

FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

FYI

brought to you by the **future leaders & entrepreneurs exchange**

Annual Meeting A Success!

Thank you to all who joined us at our Annual Meeting in October! We hope you had a great time meeting other young professionals, hearing from a local entrepreneur, and learning more about FLEX. Also, please join us in welcoming Casey McVay and Alan McBride, both elected into their second year as officers of FLEX!



It's hard to believe we're approaching the end of another year, but we're very excited for all 2017 has to offer! If you missed the Annual Meeting, we approved some amendments to the FLEX bylaws and announced some exciting changes coming up! These include:

FLEX Membership:

In order to be a "Member in Good Standing," we are now asking young professionals to complete an application and pay a one-time membership fee of \$15. By joining FLEX membership, you will be able to vote at any meeting, serve a leadership position, and chair a committee. After completing the application, you will receive a welcome packet with an official FLEX nametag and materials to help you learn more about FLEX and get involved! You can join membership at any upcoming event or online at www.venangochamber.org/catalog/membership.

Committees:

FLEX has three committees: events/fundraising, membership, and marketing/community partnerships. Each committee will have a chair, which will be chosen at our December monthly meeting (Wednesday, December 14). This is a great way to get even more involved with the group and gain leadership skills!

T-Shirts For Sale

We're selling FLEX polos! They are grey with a green FLEX logo and available in both men's and women's sizes. Shirts are \$25 and we ask that you please pay at the time of ordering. You can order shirts online at venangochamber.org/catalog/membership/flex-polo or by stopping in the Venango Chamber in Oil City anytime Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.! We'll also have the form available at our upcoming events (*see back of newsletter*).

If you are interested in getting more involved or would like additional information about any of these changes or to see a copy of the bylaws, feel free to email Ashley at acowles@venangochamber.org.



Allison Hilinski, Branch Manager of the Farmers National Bank Emlenton Office, is a young professional excited to get involved in the community, and we're happy to have her here! Allison grew up in New Bethlehem, but is now a homeowner in Emlenton as of last June. She attended Clarion University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Business Management and Human Resources Management.

Not only is Allison working hard at Farmers National Bank, in which she recently completed the Management Training Program, she's also starting to help out in the area, as a member of the ACRVR Blue Print Community Initiative and the Boys and Girls Club in Emlenton.

In her free time, Allison enjoys spending time with her fiancé and their dog, Otis, walking on the bike trails by the river, hiking in the area, and fishing in Kahle Lake. She likes to read, cook, travel to new places, attend community festivals and events, and spend time with family and friends, and you may also find her dining at the Little It Deli and Benjamin's Roadhouse, two of her favorite local restaurants.

Looking to the future, Allison's goal is to continue her career at Farmers National Bank, while also being involved and helping her community and Venango County in any way possible. "I love living and working within this area, and plan to be here for years to come," she said. "I enjoy working in Venango County because of the opportunities to be involved and get to know other people, as well personal or professional opportunities so that I can grow myself and my career." We're excited to have such an enthusiastic young professional in our area!

Testimonials and Photos Needed!

We're excited to launch a new initiative promoting the Venango Area, called *Be Here!* We'll be officially launching in January and are currently working on a website and other promotional materials. We are in need of photos of you living, working, or playing in the area. Examples include walking on the trails, kayaking, speaking at an event, helping a customer at your business, working on a project, volunteering, or more! We ask that you please send high quality photos, if possible. We are looking for photos that are no less than 1MB in size, but we can try to work with anything.

We are also looking for testimonials! We would love for you to share your story and how you have made a life and become successful in our area. Please email any photos and testimonials to Ashley at acowles@venangochamber.org.



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Things to Do in the Venango Area



How often do you hear "there's nothing to do in this area"? We may not be a huge city, but there's almost always something to do to keep you entertained! Did you know the Venango Chamber has a community calendar on its website? Not only can you see events happening, but you can also add your own events! Visit www.venangochamber.org and click "submit your event to the community calendar" in the right sidebar. We also encourage you to add events your work, church, or other organizations are holding!



Please join us in welcoming young professional **Brinnan Stauffer** to the area! Brinnan moved here six months ago to open up the new Verizon Wireless Store next to Tractor Supply in Cranberry where he works as the Store Manager. He grew up in Ebensburg, PA, about two hours away, and studied at Pittsburgh Technical College as well as the Admiral Peary Vocational Technical School for computer programming.

Throughout his time as a professional, Brinnan has many accomplishments to be proud of! He was employee of the month multiple times, received awards for the highest positive reviewed employee through customer surveys, and, while working for AT&T for 5 years, he was named the highest grossing employee in West United States

Campaign which included California and Nevada.

As a huge sports fan and player, Brinnan has earned a trophy for the highest total goals scored for his soccer league, made the PA All-Stars traveling team for baseball, and placed second in a nationally ranked skateboard competition. In any free time Brinnan has, he spends it being a “huge nerd” playing video games, going to the movies, watching TV, playing his guitar, or spending time with his wife. He also enjoys dining at Benjamin's Roadhouse in Franklin or El Toro in Cranberry, and doing some occasional shopping at the Grove City Outlets.

Brinnan has big plans for the future, both personally and professionally. He would love to own a home near a beach with his wife and become a District Manager for his current franchise. He's enjoyed living in our area, in which the people are a main perk. “The community is very close and everyone seems genuine and caring about helping each other out.” Please help us make Brinnan feel like home in Venango County!



Coffee Chat

Thanks to all who joined us at the first FLEX Coffee Chat! The next social is a Happy Hour on Wednesday, November 9 (see back for details)

Contribute to FYI!

Do you have advice, tips, a story, or another type of content you'd like to share with young professionals? We'd love to include it in an upcoming edition of the FLEX FYI newsletter! This can be a one time contribution, or each month for a certain number of months.



We're also looking for young professional profiles! If you have a friend, family member, or co-worker who is under 40 in the Venango Area, we'd love to introduce them in FYI! Just email acowles@venangochamber.org or give them this link: www.venangochamber.org/fyi-profile-form



Dr. Kate Eckert
drkeckert@gmail.com
www.chirodrkate.com

1047 Allegheny Avenue
 Oil City, PA 16301
 P: 814.657.1854
 F: 814.676.6200

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Upcoming Events & Meetings



Bike 'n Brew Meeting

Tuesday, November 1

5:30 - 7:00pm

Hoss's Steak and Sea House, Cranberry

We'll be discussing date, location, food, music, and more for next year's Bike 'n Brew! The meal will be dutch treat.



Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, November 23

12:00 - 1:00PM

Venango Chamber, Oil City

Get involved and join us to discuss upcoming events and opportunities for the organization!

Please note: monthly meetings are usually the third Wednesday of each month, but may be changed depending on schedule conflicts.



Happy Hour

Wednesday, November 9

5:30 - 7:00PM

McNerney's Tavern, Oil City

Join us for this informal social to network with other young professionals, support a local business, and unwind after your work day! Food will be available for purchase.



Christmas Gift Wrapping

Wednesday, November 30

5:00 - 7:00PM

Cranberry Mall (across from Jo-Ann Fabrics)

Wrap gifts with us this holiday season!

Please RSVP to events to Ashley at acowles@venangochamber.org or (814) 676-8521

OUR MISSION

FLEX represents the needs and interests of Young Professionals by positioning ourselves as leaders, entrepreneurs and advocates for the sustainability of the Venango Area through civic engagement, leadership development, and networking.

Chamber events: Check out the Chamber's Calendar of Events at www.venangochamber.org

email: flex@venangochamber.org



VenangoFLEX