

Greetings:

The Meyersdale Area Merchants Association is a great group of positive, action oriented individuals and businesses that are helping Meyersdale and the surrounding area businesses to grow and attract other business and tourism to the area. We are always looking for new ideas and the people to make those ideas realities. Although our fiscal year is not over until June, I would like to use this opportunity to both reflect on the accomplishments of the Meyersdale Area Merchants' Associations first months of infancy and to look forward into the future of the organization.

Our first several months have been full of activity. The Meyersdale Area Merchants' Association's many members have been working hard; even before our April organizational meeting, MAMA was in action;

- Maple Festival Window Display – MAMA aided the PA Maple Festival in organizing the annual window display competition.
- Fourth of July Parade – In conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Board's Fourth of July celebration, the Merchants Association hosted a parade in town and participated in a vendor booth at the Paul Fuller Playground. We had a small, but enthusiastic turn out for our first parade including Meyersdale's finest, the Volunteer Fire Department, and expect an even better turn out next year.
- Meyersdalemerchantsonline.com – In August, MAMA launched its website. The site is still a work-in-progress, but does have information and access to member businesses.
- Oktoberfest – MAMA hosted its first fund raiser. All involved considered the sold out event a huge success!
- Christmas Decorating – The Merchants' organized to fill the empty store windows uptown. Local businesses, school groups, civic organizations and individuals decorated trees in the windows of the former GC Murphy building and the Main Street Inn building. Also, thanks to the support of one of our own members, The Beginner Store, and a slew of volunteers, we've erected a tress on the monument so that all traveling on Rt. 219 can see Meyersdale's Christmas cheer as well.

This is just a sample of the activities we have been organizing or sponsoring. Each of our endeavors was successful and as time has progressed we've had more and better attendance and volunteers.

As we look forward to the second half of our year, there are yet more exciting events to attend:

- Insurance Discussion – During our regular meeting time, 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 26 January 2011 at the White House Restaurant, we will have insurance representative Deb Barron talking to the group about individual and group insurance plans.
- Customer Service Seminar – We are working to bring a speaker for a customer service workshop in the spring from Allegany College of Maryland.
- Focus Group Discussion – We will create some focus groups related to specific businesses to help business owners and managers work through common problems and focus on solutions for their similar businesses.

We are always looking for more individuals and business leaders to become active members of the group. The more great minds we have working together, the more great ideas of how we can improve and grow Meyersdale and the surrounding area can come to fruition.

MAMA meets every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. at the White House Restaurant. All are welcome to attend and we encourage you to join.

Regards,

M. Melissa Friend