



Newsletter Title?

January/February 2011

Ohio Representative Jay Goyal Speaks on State Economic Development

The January 6th OGA meeting gave members the opportunity to hear about Ohio Economic Development firsthand from Ohio State Representative Jay Goyal. Goyal spoke about the state's efforts over the last several years and gave a preview of what is yet to come.

According to Goyal, Ohio has reduced spending and eliminated nearly 5000 state positions to meet budget cuts versus the option of raising taxes to meet needs. In fact, the state has reduced the overall tax burden for businesses in an effort to make doing business in Ohio more attractive.

Going forward, Goyal

shares that "simply reducing the cost of business isn't enough. We need to focus on Entrepreneurship and Innovation."

Opportunities to do this are in the works with the state's Third Frontier Program and an upcoming review of all regulations in an effort to make doing business easier. Goyal also hopes to pass legislation that allows for the creation of bond banks. Bond banks will allow local governments and communities to consolidate various bond issues into one single bond issue. Nearly a dozen states already have this legislation in place and offer the opportunity to their local governments.

Not only do bond banks spread the risk, but they also obtain better interest rates and lower issuing fees.

In closing, Goyal shared some of the larger issues that the state will be facing in the next few years, including the state's deficit and the need for continued cuts to the budget.

If anyone would like to contact Representative Goyal, please contact his office at 614-466-5802 or send an email to:

district73@ohr.state.oh.us



"Simply reducing the cost of business isn't enough. We need to focus on Entrepreneurship and Innovation."

~ Ohio State Representative Jay Goyal

Annual OGA Banquet

The 8th Annual Ontario Growth Association Banquet was held on Tuesday, February 8th at the Ontario Event Center. Over 60 members attended the event and enjoyed a great evening of food and fellowship.

OGA President Mark Weidemyre presented The President's Award to The Tsavaris Corp. for their

cooperation and contributions to the group's efforts. Two recent luncheons for a potential replacement tenant at the now vacant GM building were held at the restaurant free of charge.

Guest Speaker for the evening was Pastor Joe Esarey of Community Bible Church. He spoke on the "ABC's of Leadership" and

gave attendees a lot to think about regarding their own style of leadership.

Sue Martin of G&M Auto Body won the 50/50 raffle and over ten items were won by various members during the Chinese Auction.

Sutton Bank won the table decorating contest with an edible winter snow scene.

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People-to-People



The February 3rd meeting gave special guests Tina & Hannah Esarey and

Olivia Arnold a chance to share about their upcoming opportunity through People to People.

People to People Ambassador Programs offer extraordinary, life-changing educational travel opportunities for students. They have nearly 50 years of experience, more than 500,000 alumni and travel to destinations on seven continents.

Hannah and Olivia are sixth graders at Ontario Middle School and have been invited to travel with People to People to Europe June 18th - July 1st. The girls briefly spoke about

what they are looking forward to learning from the trip and Hannah's mother, Tina, detailed the group's fundraising efforts.

The cost is about \$5,200 per girl and through various fundraising they have both reached the ½ way mark. Full payment is due by May 1st - just three months away.

The next fundraising event will be a Spaghetti dinner on February 26th at the Ontario High School. Tina inquired about possible donations from local businesses to assist with the cost of the dinner or donations toward the cost of the trip.

If anyone is interested in learning more or is able to make a donation, please contact the OGA office for information on how to help.

What's in a Name?

I'm sure you have noticed that the newsletter is lacking an important feature - a name!



For fun (and because we are struggling to come up with one on our own), the OGA officers are asking for your suggestions for the new moniker. All ideas are welcome and can be emailed or given to Jodi by the March meeting on March 3rd.

If the group picks your suggested title, you will be featured in next month's newsletter and win a \$10 gift card.

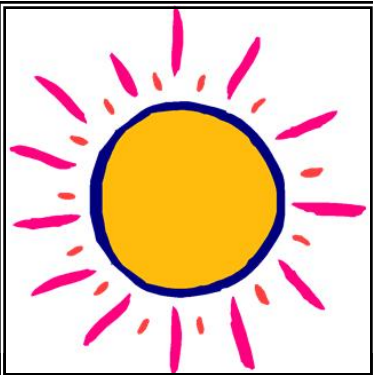


NEXT MONTH:

Don't miss the March 3rd meeting! State Representative Margaret Ruhl will be the special guest speaker after the 8 a.m. regular meeting.

March 2011 Community Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 OGA Meeting 8am	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Chamber Business Expo	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Do you know anyone that needs a little sunshine? Betty Connolly of Sluss Realty will send out cards to members who may need a little sunshine due to illness, loss or other issues. Contact her via email at: maeconn@aol.com if you know of anyone with a special need.

Dove Tasting Party

A special thank you to everyone that attended the Dove Tasting Party on January 18th. The unique event was a great opportunity to socialize and an easy way to raise funds. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, it was also convenient for those



shopping for their sweet-hearts!

Independent Dove Chocolatier Rhonda Tucker was on hand to share a variety of Dove Chocolates and 20% of all orders received that night went to the Ontario Growth Association.

With over 30 people in attendance, the event raised nearly \$280.

In addition, Ms. Tucker set up a table at the Annual OGA Banquet on February with samples and provided two prizes to be given away at the end of the night. If you would like more information about Dove Chocolate or their fundraising program, you can visit www.dove-chocolate-discoveries.com

"Every problem has in it the seeds of its own solution. If you don't have any problems, you don't get any seeds."

~ Norman Vincent Peale

Holiday Recap

The Ontario Growth Association held its Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Tuesday, November 30th.

Santa arrived via fire truck and, despite the wet weather was met by an anxious crowd. After performances by the Ontario Band, photos with Santa and cookies and hot chocolate, the crowd enjoyed entertainment by Shizzle Dizzle Magic.

At the end of the evening, the Kiwanis Club presented awards for their coloring and essay contests. The winners were presented with retailer gift cards.

A special thank you to everyone that donated cookies and especially to Sue Martin for coordinating the event!

In December, the Growth Association also held the Annual Decorating Contest. Home owners were able to pre-register and Growth Association members then toured the area to view participating homes. Awards were presented for Most Illuminated, Most Traditional, Most Whimsical, Best Kid's Choice, Most Inspirational and Best Neighborhood.

You can visit the OGA website to see the winners in each of these categories.



Clockwise from top left: Santa arrives at the tree lighting event; Children react to Shizzle Dizzle Magic (above); Mayor Collins and the current Miss Ontario pose with Santa (below); Participants count down to the tree lighting (below left); and kids scramble to get a better look at Santa (left).

