



Progress Update

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PROGRESS HEADLINES

50th annual dinner set for April 9, Allegheny County chief executive Rich Fitzgerald to be keynote speaker , video on history of the Progress Council to be premiered // March 27 spring quarterly meeting to feature business roundtable discussion // Efforts to advance the E/BEE concept continue // Progress Council-administered Mid Mon Valley Intergovernmental Cooperative plans May 19 regional conference on governance // Progress Council History Brief - September 12, 1966, The Progress Council forms the Middle Monongahela Industrial Development Association

50th annual Progress Council dinner set for April 9

We are pleased to announce that the 50th anniversary dinner of the Mon Valley Progress Council will be held on April 9 at the Willow Room in Belle Vernon. **Click here for registration information.** Please note that we recently had email issues. They have been resolved.



The keynote address will be delivered by Allegheny County chief executive Rich Fitzgerald. “We are excited to have the Chief Executive Fitzgerald as our keynote speaker. His leadership on the area of economic development has dramatically improved economic conditions in Allegheny County. We also appreciate his support for the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway,” said Progress Council president John Easoz. Fitzgerald is in his second term as chief executive.

The April 9 annual dinner will also feature the premier of a video on the 50-year history of the Mon Valley Progress Council. The video is being produced by California University’s award winning TV station CUTV. DVD’s will be available at a nominal cost and the video will be posted on YouTube and presented on CUTV.

March 27 Spring Quarterly Meeting to feature business roundtable discussion

This is a reminder that the Progress Council is sponsoring a series of business roundtable meetings in 2015. The spring session will focus on a roundtable discussion of business concerns on state regulatory and other issues. The summer session will focus on a presentation of business concerns to area state elected officials. Based on the concerns raised at the spring session, invitations will be extended to federal elected officials. The fall session on workforce readiness will provide an opportunity to explore innovative ways to improve workforce readiness.

The Progress Council's business roundtables will be luncheon meetings held from 12:00 noon to 1:30 at Monongahela Valley Hospital's Lombardi Education Center. Registration for the March 27 business roundtable is \$18 and is open to all businesses located in the Mid Mon Valley. Please call the Progress Council for registration information.

Progress Council business roundtable session schedule

Noon to 1:30 p.m., Monongahela Valley Hospital Education Center

Spring business luncheon roundtable

March 27

Business and state government - A discussion of key business concerns regarding state regulatory and other business issues.

Summer business luncheon roundtable

June 26

Business and state legislators - Area legislators will be invited to participate in a presentation of key business concerns developed at the spring roundtable.

Fall business luncheon roundtable

September 25

Promoting workforce readiness - Presentation of an online workforce readiness program used by the western Pennsylvania construction industry and discussion of the potential of developing a similar online workforce readiness program for Mid Mon Valley manufacturing and related industries

Efforts continue to advance the E/BEE concept

The Progress Council is continuing advocacy efforts to promote an alternative for the Expressway project north of PA Route 51. The Progress Council-developed Expressway/Busway East Extension (E/BEE) concept was presented in meetings with key state elected and Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission officials. Additional meetings and presentations are in progress.

A newsletter has been developed and targeted to municipalities in the Expressway corridor north of PA Route 51 that passed the resolution of support for the Expressway project. The newsletter will feature ways local governments in the Expressway corridor can work to advance the Expressway project.

The final touches are being made to a transportation plan of the Construction Legislative Council (CLC) that will include the E/BEE concept. Progress Council executive director Joe Kirk is a past chairman of the CLC and currently serves on the CLC Transportation Committee. The CLC is a multi-discipline coalition of 14 construction industry organizations, representing the interests of thousands of contractors, architects, engineers, owners and material suppliers from western Pennsylvania.

Progress Council-administered Mid Mon Valley Intergovernmental Cooperative plans May 19 regional conference on governance

A Mid Mon Valley conference on governance has been set for May 19 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Donora Municipal Building social hall. The title of the conference “Governance in Challenging Economic Conditions” will include presentations on the following topics:

- Best practices in municipal budgeting
- Best practices in addressing issues of community blight
- Assistance available through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development
- Top ten key responsibilities of elected officials
- Practical uses of the computer cloud in municipal management

The conference will include a buffet dinner and registration is \$25. Please call the Progress Council office for registration information.

Progress Council History Brief - September 12, 1966, The Progress Council forms the Middle Monongahela Industrial Development Association

On September 12, 1966, the Progress Council formed Middle Monongahela Industrial Development Association (MIDA). The idea of forming a valley-wide industrial corporation to promote industrial development with an eye on redevelopment of the former Donora US Works had been in the works since April 1965.

The Progress Council then spearheaded the transfer of the former Donora US Works to MIDA. Bob Miller, The Progress Council’s first Executive Director, also directed the efforts of MIDA. MIDA would go on to secure millions of dollars in grants and loans to develop the former steel works. It would be the first industrial brownfield development project in the nation. By 2013, there were thirty-five businesses providing 660 jobs located at Donora Industrial Park.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to your business associates.

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