



**Special
points of
interest:**

- Free Advertising
- Thank You
- Save the Date

FY 2014 Board of Directors Announced



Seated: Steven Lynch, Jeff Herr, Rusty Christoff, Jared Ricotta
Standing: Rick Kistler, Robert Steward, Jim Pollock, Karen Blair, Jerry McKinney, John Shimko, Tom Scott, Michael Kovalcin
Missing from Photo: Michael Conte, Bill Jones, Mark Nartatez

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The representation on the MVEDP's board of directors is very diverse and includes bankers, a civil engineer, attorney, investment advisor, business owners, surgeons, physicians assistant, utility company official, school district business manager, and former hospital administrator.

Three of the board members have been re-elected to the board every three years since the MVEDP was created in 1988: Bill Jones, Jim Pollock and Tom Scott.

A Message from the Executive Director



One of the Partnership's top priorities for Fiscal Year 2014 is to assist in the effort to retain The GEO Group facility located in the Decatur Township area of the Moshannon Valley.

DuBois Business College Sets Ribbon-Cutting Date

The DuBois Business College has set a date for a ribbon-cutting ceremony: Friday, March 21st at 5:00 p.m. A Business after Hours event will start at DBC Philipsburg at 4:00 p.m. and will conclude at 7:00 p.m. The MVEDP is very much looking forward to the startup of the DuBois Business College Philipsburg campus.

Continued on Page 7

MVEDP FY 2014 Officers



Seated Row: Steven Lyncha, V.P., Jeff Herr, President, Rusty Christoff 1st V.P.

Standing Row: Jim Pollock, Assistant Treasurer, Jerry McKinney, Treasurer

Missing from Photo: Michael Conte, V.P.

Make it in America Initiative

The MVEDP will be participating in a new federal initiative aimed at attracting international investment and generating economic growth across Pennsylvania's 52 rural counties. The project has commenced and will cover a three-year period. The MVEDP is partnering with SEDA-Council of Governments, the Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County, and numerous other organizations from across the state. Goals of the project will include attracting foreign companies to Pennsylvania, encouraging Pennsylvania companies that have offshored all or part of their operations to re-shore to the state, and the matching of Pennsylvania's economic development assets with the needs and objectives of the world's manufacturing community. Economic development professionals will be trained in protocol in dealing with foreign companies. Local private-sector company officials who already deal with foreign companies will be invaluable to the Make it in America initiative.

MVEDP Has Low-Cost \$\$ to Lend

The MVEDP's Revolving Loan Fund program has been available to local businesses since 1988. The matching loan funding can be used for working capital, machinery and equipment or land and buildings. The current interest rate is 3%! One of the most outstanding features of the loan program is the quick turnaround time. Once a reviewable application is received, the loan committee will meet and if the loan is approved, the money provided to the borrower in less than 30 days. Contact the MVEDP at 342-2260 if you have a business seeking loan financing.

Check us out, we're on the web!

WWW.MVEDP.ORG

New Small Business Locating to the Enterprise Center

Nickerson Fine Homes is a new business tenant of the MVEDP's Moshannon Valley Enterprise Center. Bill Nickerson is from the State College area and he decided to start a new business venture that involved buying into a franchise: Tailored Living (www.tailoredliving.com). Mr. Nickerson checked into building space in the State College area and couldn't find anything even remotely close to the quality of the MVEDP's Enterprise Center space.



MVEDP Readies New Housing Rehab Program



The MVEDP staff is getting ready to begin the implementation of its new housing rehabilitation program which targets neighborhoods in both Philipsburg Borough and Rush Township. Using \$350,000 in federal HOME Investments Partnership Program funds, the MVEDP will be working to assist income eligible, single-family homeowners.

The target area begins in the borough at N. Centre Street (Third Street) and extends out to the YMCA, with Presqueisle Street the boundary to the east, and Railroad Street to the west. Homeowners in the area of Rush Township near the former hospital and out to the Enterprise Center will also be considered. The funding is allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis. Anyone interested in this funding should contact Sherrie Beals at the Partnership at 342-2260.

Suite B Available at the Regional Business Center



The MVEDP has one remaining space available in the Regional Business Center: Suite B which is 1,686 square feet. This space contains a first class office area.

The area has eight separate offices. A kitchen/break room facility is also located within the space. A finder's fee will be paid to anyone who assists the MVEDP in bringing a business to this rental space.

FY 2014 MVEDP Priorities

The MVEDP's board of directors met on January 21st in a regular meeting and set the program of work for Fiscal Year 2014. The priorities for the year were reviewed again at the February 18th board meeting. The Partnership's three-year strategic plan is an important guide in setting the priorities for the year.

Retention of The GEO Group

Business retention, assist our existing businesses

Attract businesses to the Moshannon Valley Enterprise Center

Assist DuBois Business College with their new startup

Enhance the MVEDP's web site and create mobile app capability

Assist PMG Pennsylvania Corporation with their expansion

Assist Penn Highlands with their planned expansion in Rush Township

Begin the implementation of the new Philipsburg/Rush Twp. housing rehab program

Monitor the PA Dept. of General Services and the demolition and clearing project at the site of the former hospital

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Advertising Opportunity

Reserve your space in the "**Moshannon Valley Progress.**" Take advantage of absolutely **free** advertising for your business. Contact the Partnership for details. Contact Sharon Yingling at 814-342-2260 or send an email to sharonf@mvedp.org.

Advertising is free to Partnership members only. Limited space available so call today.

Penn National Insurance

A Message

Continued from Page 1

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- Outstanding, local claim and customer support service

*Subject to individual risk characteristics, loss experience and underwriting guidelines.

What to know more? Contact Charles Jones Insurance Agency at 814-342-1880 or visit PennNationalInsurance.com.

The GEO Group is currently under contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) to provide corrections services to the illegal aliens housed within the facility. The FBOP has requested proposals from private corrections companies, and one of the competing companies is Corrections Corporation of America which operates a similar facility in Youngstown, Ohio. Should the FBOP make the wrong decision, the Moshannon Valley could lose the local GEO Group facility.

The GEO Group team has asked the community to express its support of the local corrections facility. Letters can be sent to our federal elected officials: Senator Bob Casey, Senator Pat Toomey, and Congressman Glenn Thompson. Another option is to send a letter directly to the Federal Bureau of Prisons at the following address: Michael Bodine, Contracting Officer, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 1st Street, NW, Room 5005, Washington, DC 20534.

We have included in this newsletter the letter that we sent to Congressman Glenn Thompson and it can be used as a model for your letter. It is very important to mention that there are 260 dedicated employees that work at The GEO Group facility. Approximately \$600,000 in taxes is paid annually. Losing The GEO Group's facility would be a devastating blow to this region.



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MVEDP Sends Letter of Support for The GEO Group

January 3, 2014

Congressman Glenn Thompson
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: The GEO Group – Moshannon Valley Correctional Facility
Federal Bureau of Prisons - Solicitation**

Dear Congressman Thompson:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership (MVEDP), I want to express to you our strong support of The GEO Group's proposal under Solicitation No. RFP-PCC-0022. The GEO Group is bidding to continue to provide services for the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) at the Moshannon Valley Correctional Facility, located in the Philipsburg area of central-Pennsylvania. It is our understanding that the contract is being rebid against another Bureau of Prisons (BOP) contract facility in Youngstown, Ohio, and only one of these existing facilities will be selected to continue providing services to the BOP in the northeast region of the United States.

As our Congressman and one of the most important advocates for our state, I am asking that you consider encouraging the Bureau of Prisons to award a new contract term to The GEO Group so that the Moshannon Valley Correctional Facility will be kept in place.

It was in 1998 when the MVEDP first began working to assist the previous owner Cornell Companies in their venture to bring a new privately owned corrections facility to the Moshannon Valley. We worked for seven years to help Cornell in their effort because we knew then about the significance of the new jobs to be created to this rural area. Years later the GEO Group purchased Cornell Companies and the result was an even better managed Moshannon Valley Correctional facility.

The GEO Group-owned facility provides employment for some 260 dedicated citizens of this area. If the Moshannon Valley Correctional Facility were to close, the loss of jobs would be devastating to the local economy, especially to the employees and their families who have dedicated years of exceptional service to this facility and to the BOP. In addition, The GEO Group pays approximately \$600,000 per year in property taxes which is another direct benefit to our community. Almost \$1.5 million is spent annually on utility costs which again benefits our local economy.

Congressman Thompson
January 2, 2014

Page 2

As a current provider of correctional services for the Bureau, GEO's Moshannon Valley Correctional Facility has established an exceptional and longstanding record of providing high quality services to the federal government, stable job opportunities to local citizens, and a vital economic impact to the local community.

Your support and endorsement of the facility would increase the probability of the award being granted to the GEO Group thereby maintaining the Moshannon Valley Correctional facility. The award would further promote economic growth and stability in the state of Pennsylvania. I respectfully request your endorsement of the GEO Group's Moshannon Valley Correctional Center to the Bureau of Prisons. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Stanley M. LaFuria
Executive Director

Get Paid for Helping the MVEDP!

The MVEDP helps the private sector to generate new employment opportunities by providing sites and building space to businesses. Anyone who brings a lead (business owner) to the MVEDP that buys a lot in our Business Park, or rents space in either of our two multi-tenant buildings **will be paid a 5% finder's fee**. For example, if a new lease is signed and \$30,000 in rent will be paid over a two-year period, the "finder" will be paid a lump sum fee of \$1,500.00! The MVEDP considers everyone in the community to be its partner in working to enhance the economy of this region. Bring us a new business tenant or business owner that purchases land in our Regional Business Park and **GET PAID!**

Fair Housing Notice

This notice will serve to advise the residents of Philipsburg Borough that the following actions, if based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status (families with children), or handicap are considered discriminatory:

- Refusing to sell or rent to, deal, or negotiate with any persons;
- Discriminating on terms or conditions for buying or renting housing,
- Discriminating by advertising that housing is only available to persons of a certain race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, or handicap;
- Blockbusting for profit (persuading owners to sell or rent by telling them that minority groups are moving into the neighborhood);
- Denying to anyone the use of, or participation in, any real estate service, multiple listing service, or other facility related to the selling or renting of housing.

SAVE THE DATE!

The MVEDP's 26th annual awards event will be held: Friday, April 25th at noon at the Cen-Clear administrative facility located along Rt. 322 just west of Philipsburg. Save the date! The MVEDP always looks forward to honoring very deserving people who make the Moshannon Valley a great place to live and work.

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