

## **GREATER NORTHERN LEHIGH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

### **22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL SPIRIT AWARD**

Nicholas A. Smith of Walnutport has been chosen to receive the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spirit Award presented by the Greater Northern Lehigh Chamber of Commerce (GNLCC), partner of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. The event will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2016, at Northern Valley Emergency Medical Service (NOVA), Coplay, PA beginning at 6:00 p.m. The evening will include cocktails, dinner, a basket auction to benefit the Walnutport Canal Association, dancing and the awards program. Local business owners and leaders in attendance will be recognized by the Chamber of Commerce for their dedication to the community.

Nicholas A. Smith was born in Lehighton, PA on September 8, 1934. He is the son of William and Anna (Frank) Smith and had four brothers and two sisters. Nick served in the Army beginning at age 17 before getting into the furniture business. Nick opened his own business in his home before retiring in 1999. He has been involved in many community volunteer organizations and continues to give of his time.

Nick was born along Lizard Creek in Lehighton and was raised on a farm just outside of Summit Hill. He joined the US Army Reserves at age 17 and served with the 165 MP Battalion in Lehighton from 1951 until 1960. It was then that Nick met Doris Coffin, his soon to be wife, at a square dance; the couple was married on December 21, 1957 and moved to Walnutport together. Nick and Doris have one daughter; Jane Ann, wife of John Meckes and one grandson; Mathew Meckes.

Nick has been a lifetime volunteer, a passion he shares with his wife and their daughter. Nick joined Rotary in 1978 and has been involved ever since. Nick is also a member of the 440 F+AM Slatington Masonic Lodge, the Northern Masons Jurisdiction Scottish Rites 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree, the Rajah Shrine Anglers Club as well as the Rajah Shrine in Reading where he volunteers with bingo and serves popcorn at the circus. He is a member of Christ UCC Church in Walnutport and volunteers of his time. Over the years, Nick has been involved in many other local organizations including the Walnutport Fire Company, Emerald Fire Company, the Skeet Club, the Wildlife Center where he has made and donated trail signs along the D&L, The Walnutport Playground Association and the Venture Group giving his time to The Gathering. In addition, Nick is a substitute medical van driver and has made and donated countless children's rocking chairs for local organizations.

Nick began his career in furniture at the Lehighton Furniture Company. He went on to work at the Fullerton Furniture Company, E.A. Roffman Company as the VP of Manufacturing where he retired after 26 years and began his own furniture business, Nicholas A. Smith Furniture. The local company was well known for quality workmanship and friendly service. Nick built, upholstered, repaired and refinished furniture from his shop. He has worked with recognized companies such as Cartier Jewelers, Coca Cola and NBC. He and his wife were property managers of their own 18 unit apartment building in Walnutport. Nick was known by his customers to be a smart businesses man and one of the best woodworkers around, a pastime that Nick continues to enjoy.

Nick has received many awards and has been recognized for his contributions to the many organizations he has been involved in. In 2005, Nick was named Rotarian of the Year and was recognized for 21 years of upholding and furthering the principals and ideals of the Rotary way of life. He has been recognized for contributing to the Rotary Club Paul Harris Foundation, The Walnutport Playground Association and the Shriners Hospital 100 Million Dollar Club. He also holds a certificate from the Rotary Club of Slatington for "Service above Self" which he received in 1999.

Nick has been a Boy Scout and Girl Scout volunteer, thanks to his daughter. Jane got her dad involved in the girl scouts as a troop driver when needed. In addition to his family, Nick enjoys hunting and fishing in Canada. He continues to work on wooden baskets, rocking chairs and other items which he donates to organizations in need. Nick and Doris continue to enjoy Friday night dinners with a group

of friends and volunteers who continue to meet after 50 years. Nick plans to continue volunteering because, as he said, "I just enjoy helping people."

A limited number of tickets are still available; please call 484-274-2080 to purchase your ticket by Monday April 11<sup>th</sup>. Please note tickets will not be available at the door. Thank you to our sponsors for this event: Client 1<sup>st</sup> Financial; Ironton Telephone Company; The Neffs National Bank; Keystone Technology, LLC; Bechtel's Pharmacy; Rentschler Chevrolet-Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge-Ram; Steckel and Stopp, Attorneys at Law; Berkshire Hathaway Home Services – Benjamin Real Estate; Wyerbacher Brewing Company and Blue Ridge Cable TV13.

About The Chamber: *The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce's mission is to: deliver value to members through superior programs and services; advocate to advance business interests; unify the Lehigh Valley business community to leverage regional resources and strengthen its collective voice; and to create opportunities for businesses to grow. With over 5,000 members who employ more than 140,000 individuals, the Chamber is the largest in Pennsylvania, and one of the fastest growing in the nation.*