



MVPC Newsletters

MVPC Progress Update

Vol. 49 No. 01-02; January/February 2013

Progress Council 48th Annual dinner, set for April 25, will feature the introduction of major new employer and awards for projects ranging from business investment to governmental cooperation // March 22 Spring quarterly meeting to feature panelist on workforce readiness // Efforts underway to support State transportation funding legislation // Mid Mon Valley Intergovernmental Cooperative now at nine members and officers elected

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

The Mon Valley Progress Council 48th Annual dinner is set for April 25 - The annual dinner, to be held at the Willow Room, will feature the introduction of a major new employer in the region and presentation of the Frank Irely Jr. "Join in Progress Awards" for business investment and a major community project. A new "Join in Progress Award" for intergovernmental cooperation has been added this year.

The Spring quarterly meeting, set for March 22 will feature panelist on workforce readiness - Representatives from the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center, Mon Valley CareerLink and Southwest Training Services, Inc. will review efforts to promote workforce readiness. There will be ample time at the meeting for open discussion on this issue.

Efforts underway to support State transportation funding legislation - It is expected that transportation funding legislation will soon be introduced in the State Legislature. The Progress Council is engaging in a range of efforts to support adequate funding that will include support for the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway.

Mid Mon Valley Intergovernmental Cooperative now at nine members - With the joining of the Borough of California, there are now nine members of the Mid Mon Valley Intergovernmental Cooperative. In related news, the bylaws of the Cooperative were formally approved in January by charter members and officers were elected at the February 26 meeting.

Progress Council 48th Annual dinner is set for April 25

The Mon Valley Progress Council 48th Annual dinner, set for April 25, will feature the introduction of a major new employer in the region and presentation of the Frank Irely Jr. Join in Progress Awards for business investment and a major community project. A new Join in Progress Award for intergovernmental cooperation has been added this year.

"We are particularly excited that this year's annual dinner will feature the introduction of a new employer who is in the process of a major capital investment that will both retain jobs and create significant new job opportunities," said Progress Council President John Easoz.

Easoz added that the Frank Irely Jr. Join in Progress Award for intergovernmental cooperation presents an opportunity to recognize numerous efforts of Mid Mon Valley local governments to develop cooperative ventures. "It's important to recognize the good work Mid Mon Valley governments are doing to improve local services through cooperative ventures".

The 48th annual dinner will be held at the Willow room on Route 51 with the social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. with the dinner at 6:30 p.m. Registration for the dinner is \$60. Look for email invitations or contact the Mon Valley Progress Council office at 724-684-3381 for more information.

The Spring quarterly meeting, set for March 22 will feature panelist on work readiness

Efforts underway to support State transportation legislation

It is expected that transportation funding legislation will soon be introduced in the State Legislature. The Progress Council is engaging in a range of efforts to support adequate funding that will include support for the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway.

The Progress Council is working with numerous organizations and area legislators to support transportation funding legislation. "It has been fifteen years since additional revenues have been provided for transportation projects and Pennsylvania is reaching a crisis in the condition of highways and bridges," Progress Council Executive Director Joe Kirk said. We are also reaching a point where there is virtually no funding for new highway networks such as the Expressway and Southern Beltway," Kirk added.

Based on state and national statistics, Pennsylvania has some of the worst bridge conditions in the United States. The Governor's own Transportation Funding Advisory Commission report of August 2011, stated that there is an annual funding gap of \$3.1 billion of funding needed to restore Pennsylvania's highways and bridges.

The Cooperative now at nine members, bylaws approved and officers elected

With the joining of the Borough of California, there are now nine members of the Mid Mon Valley



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Representatives from Mon Valley Career and Technology Center, Mon Valley CareerLink and Southwest Training Services, Inc. will review efforts to promote workforce readiness at the March 22 Spring Quarterly Board meeting to be held at Mon Valley Hospital Lombardi Education Center. There will be ample time for open discussion at the meeting.

The topic for the Spring Quarterly meeting follows a December, 2012 roundtable discussion of area business leaders, hosted by the Progress Council, to discuss the challenge of hiring and retaining qualified and motivated employees. The roundtable included a review of the impact of extended unemployment benefits on hiring to the continued issues of drug and alcohol abuse. Firms also discussed successful initiatives to retain qualified employees.

Please join us for what should be an important discussion of ongoing efforts to promote a high quality local workforce. Please contact the Mon Valley Progress Council office at 724-684-3381 to register for the March 22 Spring Quarterly meeting. Registration for the luncheon meeting is \$18.

Intergovernmental Cooperative. In related news, the bylaws of the Cooperative were formally approved in January by charter members and officers were elected at the February 26 meeting.

Officers of the Mid Mon Valley Intermunicipal Cooperative

- Dennis Martinak, Chairman
- Ken Kulak, Vice Chairman
- Donn Henderson, Secy/Treasurer

"I am pleased to have been selected as the first chairman of the Mid Mon Valley Intergovernmental Cooperative," said Chairman Martinak. The election followed the signing of the bylaws by the original eight members of the Cooperative. The bylaws had been sent to member local governments for review and signature.

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The Mon Valley Progress Council

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