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*Your Business Partner*

June/July 2018

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
ALLE KISKI STRONG CHAMBER

## WHY YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

You could spend hundreds, if not thousands of dollars in advertising to get the message out about your company's products and services. Or, you could invest \$15+ per month (depending company size) in membership dues - and some of your time - being an active member of the Alle Kiski Strong Chamber!

Think of all the possibilities! We offer multiple networking opportunities at events, volunteer positions on committees to raise your profile and connect with many others, educational seminars, membership directory listing, sponsorships, discounted Expo display space – the list goes on and on. Like anything else, in order to get results out of your Chamber membership, you need to put some effort into it. It's simple to do! Attend monthly networking events, place an insert in the newsletter, take advantage of the low cost advertising in the Chamber's membership directory to promote your business, or even serve on a committee.

**We invite you to leverage your membership in the Alle Kiski Strong Chamber and get more involved!**

Be the positive force in your business and community that lays the groundwork for economic prosperity! I am proud to say that in difficult, as well as good, economic times, the Chamber continues to attract and recruit new members and we are continually looking for ways to create better events and opportunities for our members. Isn't that the type of organization we would all like to be associated with? The good news is that YOU ARE part of that group and we want you to continue to be an active participant.

It is said, "The world is run by those who show up." We will see you at the next Chamber event!

Chamber Membership is open to businesses that maintain a voluntary annual dues investment. Benefits of membership include networking opportunities, community involvement, image enhancement, political advocacy, information access, numerous discounts and benefits and heightened credibility.

We are committed to providing the highest level of service and support in promoting members, recruiting new businesses, and increasing area commerce. The Chamber provides increased visibility to new member businesses and existing members.

### Additional Benefits of Membership:

Advertising Opportunities  
ChamberChoice programs  
Educational Seminars  
Events and Festivals  
Legislative Functions  
Member Referrals

Membership Directory  
Networking Opportunities  
Sponsorship Opportunities  
The Strong Connection Newsletter  
Updates and Information by weekly "E-Blast"  
Website Directory Listing and Profile

Visit our website at [www.allekiskistrong.com](http://www.allekiskistrong.com)



## Alle Kiski Strong Chamber

### OFFICERS

**Chair - Janice Wirth**

Allegheny Valley Hospital

**Vice Chair - Ron Scanlon**

McCall Scanlon & Tice, LLC

**Treasurer - Robert W. Sodini**

Sodini & Company, Inc.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Deborah A. Askin**

Citizens Family Health Clinic

**Georgie Blackburn**

Blackburn's Physicians Pharmacy

**Brian Clark**

Brian Clark & Associates

**Pat Hollinger**

Penn State New Kensington

**Joe Kallen**

Asset Management Associates Corp.

**Fred Kneppshield**

Valarena Roller Rink

**John Mango**

First Commonwealth Bank

**Rick O'Domes**

PA CareerLink Alle Kiski

**Wade Woolford**

Highland Tire

### STAFF

Executive Director - **Lynda J. Pozzuto**

Membership Coordinator - **Rebecca Borland**

Administrative Assistant - **Toni Borrelli**

### ADVERTISING RATES:

Business card: \$50 \* Inserts: \$100

Sponsorship Ad: 1/2 page back cover: \$200

**Alle Kiski Strong Chamber**

**308 Pittsburgh Mills Circle**

**Tarentum, PA 15084**

Phone: 724-224-3400

Fax: 724-224-3442

E-mail: [Staff@akstrong.com](mailto:Staff@akstrong.com)

*"The Strong Connection" newsletter is published by the Alle Kiski Strong Chamber. Advertising and news articles from members are accepted with all material subject to approval.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Chamber Golf Outing

**June 25, 2018**

Hill Crest Country Club

8:30 am Registration

10:00 am Shotgun Start

**\$100 pp**

Includes:

Round of Golf, Cart, Lunch

Steak Dinner, Beverages, Prizes

*Sponsorship Opportunities Available*

### Coffee & Connections

#### Cooper Station

**June 20, 2018**

8:30 am—10:00 am

FREE for Chamber Members

*Where Members Meet to Network*

### Coffee & Connections

#### Biblical Life Institute

**July 18, 2018**

8:30 am—10 am

Free for Chamber Members

### Coffee & Connections

#### Community Health Clinic

**August, 2018**

8:30 am—10 am

Free for Chamber Members

### New Kensington Wine & Beer Festival

**September 14, 2018**

6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Corridors of Innovation Area-5th Ave.

\$20.00 per person for tastings

Live Music, Local Authors and Artist, Vendors and Street Performers

If you would like to help with this FANTASTIC new event please feel free to reach out to Lynda at 724-224-3400 or [lynda@akstrong.com](mailto:lynda@akstrong.com)

## ARTICLE IDEAS?

We are also always looking for Chamber members who are interested in writing an article! You, as a business person, have useful, interesting, and thought provoking knowledge, information, and ideas. Why not share them with your fellow businesses? It's a great way to get your name out there, form social connections, and inform fellow business owners of some of what's made you so successful.

If your business has changed recently, is hosting an interesting event, or has a truly unique outlook on how it practices business, we can talk about doing a business profile to feature you in the newsletter. Due to time and space constraints, advertorial style articles which simply advertise your business cannot be accommodated right now. However, if you'd like to place an advertisement in the newsletter give a call to the office and we can get you set up with a paid advertising spot.

Please don't hesitate to contact me to get feedback on articles for possible inclusion in the newsletter. I will do some editing, so it doesn't have to be perfect, but do your best to write clearly and professionally. Make sure your article has a title and a unifying theme, and is related either to your business or business in general. Personal and political pieces aren't appropriate for this particular publication.

Is there a topic you think we should be writing about, but you're nervous about doing it yourself? Shoot me an email and perhaps we can write something together! I may also write pieces suggested by members, but in the end this is really about involving you and getting your unique voices out there. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

— *Rebecca Borland, Membership Coordinator*

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## Young Entrepreneurs



Two area high school students reached a milestone in their transformation into business owners.

The students who completed the Alle Kiski Strong Chamber Young Entrepreneur Program were recognized for their 8-plus weeks of work in the

program with a graduation ceremony at IUP Northpointe.

The graduates above are Nicholas Karns and Jenna Rady. Nicholas was a Senior at Lenape Technical School who would like to own and operate his own business doing auto detailing at the customers home or place of business at a fair price. Jenna was a Junior at Leechburg School District and would like to start a business with a hunting app. The app she is working on is different than anything else on the market right now. With her app you would be notified in advance when license applications are due, track your previous hunt outcomes, track you path from your vehicle, access local weather forecasts, etc.

The Young entrepreneur program is a 4 month program that meets twice monthly for high school students in grades 11th and 12th. The program takes the students through the process of starting and launching a business. The students work with local mentors and entrepreneurs in various industries.

Anna Smith, Lenape Tech Entrepreneur Instructor, and small business owners facilitated the sessions and supported the students as they developed a business plan. The program also aimed to expose students to real-world experiences while increasing their public speaking skills, confidence and drive to succeed.

For more information about the program or to find out how to become a student in this FREE program please contact Lynda Pozzuto at 724-224-3400 or [lynda@akstrong.com](mailto:lynda@akstrong.com).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### John Connolly

jconnolly@post-gazette.com

(412) 480-0767

### Keri Mason, LCSW

2207 Freeport Road, Suite C  
Natrona Heights, PA 15065

(724) 681-7164

### Macy's - Galleria at Pittsburgh Mills

113 Pittsburgh Mills Circle  
Tarentum, PA 15084

(724) 274-1000



### MJ Cares

1701 Freeport Road  
Natrona Heights, PA 15065

(724) 230-8000



### Scene75 Entertainment Center

1757 S. Braddock Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15218

(412) 477-9998



### Shelton Plumbing, Inc

1556 Greensburg Rd,  
New Kensington, PA 15068

(724) 335-7177



### Superheroes Believe in Miracles

228 Green Parrot Lane  
Natrona Heights, PA 15065

(724) 409-2908



### Tarenbee

300 E 8th Ave  
Tarentum, PA 15084

(412) 951-7547



### Tauberg Chiropractic & Rehabilitation

55 Alpha Drive West  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

(412) 517-8124



### The Tire Stop, LLC

2015 A Freeport Rd  
New Kensington, PA 15068

(724) 594-0325



### TriStar Ford Kittanning

151 Walnut Street  
Kittanning, PA 16201

(724) 543-1015



### Web.com

901 Pennsylvania Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

(724) 321-3900



### Wolf Financial Services

4164 Route 66  
Apollo, PA 15613

(724) 727-9653



## PLEASE WELCOME

### Rebecca Borland Membership Coordinator



The Chamber is happy to welcome Rebecca Borland as the new Membership Coordinator.

Rebecca has resided in the Alle Kiski area her entire life. She grew up in Natrona Heights and has lived in Arnold for the last 16 years with her

husband, Howard. They have an almost 6 year old son, Ethan, who keeps them busy!

She graduated from Highlands High School in Natrona Heights and Thiel College in Greenville, PA with a Bachelor of Arts in English.

Rebecca has more than 20 years in sales, customer service, business management, corporate training and curriculum design, and employee engagement event planning.

Being new, Rebecca knows how important it is to be connected to the right people. Her goal as Membership Coordinator is for new chamber members to have the support and information they need to be successful. She welcomes your ideas and concerns, and invites you to let her know what works well and your thoughts on how we can strengthen the Chamber. Give her a call at 724-224-3400 or send her an email to rebecca@akstrong.com.

Rebecca says, "It has been a pleasure meeting all of the current members that I have had the opportunity to interact with as well as those new members that have come aboard in my first few months. I look forward to getting to know more and more members and helping the Chamber grow!"

### Toni Borrelli Administrative Assistant



The Chamber is pleased to welcome Toni Borrelli as the new Administrative Assistant.

Her office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday and 8:00 am to Noon, Thursday.

Toni comes to the Chamber with 30+ years of experience in administrative support, business management, sales, customer service, project management, event planning, and teaching. She is a graduate of Carlow University, with a Bachelors of Science in Business Management.

Toni and her husband, Frank, have been residents of Sarver for the last 25 years and have three adult children.

Her duties as the Chamber Admin includes assisting with database management, event registration, processing payments, answering phones, weekly Eblast, assisting with networking events, and other daily Chamber operations.

She is excited to be a part of this active and engaged Chamber community. Please feel free to reach out to Toni with any questions, and stop by to say hello.

Toni is looking forward to getting to know and help as many of the members as possible!



## AK STRONG YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Develop your leadership skills to help achieve your professional goals by becoming a trusted and respected addition to the group of industry leaders.

Gone are the days when you can find your new bestie bonding over chemistry lab work. Whether you are in a new city or simply a new phase of your professional life, joining a networking group can connect you with a whole new group of friends.

A Young Professionals group gives you the building blocks for success—a way to promote your business, a chance to meet like minded individuals, education, motivation, and FUN!



### The Escape Room Pittsburgh Mills



NETWORKING IS  
MORE ABOUT  
FARMING THAN  
IT IS ABOUT  
HUNTING.

- Ivan Misner

### Wooden Door Winery



The term “**Young Professional**” gets misused frequently. Many young workers across the state (and country) don’t necessarily see themselves as professionals if they are not sitting in an office or wearing a suit and tie. **We** like to think of young professionals as a group of like-minded individuals who come together for a common focus and conversation on issues specific to our demographic, regardless of profession.

Whether your goals are to grow your career and build up your network or to help your community and make new friends, joining these groups can help you stay motivated to reach your personal, professional and community goals.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### Andrew Hersch

Web & Graphic Designer  
Kittanning, PA 16201  
www.theperfectwebsitename.com  
(484) 540-5263

### Armstrong County Building and Loan Association

935 5th Ave  
Ford City, PA 16226  
(724) 763-7137



### Brian Copus - US Health Advisors

Natrona Heights, PA 15065  
www.usagency.com/briancopus  
(412) 215-3748



### BS Outfitters

259 South Jefferson St  
Kittanning, PA 16201  
(724) 793-7984



### Chapel Valley Honey

300 E. 8th Avenue  
Tarentum, PA 15084  
(412) 951-7547



### Community Foundation: Serving the Heart of Western Pennsylvania

220 South Jefferson St  
Kittanning, PA 16201  
(724) 548-5897



### Escape Room Immersion

590 Pittsburgh Mills Blvd  
Tarentum, PA 15084  
Store Front 356  
(412) 951-1929



### The Geezer Squad

New Kensington, PA  
(412) 298-3548



### The Girls' Lunchbox

Food Truck  
clepolite@gmail.com  
(724) 553-6871



### Guardian Storage Allegheny Valley

1390 Old Freeport Rd  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
(412) 826-7368



### Heather Connell - AFLAC

Brackenridge, PA 10514  
heather\_connell@us.aflac.com  
(724) 257-1177



### IE Power, LLC

1187 Butler Road  
Freeport, PA 16229  
(724) 295-6455



## MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS



### American Cancer Society

The American Cancer

Society has raised over \$6.3 billion dollars since 1985 for life-saving research, Patient programs, and education through their Relay For Life program alone. But did you know there is more to the American Cancer Society than Relay For Life? We are home to other signature events such as Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Greater Pittsburgh, Coaches vs. Cancer of Pittsburgh, the Larry Richert Celebrity Golf Classic, Daffodil Days, and Determination Pittsburgh. Along with fundraising we offer many patient programs including Road to Recovery – providing FREE rides to and from treatment, and our Hope Lodge program – housing cancer patients and their caregiver for FREE while going through treatment away from home.

Looking for ways to get more involved with the American Cancer Society? Reach out to [Emma.Craven@cancer.org](mailto:Emma.Craven@cancer.org).

For 24/7/365 information and support, call 1.800.227.2345 or visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)



### LOTS FOR SALE .....BY OWNER!

Build a Home that's Uniquely Yours with Lasting Beauty & Structural Integrity.....in our Quiet, Secluded Residential Development, "CRANE'S LANDING," located in Kittanning, PA., which is just 40 minutes north of Pittsburgh. We are the exclusive Builder & there are Covenants implemented to protect your valued investment.

### You can also call us for ANY of your Building needs.....from Residential to Commercial!

We've been in the Building Industry for over 35 years. And we apply the same integrity to all of our projects - good quality materials with expert workmanship that together provides years of satisfaction!

We are a member of the PA Builders Assoc. & are fully insured.

**724-545-9665**

### J. Krukar Construction Co., Inc.

110 Woodland Drive  
Kittanning, PA 16201  
[www.jkrukarconstruction.com](http://www.jkrukarconstruction.com)  
[joe\\_jkrukarconstruction@comcast.net](mailto:joe_jkrukarconstruction@comcast.net)  
PA002935



**#1 IN QUALITY**

## LEADERSHIP ALLE KISKI VALLEY

### Are you ready to become a Leader?

Are you in a rut at work? Do you see yourself wanting to take the lead on a project? How about changing your community for the better? If you're interested in these things, look no further, LAKV Class XXVII is the place for you!

We are now accepting applications for Leadership Alle-Kiski Valley's 27th consecutive class of future leaders. Submit your application today along with a copy of your most recent resume. We're looking for the go-getters, the motivators, those who aren't afraid to roll up their sleeves, get hands on, and accomplish great things for their employers and our region.

If that's you, you fit the bill. There are no specific requirements to participate in LAKV Class XXVII. The Board of Directors and our Program Manager, Lisa Slongo will use your application to build a program around our class. We want to know your strengths, weaknesses, and even your fears. LAKV can help hone the strengths, turn the weaknesses into positives, and force those leadership fears away. It's what we do. LAKV creates tomorrow's leaders today.

So come on, fill out an application and join the ranks of thousands of Alle-Kiski Valley alumni who have changed our region for the better! Visit [lakv.org](http://lakv.org) to learn more about Leadership Alle Kiski Valley.



### Class XXVI

Lisa Hyland, Mary Queen of Apostles School  
Lynda J. Pozzuto, Alle Kiski Strong Chamber  
Erica Kozen, Arconic  
Kimberly Greene, Apollo Trust

(Back Row)

Margie Kovath, NexTier bank  
Eileen Kenzevich, Alcoa Corp.  
Ernest Ngirimana, Allegheny Valley Hospital  
Wes Kuchta, Lenape Technical School

Contact Lisa Slongo, LAKV Program Manager, at 724-681-4109 or by email at [info@lakv.org](mailto:info@lakv.org) for additional details or an application for the upcoming class.

**We can't wait to hear from you!**

## CHAMBER EVENTS



**Coffee & Connections**  
hosted by:  
**FOREVER**



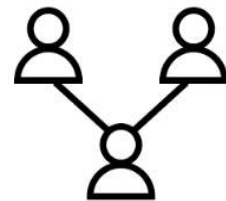
**Medical Marijuana in the Workplace:  
An HR Perspective**  
sponsored by:  
**Allegheny Valley Hospital**



**Anytime Fitness, Cheswick  
Fitness Center  
Grand Opening**



**Meet & Greet  
with the  
Westmoreland Co. Chamber**



**On-boarding for Small Business**  
presented by:  
**The Bradley Partnership**



**MJ Cares  
Accounting & Insurance Services  
Grand Opening**



**Administrative Professionals  
Day Luncheon**

## CHAMBER MEMBER NEWS



### Official Designation given to Middle Allegheny River Water Trail

It's Official! Recently the Armstrong County Tourist Bureau along with the Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development received notification that the Middle Allegheny River Water Trail has been approved by the Pennsylvania Water Trails Partnership of the National Parks Service, The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and The Pennsylvania Environmental Council as the newest Pennsylvania Water Trail.

The Middle Allegheny River Water Trail is a boat route suitable for canoes, kayaks and rowboats. Some areas may be appropriate for paddleboards and sculls. Our main route, running the 61-mile length of the Allegheny River in Armstrong County, connects specific locations, and contains access points, launches, and day-use sites. The trail lies between the Allegheny River Trail (Upper) to the north and the Three Rivers Water Trail to the south.

This designation completes the missing link between the Allegheny River Water Trail and the Three Rivers Water Trail as a recreational and educational corridor that will allow us many more opportunities to promote and attract Tourists to beautiful Armstrong County and our scenic Allegheny River.

Copies of the Middle Allegheny River Water Trail Map that highlights points of interest along the Water Trail are free and available at many sites along the Trail and at the Armstrong County Tourist Bureau Office, by email: [touristbur@co.armstrong.pa.us](mailto:touristbur@co.armstrong.pa.us) or call: (724) 543-4003. Additional Trail information is available on [www.armstrongcounty.com](http://www.armstrongcounty.com).



### Biblical Life Institute Moves Closer to Accreditation

On February 19, 2018, the Commission on Accreditation of the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) granted candidate status to Biblical Life Institute.

Although involved in Christian higher education for 80 years, Biblical Life Institute (BLI) has only recently begun the process of becoming an accredited school. Candidate status is the half-way point of a process that typically takes 8-10 years.

Founded in 1938, BLI trains men and women for Christian ministries such as pastoral leadership, missions, and youth ministry. Some BLI students also attend the school simply to get a strong biblical education which they then use to support churches, Christian ministries, or as a foundation for further education. More information about the school can be found at [www.bli4u.org](http://www.bli4u.org). The school is located near Freeport.

ABHE is an accrediting agency recognized by the US Department of Education. It accredits Christian colleges, universities, and Bible colleges.



### Huntley & Huntley Energy Exploration



Ed Valentas, HHEX's Director of Landowner & Municipal Affairs, provided an Informative tour of a local natural gas drilling site.