



Spring 2005 Newsletter

Fifth Annual Gala Raises Money and Honors Those Who Help Our Kids!

Mark your calendar! Plans are underway for our Fifth Annual Benefit Dinner/Dance. The event will be held at the beautiful North Maple Inn in Basking Ridge, New Jersey on Saturday, March 5, 2005.

Congratulations to this year's honorees:

- **Gerald J. Biuso**, NJ Chapter, Land Improvement Contractors of America
- **Construction Equipment Guide**, Fort Washington, PA
- **Joseph M. Forgione**, Real Estate Developer
- **Angelo Melchiorri**, NKCC Student Member
- **Linda Nollkamper**, Educator, Cedar Hill School, Basking Ridge

The silent auction, sponsor and decorating committees are hard at work. If you would like to donate a prize or be a sponsor, please call (908) 604-5995. Last year more than 100 auction items were donated, and everyone went home a winner!

Celebrity Disc Jockey and Cartoon Artist, **Noel Anderson** of Fargo, North Dakota, will be back to sign his new kids construction club artwork and promote some of his fabulous original "Construction Kids" artistry.

The NKCC may be a small organization at the moment, but it has a very big mission – educate our kids. Please join us – we need your support! No kids required to support the cause!



Robert Hahn at the 2004 NKCC Gala

Help! The Toilet is Overflowing! Why Don't My Kids Know How to Stop It?

How often have you heard that statement before? Children today are growing up without the help of grandparents and parents to teach them the basics of home safety. Why don't schools do more to educate kids on this subject? It takes a club like NKCC to create the programs, raise the money, and persuade schools to fit it into the schedule, that's why.

Today's teachers are busy educating our children on so many subjects and, all too often, fitting another lesson plan into the curriculum is extremely difficult. NKCC is hard at work creating a middle school program to teach kids about home safety, tool identification and hands-on building activities, plus much more!

It can take up to two years to get a school program perfected – we'll keep you posted on NKCC's progress!

Third Grade Building Fair Materials Available to NJBA Members



Each year the club enjoys assisting Cedar Hill School in Basking Ridge with its NKCC Building Fair: Creating Our Town, and this year was no exception. On Friday, May 21, 2004, the club had a fun and exciting fair.

The fair is a great way for children to learn about the town they live in by designing and building their own home and a place in their town, such as a fire station, recycling facility or police station. The children's

creations are displayed during the building fair along with colorful, interactive displays from local town vendors. Even the mayor joins in on the fun!

If your second or third grade child or grandchild wishes to have a fair at their school, please contact us at (908) 604-5995. Coloring/activity booklets and a Teacher's Manual can be provided to the school thanks to the generosity of New Jersey's Clean Energy Program.

Atlantic Builders Convention

Through the generosity of the New Jersey Builders Association the NKCC enjoyed a booth at the April 2004 Atlantic Builders Convention. This year the club raised more than \$500 from T-shirt sales to benefit the NKCC Scholarship Fund.

Look for us in 2005 – we plan to have lots of cool giveaways and T-shirts for sale!

Coloring/Activity Books for Elementary Children Now Available!!

The NKCC now has coloring/activity booklets to give to parents and children visiting your homes or community! For a fee, print your company name on this colorful, fun booklet which teaches children about home safety, construction equipment, how a community is built, and more.

To order your copies, please call Nancie at (908) 604-5995.



NKCC Scholarships

How do you want to be remembered? Have you ever considered a scholarship fund for a cause you feel strongly about? At the NKCC we help create scholarship funds for students.

A fund can be established in your name, your child's name, a deceased loved one's, a grandparent's name or your family name. The scholarship can be designated for a girl or boy, someone entering a vocational school or college, or for a particular school you may be fond of. Amounts can range from enough money to purchase books to enough for room and board.

If this idea appeals to you, NKCC can provide free legal services to create your scholarship fund!

Baseball Game

Our appreciation goes out to Somerset County United Way for giving the NKCC 25 free tickets to the Somerset Patriots baseball game this summer. Trustees and their families along with NKCC members had a great time watching the Patriots win. After the game, players autographed the children's baseballs!

Quarry Education Day

A good time was had by all who attended Tilcon's Open House at its Mt. Hope facility on Saturday, May 22, 2004. More than 1200 attendees from the Rockaway Township area stopped by the NKCC activity center to make fun things with their hands, including photo frames, beaded necklaces and wood art. Food, music, bus tours and so much more was provided by the quarry.

Thank you, Tilcon, for allowing the NKCC to join in on the fun and learning!



Special Thanks to NKCC Founders Club Members

NKCC Founders Club members keep the club alive through their generous donations each year. Thanks to their commitment, the NKCC program continues to grow as "the voice" for our children.

Raising money for kids can be quite challenging. Since kids can't vote or contribute money for a cause, many people shy away from donating to children's organizations. The NKCC is here to say that kids count, and we are here to help them!

Remember, the construction industry in its most primitive form is little boys and girls aspiring to become builders, developers, architects, engineers, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, masons and more.

Thank you to the members of our Founders Club:

Ken Segal, New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, New Jersey Builders Association, Construction Equipment Guide, Community Builders Association, Bruce Bocina, Joe Forgione, Carl Goldberg, Somerset Valley Bank, Scot VanCleaf and Barry Solondz.

2005 NKCC Officers

Congratulations to our 2005 Board of Trustees!

- **Mike Brusky**, President, Gabriel Spray Services
- **Joan Buchanan**, Executive Vice President, All Points Travel
- **Robert Peluso**, Vice President, NorCrown Bank
- **Linda Wetzel**, Secretary, JCP&L
- **Thomas McCloskey**, Treasurer, Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith, Ravin, Davis & Himmel.

Thank You and Farewell to Trustees Bob Triebel and Neeley Murphy

Best wishes to NKCC trustees Bob Triebel and Neeley Murphy!

Bob retired from Piscataway-based Hoffman Equipment as Vice President in August. He was on the NKCC Board for four years serving as President and Vice President.

Neeley, also on the board for four years, will retire from Saint James School in Basking Ridge sometime in 2005. She will always be remembered as our most outstanding educator! Neeley helped create the "Third Grade Building Fair: Creating OurTown" school program.

Welcome New Trustees



Robert J. Peluso, MBA

Parsippany Area Chamber of Commerce
12-14 N. Beverwyck Road
Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07034
Phone: (973) 402-6400
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Robert Peluso of Parsippany, New Jersey, has been in banking since 1987 and Vice President and Regional Manager for NorCrown Bank since 1999. As Vice Presi-

dent and Regional Manager, Mr. Peluso's responsibilities include the management of branch operations, customer relations, personnel, audit, facilities, and security.

He earned a B.S. degree from Montclair State University and a Master's in Business Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University and plays an active role in the communities he serves. Robert is a member and supporter of countless not-for-profit organizations, including the Friends of the Library, Morris Land Conservancy, Kiwanis Club, Parsippany Historical & Preservation Society, and Rotary Club. Mr. Peluso is the President of the Parsippany Area Chamber of Commerce, a board manager for the Dean and Betty Gallo Prostrate Cancer Center, and a graduate of Leadership Morris of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce. As a lifelong Parsippany resident, he was honored with the Parsippany Area Chamber of Commerce's Community Service Award for two consecutive years, the YMCA's Citizen of the Year Award, and the Good Scout Award, where he is a supporter of the Patriot's Path Council Boy Scouts.



Joan Buchanan

Joan Buchanan, Executive Vice President, is a resident of Bernardsville, New Jersey and is actively involved in her community. She served on the Borough Council for 17 years in numerous capacities, including Council President and Police Commissioner, where she was instrumental in the building of the new Library in town. After completing her terms on the Council, Joan was appointed by the Mayor and

Council to the Board of Adjustment, where she served for seven years. Joan has been a member of the Board of Directors of New Jersey Women Elected Officials since 1994. She was appointed by the Board of Chosen Freeholders in Somerset County in 1992 to the Somerset County Commission of the Status of Women, where she now serves as Chairman and is spokesman for the County on the State Commission Board. Each year in March (Woman's History Month), Joan chairs the Commission's Woman of Achievement Dinner, honoring women

in Somerset County with more than 400 attendees. Joan was a member of the Bernardsville Junior Woman's Clubs and held various state elected positions, including State Director. She served on the General Federation of Women's Clubs, where she was elected National Director of Junior Clubs and Chairman of International Clubs. Joan was active in the Business and Professional Women's Clubs in Bernardsville, serving various chairmanships on the state level, including State President.

She is a graduate of Bernards High School and the Latin American Institute in New York City with a major in Spanish and minor in French and Portuguese.

Professionally, she was Assistant to the Executive Director, National Kidney Foundation, where she coordinated national programs, including preparing kits and conducting workshops throughout the United States. She was responsible for meeting arrangements, including annual meetings and scientific meetings. Since 1997, Joan has been a Travel Consultant involved in domestic and international travel and a tour escort for group travel. She has an extensive knowledge of Europe, Far East Russia and the Caribbean.

As a member of NKCC, Joan was Secretary and involved in the March 2004 Gala and is serving as co-chair for the March 2005 Gala.



Karen Halo

Vice President, Title Insurance Division
Hudson Insurance Services, Inc

Karen Halo is with the Insurance Division of Hudson United Bank. She specializes in Title Insurance for commercial properties, developments, residential purchases and refinances. Being linked to a bank and an insurance division, she helps with lending issues or property & casualty, life, health and auto insurance quotes.

Karen holds a Realtors License and has been involved in a number of transactions.

She is on various committees, including the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP); Industrial/Commercial Real Estate Women (ICREW); Urban Land Institute (ULI); Gilda's Club-Volunteer and various fundraising events.

Karen enjoys golfing, gardening and helping animals (she helps out at a shelter managed by a friend). Her hobbies include art, music (she was a D.J. in college) and travel. She is currently seeking the ultimate chocolate dessert!