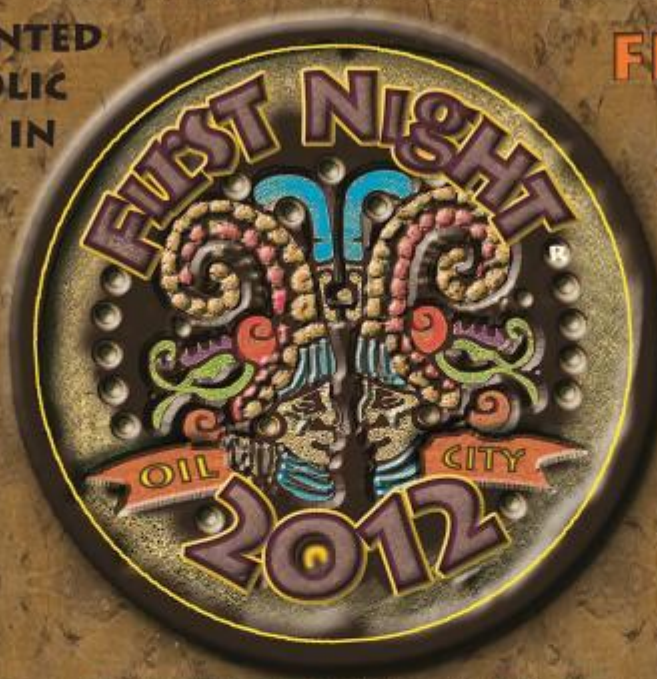


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**STAFF**

<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	<b>SUSAN WILLIAMS</b> <i>swilliams@venangochamber.org</i>
<b>EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT</b>	<b>DOTTIE TAWNEY</b> <i>dtawney@venangochamber.org</i>



## Anniversary Events Planned

All Class Reunion - Saturday, September 8, 2012 rescheduled

50th Anniversary Founders Day Dinner - April 26, 2012

### Cynthia E. Urban '00,'03

#### Clarion University - Venango Campus 2012 Distinguished Alumna

On Thursday, November 10th, 2011 Clarion University - Venango Campus honored Cynthia Urban as it's 2012 Venango Campus Distinguished Alumni. Urban, the president and CEO of Klapec Trucking on Route 8 in Reno, the company her father founded as a teenager, received her associate and bachelor's degrees in nursing from Clarion University in 2000 and 2003.

Over the years, Cindy has done just about every job at the company and you won't ever find a person who loves a business more.

"I work with great people who all work together to make KTC a success. I'm proud to be a part of the team."



Under Cindy's leadership, Klapec Trucking Co. is now able to provide transportation service to Mexico and has received numerous industry recognitions. In 2011, it received the President's Award from the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association (PMTA), naming it the safest trucking company in Pennsylvania. In 2010, it was recognized as a Patriotic Employer by the National Committee for Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve. In January 2010, it was honored for its support of Operation Enduring Freedom by the 911th Airwing Division, in Pittsburgh, with an American flag flown on a C-130 during a combat mission over Afghanistan. Since 2005, Klapec Trucking has consistently received PMTA Safety Management Council's annual Fleet Safety Awards. In 2009, it was recognized by the Pennsylvania Industry Partnership for Leadership.

In 2009, the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce presented Cindy with the Woman in Business Award in recognition of her success in the Venango area business community.

"Education is something no one can take away from you. The more you know, the better you can think critically. Venango Campus is a wonderful place where faculty and staff really care about the students. Venango Campus is a diamond in our town."

Cindy was born in Oil City, the daughter of Julia and J. Bernard "Bert" Klapec. She is married to Chris Urban, owner of Urban Insurance Agency in Seneca. She is the mother of four children: Greg, Marc, and Bridget Lander and Stephanie Baker and has five grandchildren.



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## Meet our Volunteer



Mary Mehlburger, a junior at Oil City Senior High School, is a current volunteer at the Chamber. At the high school, Mary is involved with a variety of clubs, councils, and sports, like Cross Country running, Student Council, Junior Exec, and Math Club.

Mary has been volunteering at the Chamber since her freshman year and enjoys it very much. Mary helps with a variety of office tasks, using her exceptional problem solving and tech savvy skills.

## Chocolate Purchases benefit Aubrey's Adventure

Connie Shull, Independent Consultant for Lindt Chocolate R.S.V.P. announces that 10% of sales through December 15 will be donated to Aubrey's Adventure to help fund the Oil City East End Fountain project. The Holiday catalogue can be viewed online at [www.mylindtchocolatersvp.com/connieshull](http://www.mylindtchocolatersvp.com/connieshull) and orders supporting the fountain project may be placed by calling 814-758-2219. A perfect opportunity to fulfill gift giving needs for family, friends, employees and co-workers and help the fountain project too! Orders may also be placed at the Chocolate Festival as part of Christmas Past on Sunday, Dec. 4th at the Transit Building.

**Route 8 Storage**

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## Venango Video Offers Christmas Greetings

Want to wish your customers a Merry Christmas? A Venango Video Christmas Greeting is the perfect way to do it!

This fantastic opportunity includes on-location filming, and will be played over 100 times on both Franklin and Oil City cable systems. In the past we have had some very creative songs, dances and much more, so here is your chance to show off your businesses personality. This is the way to wish 14,000 households on the cable systems a Merry Christmas and remind them which businesses are supporting their community television station.

With Christmas right around the corner, you don't want to miss your chance.

For more information please contact Willis Thomas at [wthomas@oilregion.org](mailto:wthomas@oilregion.org) or by calling (814)677-3152.

## 2012 Newsletter and Membership Directory Advertising

The Chamber is currently securing advertising for the 2012 Business Connector and 2012 Membership Directory. Current and past advertisers are given first consideration. If you would like information about these affordable promotional opportunities in two highly valued business publications, contact the chamber for pricing and specifications.

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**The Future Leaders' and Entrepreneurs' Exchange (FLEX)** has elected its 2012 Officers. Willis Thomas will serve as President, Jodi Oakes, Vice President and Rebecca Beach as Secretary/Treasurer. Additional positions named include Kate Eckert as Entrepreneurship Committee Chair, Jessica Nelson as Marketing / Networking Committee Chair and Jason Bidish as Events Committee Chair.

FLEX, the Venango Chamber's young professionals group, is dedicated to building a wide network of young professionals who are passionate about being involved and contributing positively to our greater community. They have already begun planning for 2012 and would like to invite anyone 21-40 to join them. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 5:00 P.M. at the Venango Chamber office and First Friday lunches are held at noon on the first Friday of each month at various local restaurants.

Contact the chamber to be added to the FLEX email list for upcoming meeting and event updates.

## Meet FLEX



**Willis Thomas, Marketing & Communications Manager/BREP Coordinator, Oil Region Alliance**

"A long time resident of the Oil Region, I have recently moved back to the area after spending some time working in Pittsburgh and Butler. Glad to be back in the area because I love what potential is here for new business and growth. FLEX is a big part of that opportunity for this region because this is the organization that will help mold the future of what this area looks like in the future."



**Rebecca M. Beach, Mortgage Loan Officer PNC Mortgage, a Division of PNC Bank, NA**

"I am excited to be a part of FLEX to work with other young professionals in the community who care so much about Venango County and advancing it through activities and promotions. "



**Jessica Nelson, Marketing Team Leader, Kapp Alloy & Wire, Inc.**

"For me, being able to come back and work in the area has allowed me to quickly learn and grow professionally through my position at Kapp Alloy. I have also had the opportunity to volunteer for my alma maters, the Venango Catholic Preparatory Schools (St. Stephen School, St. Patrick School, and Venango Catholic High School) by participating on their advancement committee. I love being a part of FLEX because it not only provides great networking opportunities, but is also just a fun, friendly, welcoming community for the young professionals in the Oil Region."



**Jason Bidish, Producer, Barr's Insurance of Titusville**

"I love working with FLEX because it's a great opportunity to not only work with my peers but a great way to make our community a stronger one by reaching out to the youth and finding ways to keep them in the area whether it's to get an education, raise a family or help create a more vibrant business environment. I am excited to be the event coordinator because I love event planning and am thrilled to help make the second annual FLEX Presents Event a great success!"

**Meet more FLEX members in the January Business Connector**



*Because the goodwill of those we serve is the foundation of our success, it is a pleasure at this holiday time to say "Thank You" as we wish you a full year of happiness and success.*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

*Susan, Dottie & The Venango Area Chamber of Commerce  
Board of Directors*

---

## **Planning for a Successful 2012**

The Chamber is busy preparing a plan of work for the upcoming year, including finalizing our 2012 budget. We want to remind members that the Chamber offers many affordable opportunities for promoting your business, including advertising and sponsorship of our many community and member events. As you prepare your 2012 financials, or perhaps identify your final expenditures for 2011, consider how participating in Chamber promotions might benefit your business or organization. Watch for information in advance of these upcoming Venango Chamber events or contact us to reserve your spot now!

February 29	Annual Dinner, Cross Creek Resort,
March 23	FLEX Presents, The Commons at Franklin
June 14	Chamber Annual Golf Outing, Hi-Level Golf Course
July 26-29	Oil Heritage Festival
August 16	Chamber Member Steak Fry
September 15	Cranberry Festival

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## 2012 Chamber Committees Established

At the November Board of Directors meeting the committee structure for 2012 was set, mapping the leadership for the upcoming year. We invite members to contact the Chamber staff or any of our board members to learn how you might serve on the leadership team of the Venango Chamber, through committee service or consideration of a future seat on the Board of Directors. Each of the following committees will be meeting soon to set the plan of work for 2012.

### Executive Committee of the Board

Oversee operations of the board; often acts on behalf of the board during on-demand activities that occur between meetings, and these acts are later presented for full board review; comprised of board chair, other officers and/or committee chairs.

Nicole Russell - President

Lori Sibble – Vice President

Emily Gill – Treasurer

Bob Richards - Secretary

Ray Feroz - appointed by President

Joe Carrico - appointed by President

### Personnel

Guides development, review and authorization of personnel policies and procedures; leads evaluation of the Executive Director.

Bob Richards – Board Secretary

Ryan Jackson

Bill Kapp

Patrick Pelletier

### Finance

Oversees development of the budget; ensures accurate tracking/monitoring/accountability for funds; ensures adequate financial controls; led by the board treasurer.

Emily Gill – Incoming Treasurer

Lori Sibble – Vice President

Nicole Russell - President

Bob Richards - Secretary

Ray Feroz

Beth Harman

Roger McCauley

### Board Development

Ensure effective board processes, structures and roles, including retreat planning, committee development, and board evaluation; includes role of nominating committee, such as keeping list of potential board members, orientation and training.

Ray Feroz  
 Nicole Russell - President  
 Lori Sibble - Vice President  
 Joe Carrico  
 Rod Adams  
 Beth Harman

### Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Committee will be responsible for the ongoing evaluation of the Strategic Plan, monitors progress, reviews results and recommends actions to the Board of Directors, and may recommend the need for beginning the process of setting new strategies.

Dan Brockett  
 David Snedden  
 Butch Hargenrader  
 Dan Estadt  
 Emily Gill – Treasurer

### Additional Committees

Education Roundtable  
 Business Advocacy  
 Oil Heritage and Cranberry Festivals  
 Special Event (Annual Dinner, Golf Outing, Steak Fry)  
 Membership  
 100 year Anniversary Planning

Current committees listed indicate board member involvement. Members at large may serve on the Strategic Planning committee and any of the additional committees listed.

Several committees already meet on a regular schedule, but the 2012 committee meeting schedule will be established soon.

Please contact us with any questions or your interest.

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## Historical Society Plans Christmas House Tours

Venango County Historical Society will hold its annual Christmas House Tours on December 2, 3 and 4, 2011. The hours for the tours will be Friday, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.. Tickets, in the form of the tour program, are \$15.00 and are available for purchase at the Society house located at 301 South Park Street, Franklin, PA.

There will be five houses on the tour this year, all within walking distance of the Society headquarters. The houses may be toured at any time and in any order during the stated times throughout the weekend. Refreshments will be available at the Society during tour times, and there will be several Christmas collections on display as well.

For more information, please contact Venango County Historical Society at 814-437-2275 or [vhistory@conline.net](mailto:vhistory@conline.net).

## Oil Region Ballet Company to Present Cinderella

Oil Region Ballet's third season is under way, and rehearsals have begun for the company's 2012 production of *Cinderella*.

The 22-member company will present its interpretation of the timeless classic on Friday and Saturday, March 2 and 3, at Barrow-Civic Theatre in Franklin, and Friday and Saturday, March 9 and 10, at the Academy Theatre in Meadville. The schedule for both venues includes evening performances on both days and Saturday afternoon matinees.

Advance tickets, including purchases for holiday gift-giving, are available for all performances at both theatres (814-437-3440 or [www.barrowtheatre.com](http://www.barrowtheatre.com), or 814-337-8211 or [www.theacademytheatre.org](http://www.theacademytheatre.org)). ORB made its debut in 2010 with the presentation of *Alice in Wonderland*, and returned to the stage in 2011 with productions of *The Bremen Town Musicians* and *Le Train Bleu*.

## Hagan Employees Receive Certification

**Brent Gaidosh, Richard Reist, David Snedden, Kurt Crawford, Jay Verno, Matt Larson, Jeanne Straw, Julie Sutton, and Charlie Yeager** of Hagan Business Machines of Meadville, Inc. have successfully completed Toshiba's Lean MPS Sales Professional Certification Program. The curriculum consisted of five self-study e-learning modules and three live e-learning sessions with a final exam. Participants gained the knowledge and skill needed to identify the business requirements necessary to successfully provide MPS basic services to small businesses. Hagan's PrintSmarter MPS program provides a business with toner, parts and service for their entire printer fleet, regardless of make or model, on a cost per page basis. Managed Print Services is designed to assist the business end-user to streamline management and minimize costs associated with printing and imaging. Hagan's MPS program can cut ownership costs, enhance productivity and reduce energy consumption. This "new normal" helps customers optimize their print fleet, changes the way they pay for printing and shifts the burden of managing printers to Hagan.

## Mary Kay Consultant Joins Venango Chamber



Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant, Marla McVay, is one of the chamber's newest members. Marla is excited to share information with members about the benefits of the products she sells.

Mary Kay is one of the world's largest direct selling companies with more than \$2.5 billion in annual wholesale sales worldwide. Mary Kay was founded in 1963 by Mary Kay Ash with the goal of helping women achieve personal growth and financial success. Mary Kay remains committed to enriching women's lives, and today more than 2 million people of all backgrounds are enjoying the advantages of being Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultants. Mary Kay's high-quality skin care and color cosmetics products are sold in more than 35 countries around the world.

### Skin Care That Works

Skin care is at the heart of Mary Kay, and the collection includes benefit-driven, customized formulas for women of all ages and skin types. The skin care portfolio includes the TimeWise® collection of age-fighting products, featuring the Miracle Set®, a powerhouse regimen that delivers proven results. And we haven't forgotten the guys – the MKMen® Collection offers products formulated just for them.

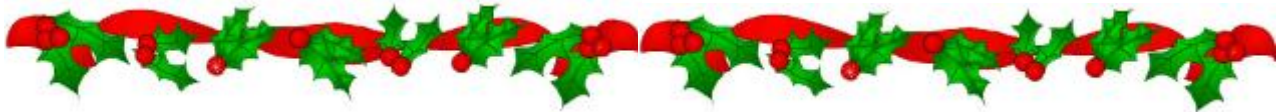
### The Creativity of Color

Mary Kay's Color Collection is always on-trend and packed with benefits, in shades that capture the beauty of women worldwide. From mineral-based formulas to fabulous foundations to lipsticks that captivate with color, there is no end to the ways a woman can make the most of her individual style. And no matter what each day brings, our customizable, eco-chic, refillable compacts make it easy to be beautiful on the go.

### The Perfect Fragrance

Whether the feeling is exuberant or relaxed, there's a Mary Kay® fragrance to fit a woman's many moods. And for men, Mary Kay has distinctive scents that are perfect for him and popular with her.

Marla has been coordinating the Victorian Christmas event held during Christmas Past in Oil City, in recent years. Her products will be on display at the Knights of Columbus in Oil City on Saturday, December 3rd. She is also inviting chamber members to "Look Great with Mary Kay this Holiday Season", at the chamber on Wednesday, December 14th from 6:30-8:30. Check out the event flyer in this newsletter. You can visit Marla online at [www.marykay.com/mmcvay1](http://www.marykay.com/mmcvay1) or reach her by phone at 814-677-4392.



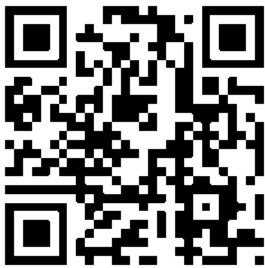
## Christmas Past 2011 Scheduled for December 2 - 4, 2011

Oil City Weed and Seed is proud to be coordinating the events for Christmas Past 2011, held in Oil City. With the help of the neighborhood associations, businesses and community groups, this should be a wonderful weekend to kick off the coming holidays! Applications and information for specific events, as well as a complete schedule, can be found at [www.weedandseed.org](http://www.weedandseed.org) and are available at the Venango Chamber office.

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## December Chamber Events

- Dec 7: Mixer - Cross Creek Resort 5-7PM
- Dec 14: Dr. Rae Wellness Seminar-12-2PM
- Dec 14: Marla McVay-Mary Kay Cosmetic Event  
6:30-8:30PM- Chamber Office
- Dec 15: Board of Directors 8:00 AM Chamber Office
- Dec 19: FLEX 5PM Chamber Office
- Dec 26: Christmas Observance- Chamber Office  
Closed

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS AVAILABLE  
AT [WWW.VENANGOCHAMBER.ORG/CALENDAR](http://WWW.VENANGOCHAMBER.ORG/CALENDAR)



## January Chamber Events

- Jan 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan 16: FLEX 5PM Chamber Office
- Jan 19: Board of Directors Meeting and Retreat

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS AVAILABLE  
AT [WWW.VENANGOCHAMBER.ORG/CALENDAR](http://WWW.VENANGOCHAMBER.ORG/CALENDAR)



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