

LYNCHBURG REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Supporting the Backbone of the American Economy - the Small Business

On May 7, the Chamber will honor and recognize entrepreneurs and small businesses at our 27th Annual Small Business Awards. The event includes keynote speaker, The Honorable Maurice Jones, Secretary of Commerce & Trade. And new this year, we'll also feature the next generation of business leaders which we nurture and help equip through our Young Entrepreneurs Academy. The 2015 class comprised of 14 students ages 11-18 will graduate during the Awards program.

This signature event highlights the backbone of the American economy, the small business which according to the Office of Advocacy make up 99.7 percent of all firms. They create more than half of the private non-farm gross domestic product, and they create 60 to 80 percent of the net new jobs. In 2004, there were an estimated 23,974,500 businesses in the U.S. Of the 5,683,700 firms with employees, 5,666,600 were small firms.

More than 80 percent of the Chamber's membership is small businesses and entrepreneurs with fewer than 50 employees. During the first quarter of the year, we held a series of small business focus groups to hear what their successes have been and what challenges they face. We were very encouraged by the engagement and feedback by over 40 members who shared what we could do to assist them and others in growing the local economy. Stay tuned for more details as our Biz Forward Task Force and Board of Directors create an action plan to further support these businesses.

So, come out to the Small Business Awards and be encouraged and inspired by those that are succeeding in our local economy and paving the way for the next generation of business leaders!

If you're going:

Small Business Awards & Young Entrepreneurs Academy Graduation

When: 5-7:30 p.m., May 7

Where: Phase 2

Cost: \$22 for Chamber members, \$30 for non-members

RSVP: By May 4, online or by calling 434-845-5966

To register online and to see the full list of Small Business Award nominees, go to the events tab at the Chamber's website: lynchburgchamber.org



Presented by



YEA Graduation Sponsor Signature Sponsor



Supporting Sponsor ABC13 WSET-TV



Maurice Jones



Pancakes & Politics was held on April 14 at Liberty University in the Hancock Welcome Center. Over 75 attendees gathered to hear from our region's legislative delegation about the 2015 General Assembly session and the impact of its resulting legislation on our members and businesses. Thanks to our sponsors: Liberty University School of Law, Liberty University Helms School of Government, Appalachian Power, The News & Advance, Verizon, First National Bank, First Piedmont Corp., Property One Photography, and W100.9.

Small Business Chamber Member Recognized as Virginia's Small Business Person of the Year

The U.S. Small Business Administration's Richmond District Office announced P. Tulane Patterson, the CEO and Owner of Generation Solutions Holdings Inc. located in Lynchburg and Roanoke, as Virginia's 2015 Small Business Person of the Year.



The company provides an integrated program of home care services intended to enable older adults to live comfortably, securely and independently in their homes as long as possible. Their home health aides provide personal care such as bathing, feeding, ambulating and caring for bed-bound individuals.

The company was founded in 1998 at their current Lynchburg headquarters. A year later they opened their Roanoke office enabling services to be provided throughout the Shenandoah and Roanoke Valleys.

Generation Solutions was chosen through a competitive selection process. Judging criteria include: staying power, growth in the number of employees, increase in sales, financial performance, innovativeness of products and services offered, response to adversity, and contributions to the community.

Patterson will be invited to attend the National Small Business Week celebration May 8 in Washington D.C. where he will compete against all the 50 states and territories to become the 2015 National Small Business Person of the Year.

The Chamber cordially invites our members to a celebration in honor of Tulane Patterson at 10 a.m., May 6, at Generation Solutions, 1032 Claymont Drive, Lynchburg. RSVP required by May 1 to the Chamber at (434) 845-5966 or info@lynchburgchamber.org.

And the Small Business Nominees Are...

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Academy of Fine Arts | Living Bread Ministries |
| Andy Chang China Grill | Lynchburg Dental Center |
| bloom by Doyle's | Lynchburg Ready Mix Concrete Co., Inc. |
| Brown, Edwards & Company, L.L.P. | Lynchburg True Value and Just Ask Rental |
| Carrot Creates (DBA SharpTop Co.) | Riverside Runners |
| CASA of Central Virginia, Inc. | Roads to Recovery, Inc. |
| Davidson, Doyle & Hilton | Rose Computers & Networks |
| First Piedmont Corporation | Salvaged Consignment |
| Gary's Garden Center | Synergy Marketing & Design, Inc. |
| Gleaning For The World, Inc. | The Grounds Guys of Lynchburg |
| Integrated Technology Group | The Lynchburg Team - Lynchburg Real Estate Services |
| James River Day School | The White Hart Café |
| Jersey Mike's Subs | Virginia A&E |
| Keller Williams Realty | |
| La Carreta Mexican Restaurant | |
| Life Focus Pictures | |

Young Entrepreneurs Academy Students Who Will Graduate

Name	Company	School	Grade
Rae John Ashley	Bring Me Your Pants	Sandusky Middle School	8
William Bailey	Will's Gills	Monelison Middle School	7
Ebee Barar	Soccer To You	Heritage High School	11
Tya Blake	TevaDiva Headbands	Linkhorne Middle School	6
D'Arrin Calloway	Cakes by D and Dre	Dunbar Middle School	8
Whiton Erikson	Kobault Films	Amherst County	11
Matthew Forbus	Kobault Films	Amherst County	11
Andre Jackson	Cakes by D and Dre	Heritage High School	11
Savanna Lewis	Sew Savanna	Homeschool	12
Haley Mitchell	Music Noteboard	William Campbell	12
Quinton Monroe	Q's Keys	Altavista Combined School	7
Joanna Myers	J Sights Photography	West Wood Middle School	8
Téa Oliver	Green Tea Cleaning	Homeschool	11
Ronnie Pazmino	Soccer To You	Heritage High School	12
Kaisan Porter		Linkhorne Middle School	6

Lynchburg Regional Chamber/CVIC Member/Guest Golf Tournament Sponsorship Available!

Wednesday, June 3
London Downs Golf Club
Captain's Choice Shotgun Start 1 p.m.

Golfers Receive Awards Dinner | Golf Cart | Beverages and Snacks

Participation Costs
\$450 Foursome | \$550 Foursome with a Hole Sponsorship | \$20 Four Mulligans and One String

For more information contact Kaye Lewis at (434) 845-5968 x16

Germany Trip Sign-up Ending Soon!

Enjoy an adventure of a life time when you join the Chamber on a trip to Germany that includes a Rhine River Cruise with castle crested hills and terraced vineyards! Then take a tour of Munich main sights and more! Cost is \$3,699 per person and includes round-trip airfare. Limited seating! For more information contact Denise Rowland at (434) 845-5968 x21.

Limited Booths Left for Connection Expo & Job Fair!

Connection Expo is May 19! Reserve your exhibit space TODAY for the Lynchburg Regional Chamber's "Connection Expo...Hit the Jackpot!" Be a part of an Expo that has a proven record of successful connections! Take advantage of this great opportunity to market your products and services, as you build your company for future growth and success.



"The expo provided our company with a professional venue to showcase our work. So many valuable connections were made during the event that the booth paid for itself. We are looking forward to being back this year!"
LaShonda Delivuk,
 Life Focus Pictures

Members interested in exhibiting for the job fair can also sign-up for a booth while space is still available. Contact Kaye Lewis at (434) 845-5966 or complete exhibit form available at lynchburgchamber.org



Chamber Welcomes New Members!

Welcome the following new members who joined in the past month and are growing their business with the Chamber.

- AAA Mid-Atlantic
- Bird's Eye Aerial Photography, Inc.
- The Finly Corporation
- Graves Mill Storage, Inc.
- Lynchburg Treatment Center
- Skanska USA Building Inc.
- Weaver & Weaver Insurance
- XLR8-Lynchburg Regional Governor's STEM Academy

To learn about the benefits of membership in the Lynchburg Regional Chamber, contact Mike Lewis (434) 515-3365 or mlewis@lynchburgchamber.org



2015 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24501
 PH (434) 845-5966 FX (434) 522-9592
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CALENDAR

- April 28**
UMFS Informational Meeting
 9 - 10:30 a.m.
 2015 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg
- April 30**
Ridge View Dermatology Ribbon Cutting
 101 Candlewood Court, Lynchburg
- May 6 - June 10 (Wednesdays)**
 QuickBooks Training Seminar
 3 - 5 p.m.
 Business Development Centre
 147 Mill Ridge Road, Lynchburg

- May 7**
Small Business Awards Reception and YEA Graduation
 5 p.m. Graduation and Business to Business Networking
 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Small Business Awards Program
 Phase 2
 4009 Murray Place, Lynchburg

- May 12**
Small Business Seminar
 "Fraud: An Evolving Threat"
 7:30 a.m. Registration and light breakfast
 8-10 a.m. Speakers and presentation
 Central Virginia Community College Auditorium, Rm 5146

- May 13**
Business at Breakfast
 7:30 - 9 a.m.
 The Summit, 1400 Enterprise Drive
- May 14**
Lynchburg Dental Center Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting
 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
 3719 Old Forest Road, Lynchburg

- May 19**
Connection Expo & Job Fair
 1-7 p.m.
 LaHaye Student Union Schilling Center
 Evans Blvd, off University Boulevard