



Connections Newsletter

"keeping us all connected"

May 2011

Herm Stine Talks Ohio Development at April OGA Meeting

Over thirty members were in attendance at the April Ontario Growth Association meeting and were on hand to hear special guest speaker Herm Stine. Stine has been the Regional Director of the Ohio Department of Development since 2007 and has previously worked in Indiana, Georgia and New York. He has witnessed first-hand the fierce competition between states to lure companies with impressive incentive packages.

Stine spoke about the changing climate within Ohio and the Department, describing what he feels is the end of the era of large incentive packages. He cited the current incentive package the state has on the table with Calisolar and noted that it is the second largest incentive package the state has ever offered.

While bringing in new companies into Ohio is important and it is imperative to stay competitive, he pointed out that it is getting harder and harder to stop the outflow of companies due to the lack of incentives for existing business.

Many people would be surprised to know that Ohio was awarded Site Selections Magazine's Governor's Cup Award for four consecutive years (2006 – 2009). The award is given each year (since 1978) to the U.S. state with the most new and expanded corporate facilities. Unfortunately, the outflow of business from Ohio has been greater each of these years as well.

Going forward, Stine sees more of an effort to keep existing business with equity investments and tax incentives for those already operating within the state. Overall, the pool of incentives may be less, but it will create an overall better climate.

Mr. Stine also spoke about other non-monetary incentives that he feels the area has to offer. They include existing infrastructures, a skilled workforce and the availability of training and education.

If anyone would like more information, please contact his office at 419-526-2282.



Next Meeting

Join us on June 2nd at 8 a.m.
Special Guest Speaker will be
Don Plotts, President of North
Central State College.



Special Guest Herm Stine at the May Meeting

Scholarship Recipients Chosen

The 2011 OGA Scholarship recipients have been announced. Ontario Seniors **Zach Spencer** and **Brynli Scott** will both be awarded a \$250 scholarship at the upcoming Senior Honors Night on May 26th.



The final decision was based on GPA, degree being pursued and need.

Association President Mark Weidemyre will attend Honors night and present both students

with their checks on behalf of the group.

Zach and Brynli, along with other Seniors, completed the application process earlier this year. The Finance Committee met and voted at the end of April with

We congratulate both students on their hard work and wish them the best in their future endeavors!

OGA Officers

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New Website Up & Running

As of this week, the new Ontario Growth Association website is up and running!

You can visit the new site at www.ontariogrowthassociation.com today and check out the new look and new features that include a listing of available properties, a calendar of events and a membership directory by category. You can also find this newsletter posted to the site each month.

Keep in mind that the site is still under construction and while it is up and running,

there are still a few items to be completed and perfected. We will continue to work closely with Spire advertising as we make these adjustments.

Also, keep in mind that advertising opportunities are available at three different levels. Annual cost ranges from \$250 to \$1000 and currently the ads are open to members only. Call the OGA office today to find out how you can showcase your business.

Miss Ohio Week

The Annual Miss Ohio Pageant is fast approaching with a week full of events and activities that are fun for all ages. We can all show our support by attending some or all of the events throughout the week:

June 10 Miss Ohio Festival Downtown with Contestant Autograph Session

June 11 Miss Ohio Welcome Ceremony and Autograph Session at Richland Mall

June 12 Miss Ohio Parade Downtown/Park Avenue West

June 13 Miss Ohio Celebrity Waitressing at Applebee's on Stander Avenue and Lexington-Springmill Road

June 14 Miss Ohio's Outstanding Teen Competition at the Renaissance Theatre ~ *Ticketed Event*

June 15-17 Miss Ohio Preliminary Competition at the Renaissance Theatre ~ *Ticketed Event*



June 18 Miss Ohio Final Night/Crowning of a New Miss Ohio at the Renaissance Theatre ~ *Ticketed Event*

June 19th Miss Ohio & Miss Outstanding Teen first public appearance at the Richland Mall

FORE! Save the Date

The annual OGA Golf Outing has been scheduled for August 28th at 1 p.m. The event will once again be held at Oak Tree Golf Course.

The day is always a great fundraising and social event for the group and we hope to have record-breaking participation this year. More information will be distributed soon, but we hope you will keep the date open on your calendar.



Reminder - Volunteers Needed

The 2011 Ontario 4th of July Festival is fast approaching and we wanted to take the time to remind members that volunteers are needed to help with the event.

According to Festival committee members, the greatest need for volunteers is with help selling the 50/50 tickets throughout the day. In addition, the participation of businesses and organizations in the parade is also greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in more information or would like to sign up for either of these, contact the OGA

office to get a volunteer or parade registration form today.

Also, don't forget that the Annual Mike Martin Memorial Car show is held in conjunction with the Festival. Bucket Sponsorships are still available for the event at just \$35.

Contact Brian Gates at 419-529-3888 or via email at briangates@neo.rr.com if you are interested. To be included in the flyers, please contact him no later than June 3rd.



Mark The Date:

May 26th **OGA Board Meeting - 12 p.m.**

May 30th



Memorial Day

June 1st

Deadline for T-shirt Sponsors for the Warrior Uprising High School Baseball Tournament to be held July 8 - 10. Cost is \$50. Call or email Joe Sansalone at 419-610-8126 or jsansalone@suttonbank.com

June 2nd

OGA Meeting - 8 a.m.

June 3rd

Deadline for "Buy a Bucket" Sponsorship for the Annual Mike Martin Memorial Car Show on July 2nd

June 8th

Deadline for June Newsletter submissions

June 10th - 19th

Miss Ohio Week

June 18th



Ontario Warrior Football Golf Scramble—shotgun Start 9 a.m. Cost is \$250/team and all participants receive an Ontario Football T-shirt and a chance to win a door prize. Each Golfer will also receive bagels & coffee, a hot dog and chips at the turn and a meal at the conclusion of the event. There will be a 50/50 raffle and other prize giveaways. Deadline is June 10th. **Hole Sponsorships available for just \$50 - call Scott Kreger at 529-3969.**

June 19th

Father's Day

July 2nd

Ontario 4th of July Festival & Parade/Mike Martin Memorial Car Show



"There are times when silence has the loudest voice."

--Leroy Brownlow, American preacher, author and businessman