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**A Message from the Executive Director**



One of the most alarming problems facing many communities today is the problem with the use and abuse of illegal

drugs and prescription painkillers. There is a serious drug problem in the Philipsburg region. A couple of years ago, we started to hear from area employers that they were having difficulty finding good workers because many young workers were not able to pass drug tests. Public service announcements urging heroin users or addicts to get help have been common on the radio for over four years.

There have been many deaths in our area from drug overdoses. Earlier this year, heroin was passed from an employee of a business located at the Enterprise Center to someone else working in the building. The State Police were contacted but no arrest was made.

We need to figure out a way to combat the drug problem in this area. With that in mind, I approached the MVEDP's board of directors at our meeting of August 16<sup>th</sup> and asked that we somehow get involved in an effort to raise awareness and combat the drug problem in the area.

Continued on Page 2

**JOBS1stPA:  
Employer Driven Training  
for Growth in the Central PA  
Region**

A new state job training initiative aims to help employers improve their workforce. The new JOBS1stPA program will bring together employers, workforce development organizations and economic development offices such as the MVEDP to provide training funds to businesses that need to upgrade the skill levels of their employees.

The MVEDP is now working with the Central PA Workforce Investment Board, SEDA-Council of

Continued on Page 2

**MVEDP Re-Certified  
by PA DCED**

By letter dated September 3, 2014, the MVEDP was informed by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) that it has been re-certified for fiscal year 2014-15. Approximately seven years ago, DCED began a certification process to ensure that economic development organizations had the expertise, skills, and experience to administer certain state financing programs such as

Continued on Page 3

**Inside this issue:**

Message from the Executive Director	1
JOBS1stPA	1
MVEDP Re-Certified by PA DCED	1
Now Accepting Housing Rehab Applications	2
Penn National Insurance Dividend Paid to MVEDP	3
International Trade Representatives to be in the Region	3
Get Paid for Helping the MVEDP	7
Welcome New Members	8



**JOBS1st PA**  
Continued from page 1

Governments and other economic development groups to further this job training initiative. First up is finalizing a survey instrument that will be used to identify those businesses who might need training for their workers. Once the survey document is finalized, the MVEDP will be involved in surveying area businesses to identify any training needs. If a company has a need for training, work will then be done to organize the training that is applicable to the company's needs.

Over the next few months, MVEDP staff will be involved in surveying area businesses to determine if there is a need for training programs. An improved workforce and hopefully the creation of new job opportunities are the bottom-line goals of this effort.

**Now Accepting  
Housing Rehab Applications**



Staff of the MVEDP is currently taking applications from homeowners interested in participating in the Philipsburg

Borough Housing Rehab Phase V project. The Borough proposes to target the ELM Street area in the Borough and also the area contiguous to the Elm Street area in adjoining Rush Township.

The MVEDP's housing rehabilitation program provides grant assistance to homeowners to bring their homes up to code. Improvements may include new furnaces, electrical, plumbing, roof, foundations and new windows and doors.

Homeowners must be income eligible to participate in the program. Eligibility guidelines and targeted area can be secured by contacting Sherrie Beals of the MVEDP at 342-2260 or applications can be downloaded from our website [www.mvedp.org](http://www.mvedp.org).

**Message**  
Continued from page 1

The board of directors directed the staff to make the right contacts with those involved with this problem on a daily basis, such as the Centre County Drug and Alcohol office.

The goal is to enlighten area residents about the problem that exists in this area; to bring together professionals who can offer their expertise to the community on ways to prevent or deal with the drug and alcohol problem, and, to let the drug folks know that the citizens of this area are sick of the harm that is being caused to people and families living here.

The MVEDP contacted our elected officials and asked that they take the lead on organizing a public hearing concerning the drug problem. A public hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 29th at 6:00 p.m. at Gethsemane United Methodist Church located along the Allport Cutoff across the road from the West Branch School. Our thanks to Representative Tommy Sankey, Representative Scott Conklin, and Senator John Wozniak for organizing this public meeting.

**MVEDP  
Board of Directors Election**

The annual MVEDP board of directors election will take place in October. Five of the fifteen board seats are up for election. The staff has learned that Jerry McKinney, Dr. Bob Steward Jr., and Steve Lyncha will seek to retain their seats. The election ballots will be mailed in early October, the voting will take place, and then the results reviewed by the board of directors at their meeting in November. The new board will begin their term on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Members: please make every effort to return the ballots! Thank you.

## Penn National Insurance Dividend Paid to MVEDP



Bill Jones of Charles A. Jones Insurance Agency presents a dividend check to Stan LaFuria, Executive Director of the MVEDP. All members of the MVEDP that have insurance coverage through Penn National Insurance, and that are also members of the Chamber Choice organization, are eligible to receive an annual dividend disbursement. For the last two years, Penn National/Chamber Choice, has paid out 11% dividends.

## MVEDP Re-Certified

Continued from page 1

the PA Industrial Development Authority low interest loan program. The MVEDP has been certified by DCED every year since the certification program was first developed. In order to be certified with DCED, the organization must complete at least 20 credits of training each year with 6 of those credits in the area of finance.

The MVEDP's staff is constantly involved in training to ensure that it is up to date on financing programs and economic and community development programs.

## International Trade Representatives to be in the Region

Each year, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania brings its international trade representatives back to the state to provide companies here with an opportunity to develop new international trade relationships. These international trade development officials live in countries located throughout the world. Pennsylvania's international trade representatives will meet with local company officials to determine if there are new sales and development opportunities.

Central PA International Trade Conference  
September 19, 2014  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Celebration Hall  
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“Bringing the World to You”  
Friday, September 26, 2014  
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## Small Business Development Center Training

**Tuesday, September 16, 2014**

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200 Technology Center, Room 243

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**Thursday, September 18, 2014**

*Advanced QuickBooks*, 200 Technology Center, Room 243, 8:00 a.m.—Noon, \$79 per person, per class or \$139 per person for two classes, or \$215 for all three classes.

**Friday, October 3, 2014**

*Tax and Bookkeeping Considerations for Small Business*, 200 Technology Center, Room 243  
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.—\$69.00

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