



Oley Valley Business Association

P.O. Box 25

Oley, PA 19547-0025

www.oleyvalleybiz.org

President's Message

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The November meeting was well attended. Donna Rhoads gave an interesting report on taxes and answered a lot of good questions. She also let Frank Morgan give information on financial services.

Marsha Moser spoke about helping elderly people living alone who might need a meal, not only on holidays, but at other times in the year. She may be pursuing this further in the future.

I hope everyone enjoys the Christmas season. Please pray for the service men and women who won't be home for the holidays this year.

*Respectfully,
Wilma Leininger*

December Meeting

The next meeting of the Oley Valley Business Assoc. will be at noon on Monday, December 27th at the Historic Pleasantville Inn. The speaker will be Jerry Catagnus of the Oley Valley Swimming Recreation Association.

Minutes

General Membership Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2004

Call to Order

The November meeting of the Oley Valley Business Association was held at the Historic Pleasantville Inn. The meeting was called to order by President Wilma Leininger at 12:10 p.m., followed by the introduction of members.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

A motion was made to accept the October minutes by Lloyd Hopkins and seconded by Lorraine Sterner. Motion carried.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report by Oscar Egolf, seconded by Sharon Morrow. Motion carried.

Attendance

The total attendance for the meeting was 24 members.

Old Business

Mixer:

The mixer will be hosted December 9th from 4:30-6:30 by the Yellow House Hotel and will be co-sponsored by Cheryl Haughney of Yellow Book.

Nominating Committee:

There was no report from the nominating committee, however President Leininger did ask the following individuals if they were contacted; Bill Griffith, Doug Kramer, Minerva Hoppes and Sharon Morrow.

Map of Area Businesses:

It was reported that Kevin Bieber was looking into a new area map and would hopefully bring a copy along to the next meeting. It was also noted that Oley Township would soon be printing a map and suggested we explore the possibilities of tagging onto or expanding upon that map

New Business

Berks County Chamber of Commerce:

Mike McCarthy announced the upcoming meeting sponsored by the Berks County Chamber of Commerce on Act 72 which provides for property tax relief using proceeds from gambling slot machines. Mike also spoke about technology forecasts and the recognition of someone in the community by the Berks County Chamber of Commerce. He reminded us again of the website being www.berkschamber.org.

Blood Drive:

Frank Morgan and Donna Rhoades announced that there would be a mobile blood unit for anyone who wanted to donate blood on December 6 at their office from 4-8 p.m.

Oley Valley Shop Tour:

Marsha Moser announced that there would be a shop tour the weekend of December 4 & 5. Also Glick's Greenhouse would be hosting the poinsettia show that weekend.

Community Outreach Program:

Marsha Moser spoke of a community outreach program for those individuals who live alone. The program will be headed by Pastor Weiser and would include meals and gifts such as poinsettias. Please contact Pastor Weiser if you know of someone who is in need of such service.

Neighborhood Crime Watch:

It was reported that there is interest in the start up of a neighborhood crime watch and suggested that the OVBA may want to help with the start up of such a program.

Pleasantville Bridge:

Lloyd Hopkins publicly thanked Marsha Moser and Bob Lesko for their previous involvement with the bridge dedication ceremony and stated that they would be the main organizers for the upcoming Pleasantville Community Celebration. Lloyd also reflected on the revenue that was generated from the dedication ceremony and how it benefited numerous community organizations. Lloyd, who was the key initiator of the event back in 1991, again thanked all those involved and noted that, even after the event, vendors are still being contacted as a result of their attendance. Marsha Moser noted that there are still stamps available and suggested they would make nice gifts for Christmas.

Christmas in the Valley:

It was noted that National Penn Bank is the contact should anyone like to make a donation.

Guest Speaker

The guest speaker was Donna Rhoades who spoke about the tax law changes. Donna was kind enough to provide an outline and information on some of the laws that she felt would be of significant interest to the OVBA members. A copy of that handout is included. Should anyone have questions concerning taxes Donna would be more than happy to help. Donna then introduced Frank Morgan who briefly touched on contribution limits and passed out a review of the limits which is also included with the newsletter.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn at 1:00 p.m. by Frank Morgan and seconded by David Hoffman. Motion carried.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Douglas A. Kramer, Secretary*

***A note from our
Webmaster:***

If your business has a website, and we aren't linking to it from our Membership Directory - please contact me at webmaster@oleyvalleybiz.org. Provide your company name and website address.

If you told us or indicated on your membership application that you would be willing to receive newsletter notifications by email, but haven't received any - you need to sign up for our email list. We can not do that for you, due to SPAM concerns. To sign up, go to our Home page at www.oleyvalleybiz.org and add your name and email address in the box titled "OVBA Member Mailing List Signup" under the Calendar. If you signed up before, but still aren't receiving emails from the Association, contact me at webmaster@oleyvalleybiz.org. The email address may have been entered incorrectly.

Thank you!

*Treasurer's
Report*

Oley Valley Business Association
Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance		\$2,797.77
Deposits:		*35.00
Interest	11/30/04	<u>.73</u>
SubTotal		\$2,833.50
Expenses:		
Peripheral Systems #9873, #9925		26.50
Pleasantville Diner		6.34
SubTotal		\$ 32.84
Ending Balance	12/15/05	<u>\$2,800.66</u>

New Member:

Condict & Company Amanda Condict / Stefan Benousky

*Respectfully Submitted,
Minerva S. Hoppes, Treasurer*

Humor

There were two blondes who went deep into the woods searching for a Christmas tree. After hours of subzero temperatures and a few close calls with hungry wolves, one blonde turned to the other and said, "I'm chopping down the next tree I see. I don't care whether it's decorated or not!"



Donna F. Rhoades & Co., P.C.
Certified Public Accountant
702A Main Street
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CHANGES TO THE TAX LAWS WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF ARE:

Child Tax Credit

- For 2004, the child tax credit remains at \$1000 per child. The qualifying child must not reach age 17 by December 31, 2004.
- Under the current law, the child tax credit is scheduled to fall back to \$700 in 2005, but will gradually rise to \$1000 by 2010.

Capital Gains Rates

- The maximum tax rate for net capital gains is 15%.
- The current rate for lower income taxpayers is 5%.
- These new rates are effective for sales and exchanges of assets held more than one year or more taking place after May 6, 2003 and through December 31, 2007.

New expense limits for SUV's

- Businesses should be aware of a change regarding certain sport utility (SUV'S) placed in service after October 22, 2004. Under the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, businesses cannot take a first-year deduction of more than \$25,000 for an SUV. The business would depreciate the remaining cost. (The limit for vehicles placed in service before October 23 was \$100,000). The new limit does not affect other types of property where the taxpayer decides to expense the cost instead of depreciating the property.

Maximum Deductions for passenger vehicles

- The maximum deduction (including any amounts under section 179) that can be claimed for a used passenger automobile that was placed in service in 2004 is \$3060 for the first year, \$4900 for the second year, \$2950 for the third year, and \$1775 for the fourth and following years. For a new passenger automobile, the first year deduction is limited to \$7660 (or \$3060 if the owner elects not to take the 30 percent additional bonus depreciation allowance).

EGTRRA: a quick view

	529 college savings plans	education IRA contributions	qualified distributions federal tax free
Traditional and Roth IRA	participants under age 50	\$3,000	\$3,000
	participants age 50 or older	\$3,500	\$3,500
SIMPLE IRA	participants under age 50	\$7,000	\$8,000
	participants age 50 or older	\$7,500	\$9,000
401(k), 403(b), SARSEP	participants under age 50	\$11,000	\$12,000
	participants age 50 or older	\$12,000	\$14,000

Deferred tax	unified credit exemption	estate tax top rate
	\$1M	50%
	\$1M	49%
	\$1.5M	48%
	\$1.5M	47%
	\$2M	46%
	\$2M	45%
	\$2M	45%
	\$3.5M	45%
		repeal

Income tax rates	2000 tax rates	2001 tax rates	2002 tax rates
15%	bottom portion of 15% bracket replaced by new 10% bracket for first \$6,000 for singles and first \$12,000 for married couples filing jointly		threshold raised to \$7K and \$14K
28%			thresholds indexed to inflation
31%			
36%			
39.6%			

Family	child tax credit	marriage penalty	itemized deduction and personal exemptions
	\$600	no change	continuation of current limits on itemized deduction and personal exemption for those with high AGIs
	\$600		gradual increase in standard deduction
	\$600		higher limits to qualify for itemized deductions and personal exemption
	\$700		double the single level
	\$700		limitless deductions, personal exemption for everyone

Note: Provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 are scheduled to expire after December 31, 2010. Unless legislatively extended, these provisions will revert back to tax laws in effect prior to passage of EGTRRA of 2001. This material is not intended to replace the advice of a qualified attorney, tax adviser, investment professional, or insurance agent. Before making any financial commitment regarding the issues discussed here, consult with the appropriate professional adviser.



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BALLOT

THE INDIVIDUALS LISTED BELOW ARE CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE FOR 2005.
INDICATE YOUR VOTE AND RETURN THIS BALLOT TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS BY
OUR NEXT MEETING ON DECEMBER 27, 2005.

PRESIDENT

Bill Griffith
Pennsureance, Inc.

Write in

VICE PRESIDENT

Doug Kramer
Applied Surveying Technologies

Write in

SECRETARY

Sharon Morrow
Morrow Net Programming Services/
Longaberger Baskets & Pottery

Write in

TREASURER

Minerva Hoppes

Write in

Date _____

_____ Print Name

_____ Signature