



Winter 2012  
Newsletter

# Pocahontas County Chamber of Commerce

## Healthcare Summit February 22

What does the Affordable Care Act mean for your business? Come to the Opera House on February 22<sup>nd</sup> to find out! Gibbs

Kinderman, from West Virginians for Affordable Health Care, will present details about the new federal health care laws. Come and learn more, such as:

*How small businesses can get tax credits to help pay for health coverage for their employees*

*How the new law will work to help slow down the ruinous increases in health care costs*



### ***How will the new federal healthcare laws affect your business?***

*How you can join with other small businesses to get better rates by participating in a state-sponsored "health exchange" program*

*How your employees may qualify for lower-cost health insurance, if you can't afford to cover them*

A reaction panel with insurance agents LuAnn Creager, Darren Jackson, and Cathy Mosesso, along with Pocahontas Memorial Hospital CEO Barbara Lay, will be present. Representatives from Pocahontas Memorial Hospital and Mountain Hospice will also demonstrate how their services can help your business.

The event begins at 11 am, and should last until 1 pm. We'll have a light lunch for attendees. To RSVP, please call 304.799.2509 or email [info@pccocwv.com](mailto:info@pccocwv.com).

## Welcome! to Our Newest Members

Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity  
Buckeye Country Mart  
Burns Motor Freight  
Cheryl's Beauty & Beyond  
Division of Rehabilitation Services  
Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad  
Fairmont Printing  
Greenbrier Grille & Lodge  
Harriet & Co. Catering LLC

Kellison-Bialek Insurance Agency  
Kimble Funeral Home  
Lantz Funeral Home  
Michael Doss, Attorney at Law  
Mountain Lodge Association  
New River Community & Technical College  
Pocahontas Co. Arts Council, 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Gallery  
Vieu Health  
WV Living Magazine

## Save The Date: Annual Dinner Meeting

March is quickly approaching, which means one big thing for the Chamber—our annual dinner meeting! Be on the lookout for your invitation; it will be arriving over the next few weeks.

This year's annual dinner will be held Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, at the Opera House in

Marlinton. Members can network and enjoy hors d'oeuvres from 6-7 pm, followed by a buffet dinner with guest speaker Stephen Roberts, president of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

We'll also be awarding our annual Community Involvement Awards to a local individual and business. The annual dinner is an excellent way to meet some of your local business colleagues—see you there!

## Mentorship Event at PCHS: April 17

The Young Professionals Program has a date for our Career Networking event! On April 17, Pocahontas County High students will have the chance to meet with local business owners and learn more about their career options.

Along with the Pocahontas County Prevention Coalition, the Chamber will host the Career Networking Day, during which students and business owners will meet at PCHS to discuss mentorship opportunities. This event can serve as a mock interview, and will enable both the student and business owner to determine if the partnership is a good fit.

The Young Professionals program, which was funded by a grant from the Snowshoe Foundation, aims to assist Pocahontas County High School with its student mentorship program, which is a requirement for graduating seniors. Each student must complete a "72-hour work-based learning experience (mentorship)" in order to graduate; typically, it is performed in the summer before one's senior year. The mentorship must correspond to the student's particular field of study and is intended to help the student make more informed career decisions.

The Chamber will also present sophomores and juniors with an organized, categorized directory listing Chamber businesses that are interested in sponsoring student mentorships. Each listing will include contact information and a brief description of the business's mentoring program. Business directories will provide PCHS students with more organized and accessible options for mentorships.

If your business is interested in becoming a mentor, or you'd like more information about the event, call 304.799.2509 or email [emilyleclassiter@gmail.com](mailto:emilyleclassiter@gmail.com).

## New Board Members Needed!

The Chamber is looking for new board members! At the conclusion of our fiscal year (February 29), several members of our board will be stepping down. To continue their excellent and energetic work, we'll need representatives from member busi-

nesses to step up. The Chamber is involved in a number of community events, including the extremely popular RoadKill Cook-off.

To learn more about what being a board member is all about, call 304.799.2509 or email [info@pccocwv.com](mailto:info@pccocwv.com).



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*The Pocahontas County Chamber of Commerce  
strives to promote a progressive, sustainable  
business community in Pocahontas County.*

## **Business Spotlight: WV Division of Rehabilitation Services**

The **West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)** is a state agency that serves West Virginians with disabilities. The mission of DRS is to enable and empower individuals with disabilities to work and to live independently.

The **vocational rehabilitation** program helps eligible individuals improve their ability to succeed in employment. Basic services may include:

- Work-related counseling and guidance
- Evaluations, information and referral services
- Accessibility and worksite evaluations and accommodations
- Assistive technology
- Vocational training may include college or technical school or on-the-job training

DRS is also a strategic partner in helping to build a diverse, qualified and productive workforce. Their services benefit employers and jobseekers alike. Advantages to employers working with DRS include:

- **On-the-job training:** The on-the-job training program is a partnership between DRS, a client and an employer to prepare the trainee for employment. Employers are reimbursed a percentage of the wage and workers compensation costs incurred during the training period.
- **Job retention:** If an employee is at risk of losing his or her job because of a physical or mental condition, DRS may be able to provide confidential counseling and guidance, assistance in identifying worksite modifications, and other technical assistance to the employer.
- **Accessibility assessments:** DRS can assess the conditions which may create barriers to employing people with disabilities in your workforce or serving your clientele. Employment specialists can make recommendations for improving access for people with disabilities.

WVDRS has 31 field office locations throughout West Virginia. If you would like additional information, please contact the WVDRS office in Lewisburg at (304) 647-7515.