

THE BUSINESS VOICE OF  
**WHEELING**  
AND THE  
**OHIO VALLEY**

# The Chamber

2009 Edition Volume 2



## From The President's Desk

I hope that everyone has survived another winter and is ready to enjoy spring and summer weather. As I write this message to our members, it is 87° outside in late April.

We are busy planning for many events in the next few months. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities feature a parade and the 1<sup>st</sup> Miss Ohio Valley Pageant. These two events, along with the Wheeling Symphony concert, fireworks, a car show and a concert at Wheeling Island Stadium will be a great weekend for everyone in the Ohio Valley.

The Annual Dinner is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> at the White Palace at Wheeling Park and features Linda Cohn, ESPN Sports Anchor. This year marks the first time the Wheeling Chamber has hosted a female speaker. Linda has great experience in national and international sports providing a great story of her accomplishments to our audience. Tickets are now on sale at the Chamber. Call 304-233-2575.

Finally, plans are under way for the Wheeling Chamber-YMCA Corporate Team Challenge. This program encourages team building, sports competition and an opportunity to have a lot of fun! I encourage everyone to participate.

Have a great Spring and Summer season.

## Wheeling Health Right Makes Commitment To Free Health Care



WHEELING—During these tough economic times, health insurance premiums are simply out of reach for many patients. Costs are skyrocketing and many employers in the Ohio Valley have already reduced the health benefits they offer and asked employees to pay more, but can't keep up with the costs.

Already, 46 million Americans are living without health insurance. As the economy worsens and more and more Americans lose their jobs, the number of uninsured is expected to soar. Even those with insurance are struggling under the weight of the rising health care costs. Sadly, these uninsured men, women and children, have frequently "rolled the dice" and delayed medical treatment for too long, even when obviously needed, because a visit to the doctor is not in the budget. Too often, the uninsured are forced to forego filling prescriptions because of cost and are unable to visit the specialists to whom

they are referred. Many patients just live with serious chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, heart disease or asthma and are left untreated for extended periods. There are too many patients who have the same story. Living without health insurance is a risk no one should have to take—and it affects us all.

Wheeling Health Right, a United Way Agency, strives to offer those uninsured patients a "medical home" to receive free health care and prescriptions without asking for any payment.

In 2008, Wheeling Health Right cared for 17,675 patients in five counties of the Northern Panhandle, and Tyler and Belmont counties in Ohio. More than 135,000 prescriptions were filled while in-kind donation/hospitals and physicians donated over \$8 million in services.

Continued on page 2.

**Markets fluctuate.  
Relationships shouldn't.**

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# Wheeling Health Right Cont.

Many of these patients are the “working poor” who work minimum wage jobs and are the head of the household. They are at or below poverty level according to the Federal Guidelines. It's estimated that 18,000 Americans die each year because they don't have health coverage. Even those who are fortunate enough to have health insurance are struggling. And those that do not have health insurance coverage take a risk everyday.

The “Health Right” concept began in Charleston in the mid-1980s, when Nancy Lipphardt served as the president of the Charleston Soup Kitchen. In response to those living in the medical health care gap, and with one volunteer doctor on board, the first West Virginia Health Right was born. In 1984, Lipphardt came to Wheeling and imported the “Health Right” concept, and championed its organization here. A core group of representatives from Northern Panhandle Behavioral Health, West Liberty State College, Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department, Wheeling Hospital and Ohio Valley Medical Center worked several months on the project. The group established their goals with a clear and firm commitment from local health care providers incorporating Wheeling Health Right into a full-fledged free clinic in August of 1985.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church donated the first administrative offices in 1986. By April of 1987, it was clear to the Board of Directors of Wheeling Health Right, that the clinic needed its “own home” to accommodate a growing number of patients. The clinic moved to 88 14th Street with more than 1,700 patients and 80-100 new patients coming in each month.

As the organization reached its tenth anniversary in 1995, the clinic had matured and public awareness grew, allowing the care to shift from acute, episodic care to ongoing health maintenance. Patients now came in for yearly physicals, regular pap test and mammography. The emphasis toward preventive care marked a significant change in the operation.

In 1996, Wheeling Health Right opened a satellite office in Belmont County two days per week. Shortly after another satellite site was organized for patients in Wetzell and Tyler counties. Patient caseload continued to be overwhelming. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services provided 65 percent of the operating budget and additional assistance came from

the City of Wheeling Community Development Block Grant program and the United Way of the Upper Ohio Valley. Many national and local pharmaceutical companies allowed the clinic to receive medications that the clinic was unable to purchase due to limited funding.

By 1998, the patients had increased to 10,000 and the search was on for a larger location. On August 4, 1998, after many volunteer hours were spent moving from the former site, Wheeling Health Right held a Grand Opening at their new facility in North Wheeling at 99 Main Street.



Over the course of the next several years the number of patients being served at the clinic increased to almost 16,000 patients. The economic conditions of the Ohio Valley continued to weaken with the steel crisis. Many people were without health care benefits and income due to layoffs and strikes. They turned to Wheeling Health Right to provide services they needed to remain healthy.

However, with the increase came the realization that the clinic could not continue at its current location.

In May 2005, construction began at the former State Farm Building located at 61-29th Street. With more than a year of remodeling, Wheeling Health Right opened their new clinic in September 2006 and remains the current location of the facility.

Today, Wheeling Health Right is the only primary care center located in the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia and the only free clinic available to residents of Belmont County. The clinic serves those who are at or below 100% of Federal Poverty Level, have no health insurance and are not eligible for Medicaid or Veteran benefits. More than 100 physicians, 50 nurses and 25 lay volunteers choose Wheeling Health Right as their avenue for providing quality health care. By providing life-sustaining medication to patients, many of them can continue to work and be contributing members of our community.

Kathie Brown, Executive Director of Wheeling Health Right, sums up the future of the clinic, “As the medical needs of the uninsured of the Ohio Valley continue to grow, Wheeling Health Right will strive to continue the quality health care we have provided over the past 24 years. We are always in need of volunteers, donations and the time and talent of our local communities.



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## Member Spotlight Bella Via

The Bella Via Restaurant, located at 1 Burkham Court in the Elm Grove Section of Wheeling, was a two-generation restaurant. The restaurant was recently purchased by John and Patty Kuzma of Follansbee.

The new owners have kept the traditions of the former owners. The sauce recipe, which is still made on-site everyday, comes from the original owner's recipe and dates back nearly 60 years.

The restaurant features a wide array of Italian cuisine, including their famous chicken ravioli, and beef and ham lasagna. Bella Via also features a variety of American dishes, including steaks, chicken, shrimp and pork chops. A full bar is also available.

The Bella Via is open Sunday thru Friday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday 4 to 9 p.m. There is a 70-seat dining room upstairs for private parties.

Call us at 304-242-8182 or 304-242-8282 or visit our website at [www.thebellaviarestaurant.com](http://www.thebellaviarestaurant.com).

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## AMASTI ribbon cutting



Advanced Mailing and Shipping Technologies, Inc. (AMASTI), a division of Super Mail, Inc. (SMI) located in Wheeling, held its ribbon-cutting on February 11. Joining in the celebration with AMASTI's principals and staff members were representatives from the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce, local government and area media outlets.

AMASTI provides a complete line of state-of-the-art mailing equipment for businesses throughout the Tri-State area (West Virginia, Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania). Its product line includes: digital mailing systems, folder-inserters, postal scales, addressing systems, letter openers, tabber-labelers, parcel shipping systems, mailroom software and furniture, and postage machine ink and supplies at discount prices. AMASTI's consultative approach to optimizing complete mailroom solutions for clients is unsurpassed, combining:

- Knowledgeable and experienced mailing industry professionals whose primary interest is understanding your unique business requirements
- A comprehensive array of products and solutions to optimize fulfillment of those requirements
- Complete local customer support for service and supplies

A proud member of the Association of Independent Mailing Equipment Dealers, AMASTI is poised to provide best-fit business mailroom solutions for its clients through its relationships with a multitude of equipment manufacturers, software and supply providers. A key differentiator within its marketplace is AMASTI's commitment to effective local customer service and support.

To learn more about how AMASTI can help your business, visit [www.amasti.com](http://www.amasti.com) or contact AMASTI at 304-232-1755 or 866-944-MAIL (6245).



## Burns, White & Hickton's Sandra Chapman assumes presidency of West Virginia State Bar

WHEELING, April 28—Not one to shy away from leadership positions, Sandra Chapman, an attorney with the West Virginia office of Burns, White & Hickton, took on another assignment recently when she assumed the presidency of the West Virginia State Bar at its annual conference April 24 and 25.

The West Virginia State Bar is the organization of all lawyers licensed to practice law in West Virginia. The organization serves its members, the legal profession and the public through its efforts to improve the administration of justice and to enhance how legal services are provided to West Virginia's citizens. Chapman has been a member since 1983 and has served most recently as president-elect.

Chapman has practiced law in West Virginia since 1983 and with Burns, White & Hickton since 2004. Chapman focuses her legal practice on litigation and professional malpractice, representing organizations and professionals in health care, education, the insurance industry, and in employment matters.

Her interest in education led Chapman in the early 1980s to help establish the West Virginia Council of School Attorneys. She also has served on the West Virginia Board of Education, the West Virginia School Building Authority and the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission. She is currently on the board of directors of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra and the board of trustees of Ohio Valley Medical Center.

Chapman has spent her entire adult life as a resident of West Virginia, receiving both a master's degree in health education and her law degree from West Virginia University. A "Hoosier" by birth, she graduated from Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana.





Ribbon Cutting A & M Technology Group, Inc.



Ribbon Cutting at the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce Home & Garden Show with DeNoon Lumber.



Ribbon Cutting Indigo Joe's at the Highlands.



Ribbon Cutting for West Virginia Northern/Mountain State University Alliance.

