

MOVE PEOPLE TOWARD JOBS!

PROGRESSIVE CONNECTIONS

THE PWAC NEWSLETTER



A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Hello PWAC Supporters,

What an honor it is for me to continue serving as the President of PWAC's Board of Directors for another year! Our board is comprised of a group of people with diverse interests, knowledge, and talents, all of which we have continuously dedicated to supporting the operation, growth, and mission of PWAC. Our board represents an organization that provides a sense of belonging, purpose, and unity for so many individuals with disabilities in our area, and we are proud to see PWAC flourish more and more each year as the individuals enrolled in our programs develop skills for community employment and experience inclusion.

PWAC recently celebrated its 55th year of operations with a lovely "Emerald Anniversary" gala at the Meredith Inn in Kittanning on September 16. More than 60 invited guests attended for an evening of great food, music, and to hear from several distinguished speakers about the impact the Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County has had on their lives and in the community. Speakers included myself, owner of the Meredith Inn Lee Walker (who is also a member of our board), PWAC CEO Michelle Reefer, and our keynote speaker, owner of A'Mano Eatery in Kittanning, Angelo Mantini. We were especially delighted to hear from Angelo and his brother, Michael, who works at A'Mano and who is also enrolled in PWAC's Supported Employment program. We are so grateful to have such a wonderful community of supporters who care about the work PWAC does, and your support was certainly evidenced by the many kind donations garnered by this event for the benefit of our agency and those we serve.

Our management team works diligently to discover new ways that our clients and trainees can serve the communities around us that have, for so long, supported PWAC. Developing new and maintaining old partnerships with local organizations and businesses is a valuable piece of our purpose and mission, and so we thank those of you who have been part of that journey with us. Our work to accomplish our mission of "moving people toward jobs" would not be possible without the countless businesses, companies, schools, churches, and individuals who continue to employ PWAC's clients and trainees from across all of our programs to work on important projects year after year, and so we thank you for being among those generous supporters.

From myself and the entire Board of Directors, thank you very, very much for your continuous support. We look now to the months ahead, excited to see our programs grow and the individuals enrolled in them accomplish new feats, make new discoveries, and find meaning, purpose, and belonging.

Sincerely,

Lynn Sibley

President,
PWAC Board of Directors

IN THIS ISSUE:

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FEATURED TRAINEES



Each month, the PWAC Small Group Employment program celebrates trainees who have each excelled in their work and displayed an admirable, consistent work ethic.

Congratulations to **David** and **Terry**, who were selected as the Small Group Employment Employees of the Month for September! We are proud of your work and achievements!

CONGRATULATIONS



FROM PROGRESSIVE WOOD WORKS... NEW HOLIDAY SPECIALTY ITEMS!



Order your special fall & Christmas decorations at www.pwacprogressivewoodworks.com!



Progressive Lawn & Landscaping is finishing out their mowing season, but they are now taking fall clean-up jobs! Let our trainees get your yard cleaned up and prepped for winter this season.

Contact Bogie or Christin at 724-548-5664 to get on the fall clean-up list!

Emerald Anniversary Celebration

9.16.23

PWAC thanks everyone who attended or supported our 55th "Emerald" Anniversary Gala on Saturday, September 16 at the Meredith Inn in Kittanning!



Keynote Speaker Angelo Mantini (right), owner of A'Mano Eatery in Kittanning, with his brother, Michael



CEO Michelle Reefer with county commissioner candidates Rick Farah, Anthony Shea, and John Strate, and Representative Abby Major

We celebrated with great food, great music, and wonderful speakers whose remarks were a testimony to our past 55 years of operations. We look forward to continuing our mission of "Moving People Toward Jobs" for another 55+ years!

FALL

Trainees attended a 9/11 Memorial ceremony at IUP in Indiana.



Trainees at our Oak Avenue location have been busy decorating the rooms and halls for fall!



Clients at the AAC enjoyed picking out and decorating pumpkins!



A few trainees enjoyed a trip to Renshaw Farms!



OTHER PWAC HAPPENINGS



Our trainees and staff love going biking to get some fresh air and exercise.



We had our biannual training day for all 60 of our staff members, and we celebrated the 80th birthday of one of our van aides, **Ralph Taylor!**



Clients & staff at the AAC had a birthday celebration for their Program Specialist staff member, **Kelly Ballock!**



PWAC was awarded a grant from the Armstrong County Community Foundation!



Our clients & trainees love visiting the Outdoor Discovery Center through the Armstrong Center for Community Learning!



Clients at the AAC visited the library, went on shopping trips, and learned to wash and fold laundry at the local laundromat.



Halloween

Our staff threw some fun Halloween parties for our clients and trainees! Everyone enjoyed games, snacks, prizes, getting their pictures taken, and of course, dressing up!



Our Oak staff turned the conference room into the "haunted room"! CEO Michelle Reefer hid in their homemade coffin decoration and gave some clients/trainees a jump-scare!



STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

SEPTEMBER 11-15



Each September, we celebrate Staff Appreciation Week to recognize and thank every staff member who works to serve our clients and trainees every day. From our management team and our program specialists and assistants to our direct support professionals, facilities management, and everyone in between, we are so glad to have this amazing PWAC team that ultimately makes our mission possible!



"Thank you to each and every employee at PWAC for working together for those we serve! It is an honor to know each of you and a greater honor to serve on the PWAC team with you! Together we can accomplish amazing things!"

-Michelle Reefer, CEO



Not pictured: Amy Gray, Tim Lukeitio

NEW EMAILS NOTICE!

All of our staff members have new email addresses as of November 1. Use these new addresses to contact us in the future.

All new email addresses include the individual's first initial, last name, @progressiveworkshop.org.



To contact members of our administrative team, use their new emails listed below:

mreefer@progressiveworkshop.org – Michelle Reefer, CEO

ksmith@progressiveworkshop.org – Kim Smith, Chief Fiscal Assistant

kgoughler@progressiveworkshop.org – Jenn Goughler, VP for Administration & Development

bgoughler@progressiveworkshop.org – Bogie Goughler, VP for Production & Community Based Services

ksavoie@progressiveworkshop.org – Kim Savoie, VP for Programs & Compliance

kleone@progressiveworkshop.org – Kim Leone, Director of Benefits & Finance

pcromie@progressiveworkshop.org – Pam Cromie, Director of the Adult Achievement Center

cpierce@progressiveworkshop.org – Christin Pierce, Director of Community Based Services

facilities@progressiveworkshop.org – Bob Reesman, Director of Operations

tpeters@progressiveworkshop.org – Tera Peters, Job Coach

mrowan@progressiveworkshop.org – Molly Rowan, Development & Communication Assistant

mblattner@progressiveworkshop.org – Mariah Blattner, Front Desk Receptionist

info@progressiveworkshop.org – for more information, referrals, and inquiries

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER



Happy "Workiversary"!



Congratulations to our staff members who are celebrating a work anniversary this fall, as well as our new staff who just started this season! We appreciate all you do!

SEPTEMBER

Mae Slease	9-2-2004
Ron Blystone	9-7-2021
Stacy Patton	9-14-2022
Kristi Johnson	9-12-2022
Lindsay Moore	9-18-2023
Wanda Ellis	9-22-2015
Terri John	9-9-1999



OCTOBER

Tera Peters	10-9-2017
Marilyn Laird	10-9-2018
Beckie Vallies	10-9-2020
Andre Savoie	10-18-2021
Kim Leone	10-23-2018
Chris Goldinger	10-23-2018
Tina Miller	10-24-2022
Jacquelyn Cannon	10-25-2021
Raven Anderson	10-30-2023
Jessica Tuttle	10-30-2023
Cameron Zimmerman	10-31-2022
Jaime Schmela	10-31-2022

NOVEMBER

Christin Pierce	11-16-2017
Gregory Englert	11-30-2022



Fall Crossword



Q S P B K K Y A Y M M V L T Y
S S E R F A W N V J W P F E A
N S R P O C T O B E R U C M P
O T V R T G V O K L S W O E P
V A Y M U E R Z Q R K D V R R
E F N D L C M E W Z O Q E A E
M F V N P H L B S X M I A L C
B Z J I I U A S E S Q C R D I
E E A K W V M L C R I T D X A
R O C A E U E P L R T V W Z T
U Z F N Z B W R K O X K E B I
Y V G Y N Y D E S I W D H L O
E Z F O E P W X B A N E Z W N
B D C M C D Q W K A R M E Q F
A U T U M N J M A N K Y E N X

appreciation

anniversary

progressive

staff

halloween

september

november

pumpkin

october

autumn

emerald



THE PWAC TEAM

Our Board of Directors

Lynn Sibley (President)	Linda Kuruc	James Swast
Rob Watt (Vice President)	Lee Walker	Amy Ford
Chris Yanoff (Secretary)	Gene Hughes	Jennifer Vensel
Sonie Mervis (Treasurer)	Justin Snow	Nancy Kennedy
Ted Breuer (Emeritus)	Jill McMeekin	Chris Evans
LuAnne Frerotte		

Our Management

L. Michelle Reefer	Chief Executive Officer
Kim Smith	Chief Fiscal Officer
Jennifer Goughler	Vice President of Administration and Development
Kim C. Savoie	Vice President of Programs and Compliance
Bogie Goughler	Vice President of Production and Community Based Services
Kim Leone	Director of Benefits and Finance
Pam Cromie	Director of Adult Achievement Center
Christin Pierce	Director of Community Based Services
Bob Reesman	Director of Operations

Our Locations

Oak Avenue (Main Office)

301 Oak Avenue
Kittanning, PA 16201
Phone: 724-548-5664
Fax: 724-545-2088

Leonard M. Meneely Industrial Center

1340 North Water Street
Kittanning, PA 16201
Phone: 724-548-5664
Fax: 724-545-2088

Adult Achievement Center

368 Butler Road
Kittanning, PA 16201
Phone: 724-548-5664

PWAC Shelocta

9561 Route 422 W
Shelocta, PA 15774
Phone: 724-548-5664



STAY CONNECTED!



Be sure to visit us at www.progressiveworkshop.org and check us out on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Flickr! Email us at info@progressiveworkshop.com with referrals and general inquiries.



Move People Toward Jobs!