrated Mother’s Day. I hope that all of us took time to celebrate those mothers that have given themselves selflessly for us and our families. Whether it is the woman who gave birth to us, the woman who raised us or the woman who gave us that most precious gift of our children, this day was for them. So if you still have the privilege of being able to give your mom or the mother of your children a great big hug, please do. If, like me, your mom is held dearly only in memories of the past, please take a few minutes to reflect and remember. There is a good chance that she has made everything okay at one time or another (my list is probably longer than most) and has fixed what we thought was not mendable. They’ve definitely earned this day to be celebrated and honored.

Dan Baer
Chair, Board of Directors
Shippensburg Area Chamber of Commerce

May 2017
June 1 - Chamber Mixer; SpiritTrust Lutheran; 2998 Luther Drive; Chambersburg

May 23 - Quickbooks Level 2; Grove Hall Room #401; Shippensburg University, Shippensburg

May 23 - Chambersburg Council for the Arts - Beer & Wine Glass Painting Class; Chambersburg
May 23 - Chambersburg Council for the Arts Proudly Presents “Impact” 3-Artists Exhibition; Chambersburg
May 24 - SHAPE Gallery - Exhibit of “Harmonious Melange”; Shippensburg
May 25 - SpiritTrust Lutheran & The Village at Luther Ridge hosts “Summer Concert” Series; Chambersburg
May 26 - Joyful Arts Studio - Women Only! Creating Your Way to Joy!; Greencastle

May 20 - 21 - 2017 Army Heritage Days at US Army Heritage & Education Center; Carlisle
May 20 - 21 - Army Heritage Days at US Army Heritage & Education Center; Carlisle
May 21 - Camp Hill Kite Festival at Fiala Field; Camp Hill

May 23 - Journey to Healing; Elmcroft Senior Living; 129 Walnut Bottom Rd.
May 25-27 - Katie’s Place Thrift Shop; Corner of S. Penn St. & E. Garfield St.

Welcome New Chamber Members!

Katie’s Place of Shippensburg, Inc.
130 South Penn Street,
Shippensburg, PA
(717) 477-9100
www.katiesplaceatship.org

Katie’s Place of Shippensburg, Inc. is a non-profit organization that exists to serve as a gathering place for people of all ages and as a distribution site for charitable human services for the people of the Shippensburg community and the surrounding area. It is also home to Shippensburg Produce & Outreach (SPO), Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition (SCRC), Christ Among Neighbors (CAN), and Tri County Community Action. Katie’s Place is located in the former Valley Pride (Martin’s Bakery) building.

Doceo Office Solutions
20 North Hanover Street
Suite 101
Carlisle, PA
(717) 462-6535
www.mydoceo.com

Doceo Office Solutions offers copiers and printers, software solutions, document management and IT services. Doceo (Latin word meaning “to teach or educate”) has six office locations in Lancaster, Harrisburg, York, Hanover, Carlisle and Baltimore to serve you. They are also committed to donating a percentage of its annual net profit each year to non-profits in Central Pennsylvania. Each year, Doceo Office Solutions splits the final donation between two charitable organizations that have recently touched associates of The Doceo Companies.
Lawsuit Abuse Reform is Needed to Improve PA’s Business Climate

In addition to tax structure and regulatory environment, a state’s legal climate is one of the leading factors that drive business decisions. A fair and equitable legal system is essential toward ensuring swift justice and more certainty, which in turn attracts business development. But Pennsylvania has a long road toward achieving this balance.

Despite some steps forward under the Corbett administration, Pennsylvania’s legal climate remains one of the worst in the nation. The American Tort Reform Association recently put the Commonwealth on a list of ‘Judicial Hellholes,’ citing pro-plaintiff court systems in Philadelphia and Allegheny Counties as the catalyst behind delayed and costly cases. Additionally, the U.S. Chamber’s Institute for Legal Reform has also ranked our state 37th in the nation in terms of favorability, adding that this dismal standing is estimated to reduce employment by 1.53 percent. This ranking is due in large part to the court system in Philadelphia, which has one of the ‘least fair and reasonable litigation environments in the country.’ These distinctions put the Commonwealth at a competitive disadvantage, which is why lawsuit abuse reform a top priority for our organization.

The Pennsylvania Chamber has long pushed for legal reforms that will bring balance to our legal climate and rein in the actions of some trial lawyers, whose constant search for their next big pay day knows virtually no bounds. We were successful in 2011, when we led the charge on the enactment of the Fair Share Act – a Joint and Several Liability Law that prevents trial lawyers from targeting deep pocket defendants, even if they were at minimal fault for any harm caused. However, that legislation was just a first step. The PA Chamber supports additional reforms that include eliminating the practice of “venue shopping”; requiring a certificate of merit in all professional liability actions; and preventing “double dipping” in asbestos claims by plaintiffs attorneys. Clearly, to that end, our organization is proud to be a part of the Pennsylvania Coalition for Civil Justice Reform, a group working with the PCCJR to ensure that our legal system is fair for all and does not jeopardize business and job creators can grow and operate responsibly without fear of unfair litigation. The PA Chamber looks forward to cooperating with the PCCJR to ensure that our legal system is fair for all and does not jeopardize business and job growth that is necessary for real economic prosperity. To learn more about our collective efforts toward a fair and equitable legal system, please visit paforciviljusticereform.org.

To that end, our organization is proud to be a part of the Pennsylvania Coalition for Civil Justice Reform, a group that was recently formed to address imbalances in our state’s civil justice system. The PCCJR is working to educate Pennsylvania residents and their elected representatives about the negative effects of the imbalanced lawsuit system, while promoting commonsense policies that bring needed reform and ensure redress for those injured. At the same time, our group is committed to protecting citizens, employers and health care providers from any legislation that would only serve to benefit lawyers at the expense of jobs and access to health care.

Attracting private-sector businesses – and the jobs that come with them – requires an environment where job creators can grow and operate responsibly without fear of unfair litigation. The PA Chamber looks forward to working with the PCCJR to ensure that our legal system is fair for all and does not jeopardize business and job growth that is necessary for real economic prosperity. To learn more about our collective efforts toward a fairer and more just legal system, visit paforciviljusticereform.org.

Gena Barry
President and CEO
PA Chamber of Business and Industry

The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry is the state’s largest broad-based business association, with its statewide membership comprising businesses of all sizes and across all industry sectors. The PA Chamber is The Statewide Voice of Business™.