



E-mail: bedfordchamberoh@sbcglobal.net
Website: bedfordchamberoh.org

February 21 Dinner Meeting
5:30 Catered Elegance
TAX STRATEGIES
Presented by – Dale Witt
and THE HANTZ GROUP
(see page 3 for more information)

February 28 Board of Trustees Meeting
Chamber Office, 6:30 p.m.

Other Coming Events

March 15 Networking Chamber Style
A Five-Chamber Event
5:30 p.m. Winking Lizard
(see attachment for details)

March 21 NOACC Cavaliers Night
(see attachment for details)

See Page 4 for Information on Ohio Indoor
Smoking Ban

2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Guyer, L.P.C.C., *President*
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Catered Elegance

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Chamber Chatter

*Official Publication of the
Bedford Chamber of Commerce*

February, 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Come out from any deep winter blues and join us on February 21st for our dinner meeting and speaker, Dale Witt. He and members of The Hantz Group will help you gear up to file your tax return with some tax strategies. Reservations can be made by faxing or mailing the attachment or call 440/232-115..

We are working on several new events and programs which will be announced in the coming months. Please be sure to check open the attachments on our Golf Outing, June 15th. We would really like your participation through joining in the fun as well as sponsorship or raffle prizes. The forms can also be found on our website.

Of special note is Heritage Care's *Business After Hours*. This was highly successful, drawing somewhere around 300 people. Hats off to Darla Perkins and staff for a really wonderful event. We look forward to more businesses to participate in this after hours program.

Also, remember to sign up for the March 15th five-chamber networking event.

Mike Guyer

Vice President's Message

I know we are all running a busy life style and wham, January hit us and its now gone and we're into February. All of a sudden we have jumped right into the new year with both feet and started running and haven't stopped. That can be a good thing. Your chamber is here to help you have a wonderful and prosperous 2007. As I sit here writing my "Vice Presidents Column" I was thinking of one of my favorite holiday movies, "The Bells of St. Mary's." I've watched it many, many times, I could probably recite most of it by heart. The best part to me is the bantering back and forth between Father O'Malley, Bing Crosby's character, and Sister Benedict, Ingrid Bergman's character. They had a wonderful relationship of give and take, and mutual admiration and respect for each other.

That's how I have come to feel about a lot of the people I have met through the Bedford Chamber of Commerce. It is such fun to come to our dinner meetings, educational and networking events, because there is that give and take. We are a stronger chamber when we come together and learn from each other, and do business with each other. One of the famous lines from Father O'Malley on his first day, "..... one of the shortest speeches you'll ever hear - It's a holiday. Everyone take the day off!"

Now, you may not take the entire day, but be sure to take time to attend some of our many chamber events and programs. You'll be glad you did. And I am sure you will find they are well worth your time. Just as Bing says, "If there is anything you ever need, just dial 'O' for O'Malley." If there is anything that we can assist you with, please, just dial the Chamber at 440.232.0115. We welcome your input, suggestions and participation. We will help you and your business grow.

Have a great month and we will see you at our dinner meeting on February 21, 2007.

Philip Switz

Thanks to Robin Penca, Penca Creative Services, LLC, for helping me remember Father O'Malley.

OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce has announced two new programs available to Ohio Chamber members. The first is Corporate Financial Group (CFG), an ISO certified company that specializes in the collections of accounts receivables. The second new program is American Community Mutual Insurance Company, which is offering Chamber members. The first is Corporate Financial Group (CFG), an ISO certified company that specializes in the collections of accounts receivables. The second new program is American Community Mutual Insurance Company, which is offering American's Preferred Employer Plan---a health insurance plan for companies of varying sizes. More info is at www.ohiochamber.com under "Chamber News."

WORKERS COMPENSATION NEWS

NOW is the time to find great workers' comp savings through your chamber of commerce. **Comprehensive Risk Management** has been the endorsed Third Party Administrator of **NOACC** for over a decade, and has saved chamber members millions of dollars in premiums! So why wait?

To evaluate your current workers' compensation program

To maximize your premium discounts

To consider a more aggressive claims management approach

To decide if your current administrator is providing appropriate counsel

Think...**CRM**. Call the Chamber at **232-0115** for an **AC-3** form for a free quote!

Welcome To The February 2007
New Members

Ake Laboratory Inc.
Jennifer Marriott, Vice-President
503 Broadway
Bedford, OH 44146
440/232-0042

Water and Environmental Services

Nordonia Hills Chamber Event

15th Annual Community Expo

March 24

February 21st Dinner Meeting

**GEARING UP TO FILE YOUR
TAX RETURN? BE SURE TO
JOIN US AT THIS DINNER
MEETING**

Dale F. Witt and The Hantz Group will be giving a presentation at the Chamber dinner meeting. With everyone gearing up to file their tax returns, the main topic will be Tax Strategies, including:

- **Review of the Tax Law Changes**
- **Maintaining Tax control**
- **Maximizing Tax Deferrals & Credits**
- **Maximizing Tax Deductions**
- **Impact investing has on income tax**
- **Understanding capital gains**
- **College planning options and taxes**
- **Year-end Tax Savings**

In addition to the tax ideas we will talk about the Hantz Group, what we do and what we offer. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

OHIO INDOOR SMOKING BAN (ORC 3794)

The following is an excerpt from the Ohio Department of Health, "Frequently Asked Questions." For more information go to the ODH website, www.odh.ohio.gov.

Q13: How does the law define an *enclosed area*?

A13: An enclosed area is an area having a roof or overhead covering and walls on no more than two sides.

Q14: Where can people smoke while at work or in public places?

A14: According to the law, smoking is prohibited in public places or places of employment. Employers attempting to provide areas for smoking may provide an outdoor patio as defined in the law. If smoking is permitted outside the building, it cannot occur immediately adjacent to locations of ingress or egress. Additionally, the law also requires that a proprietor of a public place or place of employment shall ensure that tobacco smoke does not enter any area in which smoking is prohibited under this chapter through entrances, windows, ventilation systems, or other means.

Q15: Is there a minimum distance from doorways, windows and ventilation systems where outdoor smoking areas may be located?

A15: The law does not specify a footage requirement. It simply states that the distance must be sufficient to prevent the migration of smoke back into the public place or place of employment.

Columbus and other municipalities have used 20–25 feet as acceptable distances from doors and windows to prevent smoke migration indoors. It is possible that a footage requirement may be specified in the upcoming rules. However, until rules are actually in place, business owners will have to use their best judgment in determining the optimal outdoor locations for smoking. These determinations should consider the proximity of doors, windows, HVAC units to the prospective smoking area(s) in addition to the prevailing wind direction.

Q16: Am I allowed to smoke in the vehicle that I drive during work?

A16: If the vehicle is company-owned, it is considered a place of employment under the law and, as such, is a non-smoking area. If you own the vehicle and do not conduct business with the public from your vehicle then the vehicle would be exempt from the smoking restrictions described in the law.

No Smoking Signs

Q20. What are the requirements for the No Smoking signs?

A20: Posted No Smoking signs must:

- be conspicuously posted in every public place and place of employment where smoking is prohibited, including at each entrance to the public place or place of employment
- display "No Smoking" signs or the international "No Smoking" symbol (consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it)
- contain only the 866-559-OHIO telephone number for reporting violations
- be of sufficient size to be clearly legible to a person of normal vision throughout the areas they are intended to mark

Samples of acceptable signs may be downloaded from the ODH website, www.odh.ohio.gov. The ODH is not permitted to recommend a vendor.

Safety and Health Classes for Ohio Workers

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation Division (BWC) of Safety & Hygiene Training Center offers 74 occupational safety, health, and ergonomic courses. These courses are offered at the training center in Pickerington at the Ohio Center for Occupational Safety and Health (OCOSH) and at branch sites and BWC service offices across the state including Canton, Cambridge, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Portsmouth, Toledo, and Youngstown.

All courses are offered at no additional cost to Ohio employers who pay into the Ohio workers' compensation insurance fund.

Employers may enroll any number of employees. Courses are designed to emphasize practical application of safety principles, to help develop a safety culture, and to provide current and proposed standards for regulatory compliance.

For more information about BWC courses see www.noacc.org under Ohio BWC Literature or call 216.447-9900

Volunteers Needed

Are you geared to volunteer? Heritage Care Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers are looking for outgoing people to help in our activity departments.

For more information, please contact:

Jody Smith
440-439-7976

**Tour our newly renovated facilities
Join us for hors d'ouvres,
entertainment and a complimentary
gift.**

LOW VISION GROUP MEETINGS

**Do You Have Low Vision
Due to Eye Disease?**

**There is a group meeting
every month with the
Cleveland Sight Center
at Light of Hearts
283 Union (Corner of Northfield)**

**Call 440.232-1991, ext. 547
for further information.**

Save the Date

June 15, 2007

*Bedford Chamber's
First Annual Golf Outing*

Gleneagles Golf Course

ADVERTISING SPECIAL

Bedford Chamber members can run a 4" x 4 1/2" ad in the Bedford Times Register for a cost of \$47.00 per ad per week. Members can run ads as many times as they like without any contract limits. Record Publishing will bill you directly. So contact Angie at the newspaper office, 440-232-4055.

