

E-Memberandum
Volume 1 Issue 1

Chamber Announces Support For N. Lebanon Electricity Generating Project

The proposed development of a natural gas-fired electricity generating plant in North Lebanon Township has drawn the support of the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's position on the proposed electricity generating facility was approved at a recent meeting of the Chamber's Board of Directors and was, as stated in the Chamber's position statement on this project, based upon the benefits "that would be provided by such a facility and with the understanding that all applicable federal, state and local regulatory requirements are satisfied in the facility's siting and operation." In its position statement supporting the proposed project, the Chamber also noted that it is essential for "a water supply source to be identified and/or developed for meeting the facility's needs without jeopardizing the supply available to meet the current and future needs of other businesses and residents in Lebanon County."

The electricity generating facility has been proposed for construction and operation by Tenaska, Inc. of Omaha, Nebraska. The gas-fired plant is proposed for construction northwest of the intersection of Seventh Street (Route 343) and Kercher Avenue in North Lebanon Township. The facility would occupy about 50 acres of an approximately 350-acre area identified by Tenaska as an attractive location for the plant due to its immediate proximity to existing regional natural gas pipelines that would supply natural gas for the facility.

Among the benefits and advantages the Chamber states could be expected from this proposed electric generating facility is:

- Its contribution toward meeting the need for expanded and reliable sources for electricity to meet the expected future growth in demand by businesses and residents. Such expanded capacity in our electricity supply will be essential for sustaining our area's ability to grow and prosper.
- Its proposed creation of approximately 25-30 permanent jobs at the plant, with these positions offering attractive salaries that would contribute to the local economy and help to further diversify the economic base of the Lebanon Valley.
- Its creation of approximately 300 trades and general labor jobs during the two-year construction period for the facility.
- The significant addition the plant would provide to Lebanon County's tax base, thus benefiting school districts and county and local governments.

Chamber President Larry Bowman noted that, "Assuming all of the necessary regulatory requirements and the need for an adequate water supply source for the plant are met, this proposed facility deserves this community's strong support."

Active Threat Recognition for Retail Security Officers

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has developed a video designed for retail and shopping center staff. The online training provides information to help staff, management, and security identify and report unusual activities and threats in a timely manner.

This 85-minute presentation is split into easy to understand modules and uses specific foreign and domestic case studies to explain lessons learned and discuss specific considerations for retail and shopping centers. The training discusses signs of criminal and terrorist activity; types of surveillance; and suspicious behavioral indicators. The presentation is available with guest log-in capabilities on the DHS Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN).

To access the presentation, please register at:

<https://connect.hsin.gov/atrrso/event/registration.html>

After submitting the short registration information to include setting a password of your choice, you will receive an email confirmation with instructions for logging in to view the material.

Chamber Roundtable Focuses On County Development Issues

Nearly 40 Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce member business representatives and area public officials participated in the Chamber's Public Affairs Roundtable on February 4 that was focused on the topic of "Land Development Issues in Lebanon County." Covered in the group's discussion were such issues as the need to ensure a positive environment for businesses seeking to locate or expand in the County, the role and impact of zoning regulations on a community's ability to grow and approaches for encouraging greater business community involvement in local government.

The Chamber's Public Affairs Roundtables are held the first Thursday of each month and focus on governmental and legislative issues of importance to the Chamber's membership and the Lebanon Valley business community in general. The sessions are open to representatives of any Lebanon Valley Chamber member. Information on upcoming Roundtable programs can be obtained by contacting Larry Bowman at the Chamber at 273-3727 or at

Lbowman@lvchamber.org.

Chamber's Networking Receptions Undergoing Changes

As part of its ongoing effort to review and strengthen wherever possible its current programs and services, the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce is introducing a number of changes to its long-standing series of "Business After Hours" networking receptions. These receptions, which have been hosted by the Chamber on a regular basis throughout each year, are designed to provide its members and guests with the opportunity to network, promote their business's products or services and develop new business contacts in a relaxed social setting. Each monthly networking reception is hosted by a Chamber member business.

According to Mary Foltz, owner of Service Counts! and a member of the Chamber's Board of Directors, a number of suggested changes to the networking receptions were developed by a Programs and Events focus group that Foltz chaired. These proposed changes, which were subsequently recommended to and approved by the Chamber's Board of Directors include:

- A change in the name for this program series to “Contacts, Conversations & Connections”, or “3C’s” for short. Foltz noted that the “Business After Hours” name had served the event series well for many years. “However, we felt, that with so many other new directions and positive changes occurring within the Chamber as a result of the continued rollout of our new strategic plan, now would be an appropriate time to freshen up the series name and make it more reflective of what these events are all about.”
- A change in the event’s hours from the traditional 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. timeframe to 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Foltz stated that the change in hours “is designed to better accommodate the schedules of those members and guests who have interest in attending these events but may still need to fulfill other professional or personal commitments the same evening.”
- The introduction of a nominal registration fee for Chamber members and guests attending these networking receptions. The registration fee would be \$5.00 per person for Chamber members with payment in advance or at the door, \$10.00 per person for Chamber members without payment in advance or at the door and \$15.00 per person for non-members. Foltz advised that non-members interested in attending a Chamber networking reception may attend one of these events at the member price. Attendance by that same non-member at additional receptions would be at the non-member registration cost.

Foltz also noted that the registration fees being implemented for the “3C’s” receptions match those already in place for the Chamber’s “Made In the Lebanon Valley and “Behind the Scenes At...” series of morning networking and information programs. She stated that plans call for the registration fees collected at the “3C’s” receptions to be earmarked for the Chamber’s Foundation, which is focused on supporting education programs and scholarships.

Foltz stated that the Chamber’s “3C’s” receptions already scheduled for 2010 include several that are being sponsored by individual Chamber member businesses, as well as a joint networking reception being hosted in April in conjunction with the Palmyra Area Business Association at Traditions of Hershey. She noted that Chamber member businesses also have the opportunity to jointly sponsor one of the “3C’s” receptions.

Information on sponsoring a Chamber networking reception and on the sponsor benefits provided are available by contacting Lacy Carmany at the Chamber at 273-3727 or at Lcarmany@lvchamber.org.

Chamber Schedules First *Go Green Expo* For April 20

Alternative energy systems, green & organic foods, energy efficient vehicles, Energy Star appliances, composting and recycling services and products, green-certified architectural and construction services, energy efficient lighting systems, landscaping services, home heating systems, “green” household furnishings and items, water retention systems and supplies, scooters and bicycles, energy-conserving controls and systems and many other “green”

products and services are among the items expected to be on display at the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce's inaugural *Go Green Expo*, which will be held on Tuesday, April 20. The Presenting Sponsor for the event, which is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center, will be Fresco Green Building Supplies from Lancaster.

This first-time event for the Chamber is being organized by a Green Team Committee chaired by Willie Erb of E & E Solar in Lebanon. Erb stated that the Expo's purpose is intended to showcase for the business people and residents attending this event "the vast array of 'green' products, services and expertise available and the ways in which they can contribute to cost savings, energy savings and a more sustainable environment."

Exhibit space in the Expo is available for Lebanon Valley Chamber members at a cost of \$350 for an 8-foot by 10-foot single space or \$650 for a double exhibit space. The exhibit space cost for non-Chamber members is \$475 for a single exhibit space and \$875 for a double space. Reservations for exhibit space in the Expo are currently available to Lebanon Valley Chamber members, and reservations for any remaining spaces at the event will be available to non-member businesses and organizations beginning March 6

Information on the Expo and reservations for exhibit space, which is already selling briskly, can be made by contacting Peggy Kreiser at the Chamber at 717-273-3727 or at pkreiser@lvchamber.org.

The April 20 *Go Green Expo* is open to the public and has an admission cost of \$5.00 per person. The registration fees from the event will be used to support the Lebanon Valley Chamber Foundation as well as programs and services offered by the Chamber to serve the business community of the Lebanon Valley.

Chamber Seeking Nominations For 2010 Women In Business Scholarship

The Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce is currently seeking nominations for its 2010 Women In Business scholarship. This scholarship is presented annually by the Chamber to a non-traditional student, who is defined as someone over 25 years of age and/or someone who is a single parent or displaced homemaker and who is also a non-resident student at the institution where she/he is studying.

The scholarship, which is funded each year by the proceeds from business programs and events organized by the Chamber's Women In Business Committee, is a one-time only award and is traditionally awarded in an amount not exceeding \$1,000.

Along with the criteria defining a non-traditional student, the eligibility requirements for scholarship nominees are that they:

- Must be registered as at least a half-time student (being registered for at least six credit hours -- two courses per semester) in the year they receive the scholarship.

- Must be attending an accredited institution granting two-year and/or four-year degrees and must be matriculated into an Associate's or Bachelor's degree program. There is no restriction as to the nominee's major course of study.
- Must either reside in Lebanon County or attend an institution in the market area served by the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The decision on the scholarship recipient will be based on the merits of the application without regard to the candidate's financial status. The selection of the scholarship recipient will be made by the Lebanon Valley Chamber Foundation Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Chamber's Women In Business Committee.

The deadline for the receipt of nominations by the Chamber is Friday, April 30, 2010. Scholarship application forms are available by contacting the Chamber at 273-3727 or by visiting the Chamber's website at www.lvchamber.org.