



It is truly an honor to be putting out this first newsletter of our newly re-formed Chamber of Commerce. Much has happened over the past year – and thanks are in order.

Our deepest debt of gratitude goes to past President John Lecky, who put together a great team of people to re-imagine what the Chamber could do within not just the business community, but Mineral County as a whole. John's energy and dedication were contagious, enabling the new Board to start fresh with new ideas, and to include every community within Mineral County.

The new Chamber has been busy the past few months. First, we remodeled our office to better fit the needs of our members. The Chamber is set up like a gallery now, with pictures of local attractions displayed on the walls to show off our great county so visitors and prospective businesses can see what a great place Mineral County is to work and live. We have added two monitors to also show off our county, and display upcoming events. The monitors may also be used for PowerPoints in meetings, seminars, training, and social gatherings. Many thanks to the Blackburn Family Corporation for

the very generous gifts to make our new space shine. I invite all members to come see our new space.

The Chamber also helped facilitate this year's **Mineral County Day**, which was a great success. On January 10th, we were able to honor this year's honoree, Clifton Brooks Sr. in both the House and Senate in Charleston. Ten members of Mr. Brooks' family were in attendance for the proclamations. On January 9th, the first day of session, twelve tables were set up with displays for the following:

- Ashby's Fort Museum
- Automated Packaging
- Burlington United Methodist Family Services
- The Town of Carpendale
- Chamber of Commerce
- Economic Development Authority
- Potomac State College
- Potomac Valley Hospital
- Travis P. Moreland Foundation
- Tucker Community Foundation
- Western Maryland Health System
- Youth With A Mission West Virginia

Many people stopped by to say hello and find out what is happening in Mineral County. Good Carma Catering provided amazing light food and desserts for a reception preceding the Governor's State of the State Address, and continuing afterwards. A total of six very productive meetings were held with various Departments as well

as the Attorney General. On Thursday the 10th, we had a luncheon for the legislators and Capitol staff which was also provided by Good Carma Catering of Fort Ashby, which was a huge success. The networking and new contacts that are made, the information we learn, and relationships that we strengthen, all make this trip so worthwhile every year. Thanks to Chairperson Patsy Koontz for her attention to detail and thoughtful planning.

This year, Mineral County has two primary objectives: to develop a tourism venue large enough to draw visitors from major markets, and to fight the drug problem by developing numerous activities for all kids and developing networks of adults to supervise and mentor our kids. We will be having Town Hall meetings all over the county to explain our plans and solicit support. I would ask each of you to consider helping any way you can. We have already lost a generation of Americans to drugs. In 2017 alone, America lost 72,306 lives to drugs. By comparison, we lost 58,220 American soldiers in the entire Viet Nam war. West Virginia is number one in the country, three times the national average. Please work with us this coming year to begin turning this around. We can do this. We *have* to do this. If we don't, who will?

Randy Crane

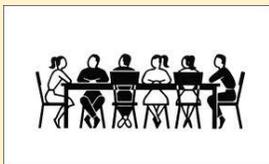


Focus Groups

The Chamber is looking for Member volunteers to help in the following Focus Groups:

- ❖ Membership Services
- ❖ Initiatives & Events
- ❖ Corporate & Governmental Relations
- ❖ Educational Programs

Our vision of the Chamber covers a wide scope. First, we want to represent our business members to make sure the business environment in Mineral County is conducive to building a healthy economy and improving our communities. Our slogan is *Working to Make a Difference*, which we take very seriously. Mineral County has its challenges like most communities, but together we can effect change and help make our county shine. These focus groups are designed to help do just that. They will only work with your help. So, what are they?

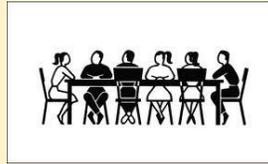


Membership Services

The Chamber has a brand-new Board, new leadership, and new energy. We need to rebuild our membership back to levels which can sustain the Chamber and help make a difference to the community.

We have made a good start but have a long way to go. If we can

get all of our businesses involved in the Chamber again, we will achieve results that make your dues worthwhile.



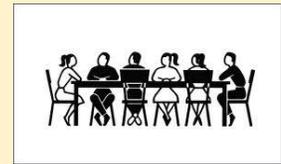
Initiatives & Events

The Mineral Chamber will help ensure there will be a lot going on in Mineral County, from get-togethers and mixers, to full-blown events, it all starts here. This year we would like to have a golf tournament in late Spring, and a blowout food and entertainment fund-raiser this summer. And if that's not enough, this group gets serious too, and continuously plans how to help better our county. If this sounds like your cup of tea, come help out and have a blast!



Corporate & Governmental Relations

This group works behind the scenes to stay in touch with our elected representatives, state and local officials, corporate donors, foundations, and volunteers to find ways to make great stuff happen. We could use your expertise too - come get involved.



Educational Programs

The Mineral Chamber will work with education in many ways, including sponsoring member training in areas requested by our members, and reaching out and partnering with area schools to help bring out the best in our kids. We have heard over and over this year the need to improve our non-college education in Mineral County, with an emphasis on trades and technical training. We are looking for people with great ideas to help in this vital area.

Get Involved!

To get yourself or someone from your business involved in shaping these vital tasks, just call the Chamber Office and speak with Randy Crane at (304) 788-2513, or drop him a line at: rccrane@mineralchamber.com

We look forward to working with you!



MINERAL
County Chamber of Commerce

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Mineral County Day

January 9 – 10, 2019

