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MON VALLEY PROGRESS COUNCIL'S  
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**Progress is ...**

The Progress Council's annual business meeting includes approval of 2008 strategic actions and appointments to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors// Daley leads effort to implement a technical college program in the Mid Mon Valley // PA Turnpike Commission CEO Joe Brimmeier calls for Expressway supporters to keep up the pressure // Meeting held with Allegheny County chief executive Dan Onorato to secure strong support for the PA Route 51 to I-376 Expressway.

**PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS**

**Annual business meeting includes approval of 2008 strategic actions** – A continued focus on the Expressway, pursuit of regional economic development strategies, and working with area firms on employee drug abuse issues were among the 2008 objectives approved at the Progress Council's January 4 annual business meeting. The 2008 Progress Council executive committee and members of the board of directors were also elected.

**Daley leads effort to implement technical college program in the Mid Mon Valley** - A November 19 meeting with Westmoreland County Community College (WCCC) called by State Representative Peter J. Daley has set the stage for a joint venture of the Mon Valley Community Education Council and the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center with WCCC to establish a technical college program in electrical engineering for the Mid Mon Valley.

**PA Turnpike Commission CEO Joe Brimmeier calls for Expressway supporters to keep up the pressure** – The PA Turnpike Commission's CEO made clear in a presentation on November 1 at a Pittsburgh Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored meeting that stronger and continued pressure was needed to ensure continued progress on the PA Route 51 to I-376 Expressway project.

**Meeting held with Allegheny County chief executive Dan Onorato** – A December 20 meeting with Allegheny County chief executive Dan Onorato marked an additional step in securing Dan's leadership on efforts to advance the Expressway project.

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## Annual business meeting includes approval of 2008 strategic actions

The January 4 annual business meeting included approval of the 2008 strategic actions which contain a continued focus on the Expressway, pursuit of regional economic development strategies, and working with area firms on employee drug abuse issues.

### Mon Valley Progress Council strategic actions areas for 2008

1. **Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway**
2. **Regional Initiatives**
  - Smart Government
  - Economic development
  - Technical education
  - Drug abuse
  - Promote pride in the Mid Mon Valley
3. **Business support**
4. **Administrative efficiency and sustainability**

## 2008 Executive Committee and members of the Board of Directors elected

The January 4 annual business meeting also included election of the following officers and board members.

### Executive Committee

William J. Worthington	President
A.A. Ferrari	Vice President
Lawrence J. Bender	Treasurer
Louis Quarto	Secretary
Lou Panza	At Large
William Lee	At Large
Bob Burke	At Large
John Easoz	At Large

### Board of directors\*

#### Class of 2008 - Expires December 31, 2010

Larry A. Golashewski	PNC Bank
Louis Quarto	Guttman Oil
Valerie Kissell	Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority*
Randy McMahon	McMahon Craftsmen LLC
Gary Dalton	The Netconnection!
Tim Urda	Badzik Printing Inc.
Pierre Luti	Pierre Luti Advertising
Bob Burke	The Valley Independent

#### Class of 2007 - Expires December 31, 2009

Neil Bassi	Charleroi Federal Savings Bank **
John Easoz	Solar Power Industries **

### NOTES

\* The 25-member Progress Council Board of Directors serve three-year staggered terms divided into classes

\* New member of the board who will fill unexpired terms

## Daley leads effort to implement technical college program in the Mid Mon Valley

A November 19 meeting with Westmoreland County Community College (WCCC) called by State Representative Peter J. Daley has set the stage for a joint venture of the Mon Valley Community Education Council and the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center with WCCC to establish a technical college program in electrical engineering for the Mid Mon Valley. The technical college program would be based at the MVCTC facility in Speers. A second location of the WCCC sponsored program is already established in Uniontown.

Dr. Steven Ender, president of Westmoreland County College, was excited to explore ways to establish the technical college program in the Mid Mon Valley. WCCC was the sole recipient of a PA Department of Education's demonstration grant to establish technical college programs to utilize facilities at vocational technical centers throughout the Commonwealth. The technical college program at MVCTC will focus on electrical engineering and would provide students with an associate degree in the area.

The Progress Council appreciates the continued commitment of State Representative Daley to this and other education initiatives for the Mid Mon Valley.

## PA Turnpike Commission CEO Joe Brimmeier calls for more pressure

The PA Turnpike Commission's CEO made clear in a presentation at a Pittsburgh Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored meeting that stronger and continued pressure was needed to ensure continued progress on the PA Route 51 to I-376 Expressway project. The November 1 meeting included representatives from chambers of commerce throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. The Progress Council was at the meeting by invitation of the Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce. A special thanks is offered to MACC executive director Chad Amond for extending the invitation to the meeting.

Brimmeier noted that we must do a better job of outreach to legislators from across the state to counter concerns raised by statewide environmental opposition groups. The Progress Council's strategic actions for 2008 include additional trips to Harrisburg. Also on tap are step-up efforts to demonstrate the importance of the Expressway, development of alternative funding strategies, building stronger support in Allegheny County, and demonstrating the importance of the Expressway for the statewide economy.

## Meeting held with Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato

A December 20 meeting with Allegheny County chief executive Dan Onorato marked an additional step in securing Dan's leadership on efforts to advance the Expressway project.

The Progress Council has been working with other groups in the Expressway Partnership Initiative to work with Chief Executive Onorato on ways to advance development of the PA Route 51 to I-376 Expressway project. Dan has been a long-term supporter of the Expressway project. The meeting was another step in holding a regional summit meeting on the Expressway project. Progress Council participants in the EPI include Progress Council executive committee member Lou Panza, President Bill Worthington and Executive Director Joe Kirk. "The Expressway Partnership Initiative has been a very successful effort in bringing together organization in Allegheny and Westmoreland counties to develop a common strategy for advancement of the Expressway project. The Expressway is our flagship project!" said Bill Worthington.