Wednesday August 2, 2017

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2017 Annual Meeting & Business Summit
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Only Four Weeks Away!

Over 800 people have registered to attend the West Virginia Chamber's 81st Annual Meeting and Business Summit. This year's business summit is still over a month away and will be held the week before Labor Day, August 30 - September 1, at The Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, WV.

Among the many speakers are United States Senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito, Governor Jim Justice (invited), WVU President E. Gordon Gee, Marshall University
President Jerry Gilbert, Senate President Mitch Carmichael, House Speaker Tim Armstead, WV Department of Commerce Secretary Woody Thrasher, WV Department for the Arts & Education Secretary Gayle Manchin, and numerous other speakers on the many symposia that take place during the three-day event.

Hotel rooms are almost sold out, so make sure you register today and reserve your spot for the business event of the year. After you register, reserve your room by calling Jessica Dowdy at 1-855-453-4858, option 2, and ask for the West Virginia Chamber Room Block.

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Amanda Pasdon at (304) 989-0664 or apasdon@wvchamber.com

REGISTER HERE

West Virginia is 2nd in the nation for GDP Growth

Information released last week by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis shows that West Virginia had the 2nd highest GDP growth in the nation for the first quarter of 2017. West Virginia saw 3% GDP growth during the first quarter of the year, following only Texas, which saw 3.9% growth. Of West Virginia's neighboring states, Maryland saw the next highest GDP growth with 2.1%. Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and Pennsylvania saw 2.0%, 1.8%, 1.4% and 1.2% respectively.

The information on West Virginia's GDP growth follows more good news that was recently released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, which shows that in June, West Virginia total employment climbed to over 747,100 for the first time in nearly a year. Additionally, coal
production increased 31% from June 2016 - June 2017, and natural gas production is at a five-year high.

**Tug Valley Job and Resource Fair**

Congressman Evan Jenkins (WV-3) and Congressman Hal Rogers (KY-5) will be hosting a job and resource fair tomorrow, August 3rd from 10am - 2pm.

The Job and Resource Fair will be held at Belfry High School, located at 27678 U.S. Highway 119 North, and will feature a resume-writing and interview skills station for participants.

Employers interested in participating may register by reaching out to Chad Story with Congressman Jenkins’ office at (304) 522-2201 or by emailing chad.story@mail.house.gov.

**West Virginia Business Hall of Fame**

On Tuesday, August 29, the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce will partner with the WVU College of Business and Economics for a reception and ceremony honoring the 2017 inductees into the West Virginia Business Hall of Fame.

Inductees for 2017 include Charles T. Jones, President and CEO of Amherst Industries; Robert O. Orders, CEO of Orders Construction Company; and D. Stephen Walker, former president and CEO of Walker Machinery Company. The ceremony will be held on the eve of the 2017 Annual Meeting and Business Summit at The Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, WV. A short video produced by the WVU
College of Business & Economics on the Hall of Fame Awards can be viewed by clicking here.

For additional information on the West Virginia Business Hall of Fame Awards, or to register to attend, please click here.

**Upcoming Events**

**REGISTER NOW**

*WV Chamber 81st Annual Meeting & Business Summit*
August 30 - September 1

*Leadership WV Session 6 - Energy Session*
September 21-22 - Bridgeport

**Save the Date!**

*2018 West Virginia Legislative Session Begins*
January 10, 2018