You, our members, are defying trends in 2020

The following is an edited excerpt from remarks given at The Main Line Chamber of Commerce’s Economic Forecast Breakfast on Feb. 12.

I met a business leader who served on the Board of Directors for another membership organization recently – not a Chamber of Commerce, by the way. He seemed to almost feel sorry for me. He asked: Isn’t it tough to be heading up a chamber of commerce when people are less inclined to be members? I was surprised by his question. Our membership has been consistent for about three years now and the average company size in the Chamber has grown substantially in the past 10 years. But I know he’s right that drops in membership are well documented. What’s the difference between an organization that is losing and your 950-company-strong Chamber of Commerce?

As your organization approaches its Centennial year in 2021, I can say gratefully that member companies are supporting our work more than ever.

We have learned that our focus on helping our members to connect with business, leadership development and talent matters to companies, employees and communities.

continued on next page
Having a strong and steady membership doesn’t happen by accident. We’ve used the expertise of volunteer board members and worked with a consultant with expertise in chamber membership. The chamber team is dedicated, with more training and capacity than peer groups to attract and retain members. We are focused on our members’ needs and strive to always do better.

I’ve learned that the idea of “build it and they will come” does not apply to our business. We have had to both build and market everything we do to see success with carefully developed programs and events. Each of our first five events so far this year has sold out with more than 600 attendees in all.

It’s also clear that our dual focus on helping members to connect and do business with each other, even as we develop leaders and help companies with entry-level talent, works together.

Leadership Main Line, the Society of Professional Women and the Talent and Education Network are helping employees and the companies they work for. Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank President Patrick Harker, our Economic Forecast Breakfast speaker this year, spoke of the opportunity for employers to do business differently when it comes to attracting and retaining employees. Our programs offer opportunities to do just that.

My most important two-part message today is thank you for your support and, because of your help, please know we are making a difference.

Have an energizing and profitable day,
President & CEO,
Bernie
Recent EVENTS

Society of Professional Women
January 29, 2020

Executive Coach and Author Barbara Eiser provided tips and tools to optimize performance of executives, middle management, entry level and high-potential leaders.

Wells Fargo Business Advocate Carolyn Isaacs proudly presented the donation check to PACT for Animals.

Ardent Credit Union
January 16, 2020

516 W. Lancaster Avenue, Wayne, PA 19087
215-569-3700
www.ardentcu.org

Centric Bank
January 22, 2020

105 Lancaster Avenue, Devon, PA 19333
610-710-4222
www.centricbank.com

Wells Fargo

PACT For Animals Founder & President of the Board Buzz Miller gave a moving statement on behalf of the organization.

Upcoming Ribbon Cutting
February 26, 2020
4:30pm-6:00pm
Hip City Veg
232 N. Radnor Chester Road, Radnor, PA 19087
610-601-8484
www.hipcityveg.com

Economic Forecast Breakfast
February 12, 2020

Vertex, Inc. VP of Tax Research Bernadette Pinamont provided an overview of Wayfair Legislation.

BB&T Wealth Regional Director Kathryn Wallace spoke of BB&T, now Truist’s, involvement and support of the region.

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia President and CEO Dr. Patrick Harker spoke of the impact of taxes on the nation and its companies.

The annual Economic Forecast Breakfast is held early in the year to assess the state of the Main Line and Greater Philadelphia area.
Paoli Hospital Part of National Initiative to Improve Care for Older Adults

Paoli Hospital, a part of Main Line Health, has been recognized as an Age-Friendly Health System – Committed to Care Excellence, by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). This achievement is part of the IHI’s Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative, a national movement to improve the healthcare of older adults.

Link to full article here

Montgomery County Community College Recognized for Excellence in Student Voter Engagement

Montgomery County Community College has been recognized by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge with its Gold Seal for excellence in student voter engagement. The national awards program is a nonpartisan initiative that recognizes and supports campuses as they work towards increasing student democratic engagement and full student voter participation.

Link to full article here

Etcetera Main Line Hosts Trunk Show for Spring 2020 Collection

Since 2000, New York-based Etcetera has been creating exclusive collections of women’s fashion, all sourced from fine European fabrics, with an eye toward meeting the varied needs of professional women. Etcetera’s clothing is designed to resist wrinkling – perfect for women who travel, who are always “on the go” or who find themselves regularly transitioning from work to leisure and need a wardrobe that offers the same flexibility. From March 19th to March 28th, I will be hosting a trunk show to present the Spring 2020 collection.

Link to full article here

SEPTA to Add Apple Pay, Google Pay To Fare Payment Options at Turnstiles, Kiosks in 2020

SEPTA is planning to make riders’ phones an alternative to its SEPTA Key fare system by adding Apple Pay and Google Pay as fare payment options at both its turnstiles and kiosks in 2020, writes Michael Tanenbaum for the Philly Voice. The transportation authority is adjusting its contract with Conduent, which manages the SEPTA Key fare system, to install Apple Pay and Google Pay-compatible hardware to fare boxes and turnstiles.

Link to full article here

Stradley Ronon Honored at Fund Intelligence’s Operations and Services Awards

Stradley Ronon was named “Best Law Firm” by Fund Intelligence for the second consecutive year. The awards “recognize the outstanding contributions made by business, operations and technology leaders at asset management and service provider firms,” and honor the partner firms “whom are critical in providing vital support and services to the asset management community.”

Link to full article here
**DMAX Foundation**

**DMAX Foundation To Host Annual Education Event**

Every spring, DMAX Foundation hosts an Educational Event for the community that focuses on a particular mental health topic. The event includes speakers and panelists addressing the theme or topic, as well as presentations from DMAX Club leaders. This year’s event will be presented April 16th, 2020 at The Baldwin School, Bryn Mawr PA and feature Supermodel, body image advocate and 30-year ambassador of Nation Eating Disorders Association EMME. EMME is an iconic American supermodel and spokesperson, media personality, the author of 5 books, and creative director of her own clothing lines.

Link to full article here

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**West Chester University**

**WCU Names Dean of College of Education and Social Work**

Following a national search, Desha L. Williams has been named dean of the College of Education and Social Work at West Chester University. Having served most recently as chair of the Department of Teacher Education at George Mason University, Williams brings 25 years of progressive leadership and senior-level experience in the field of higher education to WCU, including expertise in increasing opportunities for enrollment growth and establishing strong partnerships within and outside of the university.

Link to full article here

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**Meridian Bank**

**Meridian Bank Announces Completion of $40 Million Subordinated Notes Offering**

Meridian Bank has announced the completion of its offering of $40 million in fixed-to-floating rate subordinated notes due 2029 (the “Notes”) to certain qualified institutional buyers and institutional accredited investors in a private placement transaction. The Notes will initially bear interest at a fixed annual rate of 5.375 percent, for five years and will reset quarterly thereafter to the then-current three-month SOFR plus 395 basis points. Meridian may redeem the Notes on or after Dec. 30, 2024, or at any time upon certain other specified events.

Link to full article here

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**Gerhard Appliances**

**Gerhard’s Appliances Monogram Experience to hold Grand Opening**

On Saturday, February 8 from 12:00 pm to 4:00pm Gerhard’s Malvern location will hold an open house. The event will include live cooking demos by local restaurant chefs, special guest star appearances, beer tastings by local brew masters and more.

Link to full article here

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**Immaculata University**

**Immaculata University to Offer a Master of Athletic Training to Meet Future Demand in the Profession**

Starting in July, Immaculata University will offer a two-year, 60-credit Master of Athletic Training. With this professional program, students can utilize evidence-based practices to prevent, diagnose, and treat various conditions in physically active individuals. Students attend full-time and have a variety of flexible course formats, including online and hybrid. This program expands on the knowledge gained in an undergraduate program through coursework in emergency medical care, evaluation, and rehabilitation techniques and other cutting-edge areas of the athletic training profession.

Link to full article here

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**DoubleTree by Hilton**

**King of Prussia DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Begins $18.5M Renovation Project**

In an effort to even better serve its guests, DoubleTree by Hilton Philadelphia-Valley Forge has begun work on an extensive, $18 million renovation project that is expected to be completed this year in June. Once the renovation is finished, guests will be able to enjoy a fresh modern decor, new bedding and carpet, wall vinyl, and contemporary artwork. The improvements will also include 55-inch SMART televisions, an increased number of outlets and USB ports, renovated bathrooms, and refrigerators in 372 rooms.

Link to full article here

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**Ursinus College**

**Ursinus College receives $11 million donation, its largest, for student scholarships**

Ursinus College has received the largest single gift in its 150-year history — $11 million to support a scholarship program aimed at students from lower- and middle-income families. The gift comes from Philadelphia philanthropists Joan and Will Abele, a 1961 Ursinus graduate, and their family foundation. Selected students will receive $53,000 over four years: $40,000 toward tuition, $2,000 for “start-up” costs such as a laptop or books; $3,000 for internships, summer courses, or academic conferences; and $8,000 in loan forgiveness.

Link to full article here

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**Ursinus College**

**Aqua America**

**Aqua America announces new name, leadership team ahead of acquisition of gas company**

Aqua America has announced its new company name, Essential Utilities, Inc. that will take effect on Monday, Feb. 3. Also, the company is also announcing the members of the executive leadership team that will report to Chairman and CEO Christopher Franklin. The announcement comes after the Peoples acquisition received regulatory approval at the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission’s Jan. 16 meeting.

Link to full article here

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**Cabrini University**

**Maguires Award Cabrini University $1 Million Gift for Nursing**

Cabrini University announces it has received a transformative $1 million commitment from Maguire Foundation Co-Founders James J. Maguire (HON’13), Trustee Emeritus, and his wife, Frances, for Cabrini’s new Nursing program. This extraordinary gift will provide significant operating and capital support for the University’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program and scholarship support through the creation of Maguire Nursing Scholars, an expansion of the existing Maguire Scholars program at Cabrini.

Link to full article here
Herbolgy

Herbolgy Opens Its Doors

Herbolgy is a state licensed medical marijuana dispensary. Its spaces are welcoming and warm and Herbolgy pride itself on its emphasis on education and community involvement. Its diverse team is incredibly passionate about medical marijuana education. With a trained Herbolgist to create a personalized plan, or feel free to ask the team questions, Herbolgy dispersary is in a relaxed environment where patients feel comfortable discussing their conditions.

Link to full article here

Vanguard

Vanguard Nears $1 Trillion Milestone with Its Total Stock Market Index Fund

Malvern-based Vanguard is nearing the $1 trillion milestone with its Total Stock Market Index Fund, which had $938 billion in year-end assets, writes Erin Arvedlund for The Philadelphia Inquirer. At this time, Vanguard manages $6 trillion – or $5.2 trillion excluding money market funds – in assets and is second only to BlackRock, which currently has $7 trillion under management. Meanwhile, State Street is a distant third with $2.9 trillion under management.

Link to full article here

Blackfish

BLACKFISH BYOB RE-BRANDING ITS FULL-SERVICE CATERING

Blackfish Catering, the off-premise service from Blackfish BYOB announces its re-launch. As we begin a new decade, Chef Roman has decided to re-brand its Catering Service. “The business had evolved and changed throughout the years. It is the perfect time to enter a new stage with the re-branding of the business, change of logo, a revamped menu and a new direction to fulfill the growing demand for corporate and social catering.”

Link to full article here

Wonderspring

Montgomery Early Learning Centers Changes Name to Wonderspring

Montgomery Early Learning Centers, a provider of high-quality, safe, convenient, and affordable early childhood education throughout Greater Philadelphia, has changed its name to Wonderspring. A leader in early education for more than 50 years, the organization will continue delivering an innovative, evidence-based curriculum rooted in the latest research on how children learn best.

Link to full article here
Thank you for your years of loyal membership

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JANUARY

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www.brandyclare.com
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CONTRACTORS-ELECTRIC

The Camera Shop
www.thecamerashoponline.com
PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2020

3 Young Professionals Networking Happy Hour
Sponsored by: St. Joe’s Haub School of Business
Location: Pietro’s Radnor Pizzeria | Birreria, 236 N. Radnor-Chester Rd., Radnor, PA 19087
Tuesday, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

12 Business Card Exchange
Sponsored by: Rosemont College
Location: 1400 Montgomery Ave., Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
Thursday, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

19 Society of Professional Women
Leadership The Eleanor Roosevelt Way
Location: The Desmond Great Valley Hotel & Conference Ctr., One Liberty Blvd., Malvern, PA 19355
Thursday, 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

30 Network at Noon
Title Sponsor: Wells Fargo
Event Sponsor: College Possible
Location: The Radnor Hotel
591 E. Lancaster Ave., St. Davids, PA 19087
Monday, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

April 2020

1 Inspirational Breakfast
Keynote speaker Heather Mitts
Sponsored by: AQUA Pennsylvania, Inc. & Firstrust Bank - Bryn Mawr
Location: Valley Forge Military Academy, 1001 Eagle Rd., Wayne, PA 19087
Wednesday, 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM

21 Business Card Exchange
Sponsored by: St. Joe’s Haub School of Business
Location: 5600 City Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19131
Tuesday, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

23 Society of Professional Women
Lunch & Share
The Importance of Maternal Health
Location: Seasons 52, Gulph Rd & Mall Blvd., King of Prussia, PA 19406
Thursday, 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

27 Network at Noon
Title Sponsor: Wells Fargo
Event Sponsor: Parmetech, Inc.
Location: The Radnor Hotel
591 E. Lancaster Ave., St. Davids, PA 19087
Monday, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Dates & locations are subject to change. Please check mlcc.org/events for the latest information and full cancellation policy.
Meet THE STAFF

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