

## Chamber Members Selected for Weatherhead 100

Doing what she does best has paid off big time for Sandy Heath of Sandra Heath & Associates, an employment firm specializing in professional office support staffing placements.



That formula has earned Heath & Associates a spot on the 2009 Weatherhead 100 list, highlighting northeast Ohio's Fastest Growing Companies.

During 2008, in what was a daunting year for most employment agencies, Sandra Heath & Associates continued to grow. Heath continued to ignore the industrial market and stayed with what the company knows and does best – professional temporary, temporary to hire, and contract placement of professional office support personnel. “The number of our orders was down dramatically, but we still experienced growth because of the length of the assignments they needed for us to cover,” explained Heath, who insists that the key to success is personalized service and referrals from clients.

Also selected for the prestigious Weatherhead 100 list was Chamber member CQ Printing, in business in Strongsville since

1978. President and owner John Bechke said that he got the idea to apply for the award at last April's Chamber luncheon which featured a member



of the selection panel for the Weatherhead list. CQ is located at 14189 Pearl Road. They pride themselves on being a true one-stop shop with offset and digital printing, graphic design, bindery, finishing, and direct mail services. CQ's phone number is 440.238.1441.

GTS Communications and Cabling, another Strongsville Chamber member, was also recognized this year as a member of the



Weatherhead 100. Specializing in business phones, cabling and computer services, and surveillance/security systems, GTS is located at 11953 Prospect Road and can be reached at 440.878.8866.

Congratulations to all three members on their selection to the Weatherhead 100 list of northeast Ohio's Fastest Growing Companies!



## Greetings from the President

On Behalf of the Board of Trustees and our office staff, I sincerely hope that each of you had a blessed holiday season with family and friends. Recently, I was honored to be elected your incoming president by my fellow trustees and I am extremely proud to represent you.

But first, please join me in thanking Gordy Glissman, President of Countryside Landscaping, for his dedication and leadership as our president these past two years. Gordy has been an integral part of our team for many years and I look forward to his continuing involvement for years to come.

I fully intend to uphold the traditions of this chamber and maintain our well-earned reputation as one of the finest organizations ever assembled in Strongsville. Because of Gordy, and all the leaders before him, our Chamber of Commerce is an institution upon which the community can depend.

As we enter our 69th year of consecutive service to the Strongsville business community, I pledge to focus on recognizing the member businesses that have our city their home. At the same time, we welcome the new organizations looking for a great place to do business. Our Chamber will do its part to promote the business men and women of our community for their contributions to the local economy.

I wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2010 and thank you for making the Strongsville Chamber of Commerce your business partner.

Sincerely,  
Jim Mocho, President



## Chamber Elects Trustees and Officers

The Chamber is pleased to announce that Trustees and officers have been elected for 2010 and beyond. The election was held during the month of November and at the organization's Annual Meeting, held on November 19.

Jim Mocho, a vice-president with Worker's Compensation Management Solutions, has been elected president for 2010. He has previously served as vice-president and on the Homecoming, and Scholarship Dance committees. He also was chairman of the Strategic Planning committee for two years.

Bob Kalfas, president of Robert A. Kalfas Construction, has been elected as vice-president for 2010. He has previously served on the Homecoming Committee and has worked at Homecoming for many years.

The Chamber also elected eight Trustees who will serve a three year term, beginning January 1, 2010. The following have been elected:

**Marc Bittinger**, a registered architect with CBLH Design, specializing in health care, library, and university projects.

**Mike Catan**, president and co-owner of Pat Catan's Craft Centers which has been in business for more than 50 years in Strongsville and other locations around the country.

**Gordy Glissman** has just completed a two year term

as Chamber president and is the president of Countryside Landscaping. He has directed many landscaping projects around the city for more than 25 years.

**Bill Harr** has been the chairman of the Homecoming Parade committee for several years. He is a lifelong Strongsville resident and is currently vice-president of Park View Federal Savings Bank.

**Joe Lucchese** is a Cardiovascular Consultant for Liposcience, Inc. in Raleigh, North Carolina.

**Tom Rakowsky** is the Telecommunications Manager for the Ohio Lottery and was instrumental in the Lottery moving a large share of their Operations Center to Strongsville in the last year.

**Dr. Neil Sika** is a local optometrist who is also a Staff Optometrist at Metro Hospital. A former president of the Chamber, Dr. Sika has been a Homecoming Tent Manager for more than 20 years.

**Dan Stroemple** is a lifetime resident of Strongsville who is the General Manager of Don's Pomeroy House. He has worked at Homecoming for "most of his life."

**Gregg Finkler** was re-appointed as the organization's Treasurer



# Scholarship Dance . . . a Successful Holiday Tradition

The Chamber's annual Holiday Scholarship Dance was held on Friday, December 4 at Michaud's Town and Country. For more than 40 years this event has become the unofficial start of the holiday season in Strongsville.

Several new features were added to the evening's festivities this year. A martini bar sponsored by Shinto, was very well received. A "Taste of the 'Ville" consisted of food stations provided by four of our local member restaurants: Shinto, Don's Pomeroy House, Bucci's at J. Bella, and Michaud's.

The proceeds from this event are dedicated to providing scholarships to graduating seniors from Strongsville High School. Last year (the Chamber provided the highest number of scholarships, with the highest dollar value, of any local organization. Although several different criteria have been established, the Chamber is particularly interested in supporting students who intend to pursue a business major in college. This includes those headed for sales, management, accounting, and banking careers.

"We feel that a major purpose of our Chamber is to help prepare the next generation of business leaders who will continue the entrepreneurial spirit that has made our nation great," commented Gregg Finkler, Dance Chairperson and Chamber Treasurer. "Our direct support of these scholarships, thanks to the great support of the community when they buy tickets, makes it possible for us to meet that goal."

Sincere appreciation is extended to all those who helped to sponsor the dance and make the scholarships possible. Here's a list of the sponsors for the 2009 dance:

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACM Signs and Graphics         | Finkler & Co., CPA's         |
| Benchmark Jewelers             | Fox Meadows Country Club     |
| Best Buy, Strongsville         | Ganley BMW                   |
| Blaster Chemical               | KMD Sales                    |
| CBLH Design                    | Lowe's Strongsville          |
| Darice - A Pat Catan's Company | Michaelangelo's              |
| Docere Medical Laser Spa       | Michaud's                    |
| Don's Pomeroy House            | NHSASC, LLC                  |
| Dr. Bostic                     | ReMax, Strongsville          |
| Dr. Neil Sika                  | Rob Crombie, Michaelangelo's |
| Ehrnfelt Recreation Center     | Sheiban Jewelers             |
| Esbi Salon                     | Shinto Japanese Steak House  |



Left: Chamber Trustee Jeff Smutek and his wife Stephanie enjoy the festivities at the dance



Above: Chamber President Gordy Glissman (left) takes a break from the work of the evening to pose with Jason Jardine



Jim and Mary Kaminski, Tony and Kim Zacharysz, along with Daria Rakowsky, are all regular supporters of the Holiday Scholarship Dance

- Strongsville High Athletic Department
- Strongsville Spirit Shop
- Tom Rakowsky
- Weymouth Country Club
- Worker's Compensation Management Solutions

The 2010 dance is scheduled for December 3. Tickets will go on sale in October.

## Monthly Business Luncheons in 2010

So that you can plan to be with us each month for the Monthly Business Luncheon, here are the dates for this year. All luncheons begin promptly at 12:00 noon, with networking beginning at 11:30 a.m.:

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| January 19 (SCORE Cleveland)                 | September 21                        |
| February 16                                  | October 19                          |
| March 16 (Mayor Perciak's State of the City) | November 16                         |
| April 20 (Breakfast)                         | December 14 (2nd Tuesday exception) |
| May 18 (Scholarship Awards Luncheon)         |                                     |

## Women in Business – Speed Networking with Wine & Cheese

The Women in Business committee of the Strongsville Chamber will sponsor a program on Speed

Networking on Wednesday, January 27 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. The informal program will be held at Chamber member Buffalo Wild Wings Grill (BW-3), 8465 Pearl Road, 44136.

For just a \$10 fee, participants will enjoy wine and cheese after participating in an exercise to network with other members, beginning at 4:30 p.m. "We've been wanting to try something different than our normal breakfast format," commented Bernice Kaldy, event chairperson. "We hope to be able to attract even more members to this "after work" program. The Strongsville Chamber is all about helping members grow their business. This is a great way to do that."

The Women in Business committee has been in existence

for about five years with the goal of offering programming that is specifically targeted to the interests of the Chamber's female members. In the past, programs have been sponsored for home-based businesses, franchises, dressing for success, stress reduction, and self defense.

Committee members include Sandra Heath (Sandra Heath & Associates), Bernice Kaldy (Image Builders), Becky Piper (Cruise One), Pat Pell (COSE), Tammy Haseley (Healthcare Circle), and Tammy Pritchard (Monavie).

Reservations for the program can be made by calling the Chamber office at 440.238.3366 or through the website at strongvillechamber.com. Deadline for reservations will be Monday, January 25. The \$10 admission fee is payable at the door. Call the office at 440.238.3366 for more information.

## "SCORE" Well at January Luncheon

The featured speaker for the January 19, 2010 Chamber luncheon will be from SCORE, "Counselors to America's Small Business." This luncheon will be held at the Strongsville Holiday Inn, with networking beginning at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon will begin promptly at 12:00 noon. The cost of the luncheon will remain at just \$15.00 per person, payable at the door or by calling the Chamber office at 440.238.3366.

SCORE is a nonprofit association dedicated to entrepreneur education and the formation, growth, and success of the nation's small businesses.

SCORE provides free and confidential

business advice and counseling tailored to meet the needs of any small business. SCORE Cleveland also offers workshops for both start up and established business owners.

The SCORE counselors are volunteers who are real world professionals with time-tested knowledge who donate thousands of hours to help business owners succeed. Counselors are experienced experts in such areas as accounting, finance, marketing, management, and business plan preparation. The counseling is free and ongoing for as long as it is wanted or needed.

The Chamber is making our offices

available to SCORE to conduct the counseling sessions. "We want to make the service as easily accessible as we can for our members," commented Jim Mocho, Chamber president. "SCORE is an excellent asset that should be utilized by many of our 600 members to help grow their businesses."

Reservations for the luncheon may be made by calling the Chamber office at 440.238.3366 or by visiting the Chamber website at www.strongvillechamber.com. Deadline for reservations will be Friday, January 15.

## Don't Leave Tax Money on the Table

Gregg Finkler of Finkler and Company, CPA's will be the featured speaker at an Educational Breakfast Seminar to be held on Thursday, January 28. The breakfast program will be held at the Strongsville Holiday Inn, beginning at 7:45 a.m.

Gregg and his staff will provide very important information that can save you money as you prepare your 2009 tax returns. They'll fill you in on last minute moves you can still make to save taxes for 2009 and future years. Congress enacted two pieces of legislation in 2009 that will impact every business owner. This program should be "required attendance" for every Chamber member.

To reserve your spot for the Breakfast Seminar, call the Chamber office at 440.238.3366 or on the website at www.strongvillechamber.com. Cost of the breakfast program will be \$15.00 for Chamber members, \$20.00 for non-members.

