

On The GO Greater Olean Area CHAMBER of COMMERCE NEWSLETTER

COO's message

The Chamber's Membership/Ambassador Committee hosted our One and Done Membership Drive, which ran from January to May 2016.

The intent behind the membership campaign was for our members to directly engage and recruit area businesses and organizations that have not yet joined the Chamber. Members that did recruit were rewarded with Shop Olean Gift Certificates and tickets to the Chamber Clambake.

The goal of the drive was to sign up 50 new members. Through the combined efforts of direct interaction and mailings to non-members, the membership drive saw 22 new members join the Chamber.

Although the drive is over, the need for membership is still alive and we are happy to welcome new members.

You might wonder why a business should belong to the local chamber of commerce. What is in it for a business?

I would like to say the answer is simple, but in all reality, it isn't.

As each of our members are unique, so too are the benefits they enjoy as being part of the Chamber. In other words, every member is different, and each takes advantage of a Chamber membership in different ways.

There are, of course, membership benefits all of our members see every day such as educational programming we offer, advocacy for our business community, support services and networking.

Other benefits of a Chamber membership include intangibles like bolstering the local economy, improving the community, and standing with fellow members.

All of these are just as important as the other so whatever your needs are, the Chamber is here to meet them.

Another reason to join the chamber is simply because we need you. The Chamber wouldn't be a chamber if it weren't for our members. Our members allow us to provide all of our services, whether direct or indirect. Some of these might help you, while other benefits may extend directly to your customers and clients.

As we continue our work to bolster Chamber membership, we encourage our existing members to continue to spirit of our One and Done Drive and engage those who are not yet Chamber members.

Meme Yanetsko
Chief Operations Officer
Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce

Sorokes honored for community service

Jay Sorokes, a supply chain manager at Cooper Power Systems in Olean, was recently honored by his employer, receiving an Eaton James R. Stover Award for the Electrical Sector at a recent awards luncheon and ceremony at Eaton Center in Cleveland.

The award recognizes employees who have distinguished themselves in their communities through charitable service.

Sorokes donated a cash prize given to him — totaling \$4,500 — to Olean Business Development (OBD). The contribution will support OBD and its work to revitalize the local economy.

Sixth-annual Southern Tier Corporate Challenge Run/Walk sets new records



The "Fastest Co-ed Team, and Community Division" was presented to the team from Bysiek CPA, whose members included Trevor Poag (from left), Arnim Alexander, Kady Weisner, Ed Bysiek and Owen Barber.

OLEAN — This year's Southern Tier Corporate Challenge Run/Walk was a record-breaker, of sorts, on several fronts.

Most notably, the event saw 841 participants, up 66 from last year. Runners and walkers represented 41 area companies and organizations.

What's more, the event's "Cereal Challenge," which allowed participants to donate boxes of cereal to Olean Food Pantry, saw a 60 percent increase from last year with more than 2,900 boxes donated.

This was the sixth year the Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce (GOACC) and the Olean High School Sports Boosters hosted the Corporate Challenge. The event was created by the Chamber with the goal of supporting companies in creating internal wellness programs. The race was open to both corporate and community teams. The challenge concluded with "Olean's Largest Office Party" with music by The Colonial Radio Media and Entertainment Group.

The 3.1-mile road race ran throughout downtown beginning and ending at JCC-Olean. Sponsors included BlueCross/BlueShield of Western New York, The MOUNTAIN, Sanzo Beverages, Constellation, Olean High School Sports Boosters and the Chamber.

"As race organizers, we were happy of the support from Jamestown Community College, the Olean Food Pantry and the City of Olean Police and Streets departments," said Betty Burrows, GOACC program associate. "Once again, this event couldn't have happened without their support and the support from the volunteers."

Meme Yanetsko, the chamber's COO, echoed Burrow's gratitude, offering words of thanks to those who donated boxes of cereal.

"The increase of 60 percent really hit home. The children in the Olean area will be happy to serve up breakfast for themselves during this summer," Yanetsko said. "A big shout out to SolEpoxy as they went full speed and split up their employees to challenge each other on their donations. The employees of SolEpoxy donated almost 14 boxes each for a total of 1,001."

During the office party following the run/walk, several awards were given out to event participants. The recipients and honors included:

- Chris Napoleon of Napoleon Engineering Services was named "Fastest CEO;"
- Tim Chichester of Four Mile Brewing Co. won "Fastest Man;"
- Kady Weisner of Bysiek CPA was named "Fastest Woman;"

- The "Fastest Male Team, Corporate Division" was presented to the team from Dresser-Rand, whose members included Tim Kaminske, John Stahley, Coty Winchell and Brian Grosso;

- The "Fastest Co-ed Team, Corporate Division" was presented to the team from Four Mile Brewing, whose members included Nick Bohdanowycz, Gregg Piechota, Wendy Van Curren and Preston VanCurren;
- The "Fastest Female Team, Corporate Division" was presented to the team from Cutco Cutlery Corporation, whose members included Angela Colamaio, Elizabeth and Anna Augustini and Pam Bailey;

- The "Fastest Co-ed Team, and Community Division" was presented to the team from Bysiek CPA, whose members included Trevor Poag, Owen Barber, Arnim Alexander and Kady Weisner;

- The "Most Spirited Team" was presented to the team from Allegany-Limestone Central School;

- The award for having the most walkers was presented to The ReHAbilitation Center; and

- The Logo Design Contest Winners were HomeCare & Hospice and Total Senior Care and KelKur Electrical Contracting.

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