

# PROGRESSIVE CONNECTIONS

## THE PWAC NEWSLETTER



### *From our CEO...*

Happy New Year, PWAC Supporters!

We hope you enjoyed a relaxing, exciting Christmas season and are looking forward to the new year. We certainly are - as I am writing this, we just announced our plans to open a fifth location in Spring 2024 in Leechburg, PA, where we will be offering a second Adult Achievement Center day program! This expansion has been a long time coming; for the past several years, we have been searching for a place to launch a new program in southern Armstrong County to meet the need in that area for this type of service. Now that we've found a location, we are hopeful that

this development will impact the lives of some new clients in that area of the county in big ways!

We also announced that now, as an agency, we will be referring to our clients and trainees as clients and "employees." The reason for this change? We realized that since our trainees are paid for the work they complete as part of their training within their programs, officially calling them our "employees" instead is really a more appropriate term that is representative of their achievements and the work they do within our agency. The individuals enrolled in our programs who do NOT work to earn wages as part of their training will still be referred to as our "clients." And don't let this change confuse you; we will still refer to our staff members who work closely with our clients and employees as "PWAC staff"!

Starting out 2024 with some awesome changes, fun announcements, and new developments really makes us look forward to what this year has in store. We're excited to see our current programs continue to grow and help customers in the community, so if you have a need for a cleaning service, production service, or a document destruction service, contact us at 724-548-5664 to see how you can contract with Progressive Commercial Cleaning, Progressive Production Services, or Progressive Document Destruction this season!

We are so thankful to you for supporting us thus far over the years, and we hope you'll continue to join us as we jump into 2024!

Sincerely,

*L. Michelle Reefer*  
Chief Executive Officer

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

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- BIG NEWS! AAC Leechburg
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- Staff Anniversaries
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# ANNOUNCEMENT!

In this new year, we are now referring to the individuals enrolled in our programs as **“clients”** and **“employees.”**



Our employees regularly work for our Progressive Production Services sub-business to complete production jobs for Cook Medical in Vandergrift, PA.

**PWAC has referred to the adults with disabilities in our programs as “clients” and “trainees” for many years.**

Many of our individuals, previously referred to as “trainees,” complete work projects as part of their training and skills development within their programs.

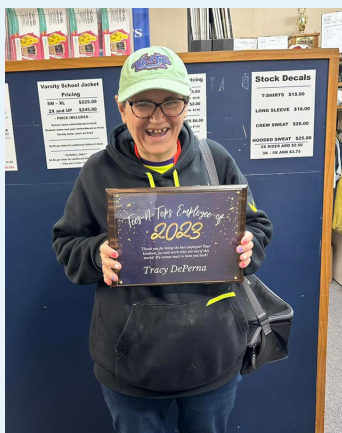
- They earn wages for the work they complete and are paid by PWAC.
- They have long been referred to as “trainees” to distinguish them from “clients.”

“Clients” are individuals enrolled at PWAC who do NOT work to earn wages as part of their training.

To properly acknowledge these individuals who represent PWAC’s programs and businesses through their work, we will now be referring to them as our “employees” (rather than “trainees”).

**We are excited for this change! To us, it signifies an ongoing respect for those we serve and a desire to acknowledge their roles and accomplishments within our agency.**

## EMPLOYEES AT WORK!



This is the second year **Tracy** has worked for Tees-N-Tops during the holiday season, and they have loved having her! She was excited to get an award for “Tees-N-Tops Employee of 2023”!



**Erma** works two days a week at A'Mano Eatery in Kittanning as a dishwasher, but when she isn't in the kitchen there, sometimes she works in the kitchen at our Oak Avenue facility (pictured above)!



Progressive Document Destruction provides shredding services for Cook Medical each month. Pictured above are **Jax** (staff) and **Adam** (employee).



Our employees work on small parts assembly jobs for Sloan Lubrication Systems several times a month. Here is **Kentony** smiling as he works on a recent job!



# FEATURED EMPLOYER:



## ANCHOR DISTRIBUTORS

Located in New Kensington, PA, Anchor Distributors is a Christian book and gift distributor that has been serving Christian bookstore customers since 1970. They pack and ship hundreds and sometimes thousands of packages every day. Anchor has been contracting with PWAC for several years to provide extra production assistance, but the relationship has grown significantly in the past three years. Now, Progressive Production Services employees contract with Anchor several times a month on average.



"We do not often have additional manpower to spare to complete extra jobs that some products require before shipping, so that is when we ask PWAC to help us get it done!" said **Dana Mauro**, Anchor Fulfillment Manager for Anchor Distributors. "PWAC provides Anchor with helpful crews to complete odd jobs in a timely manner. This includes stickering products, building kits, assembling box sets, and shrink wrapping materials. We have been completely satisfied with the quality of work, as well as the timeline. Oftentimes the jobs we contract for are completed before we expect them to be!"

PWAC's **Progressive Production Services** provides businesses of all sizes in and near Armstrong County with sub-contracting production services that allow those businesses to expand their workforce without hiring more employees. PWAC can complete certain work projects in-house, but employees can also travel to work for businesses on-site, which is usually the case when fulfilling a contract with Anchor Distributors.

"Anchor Distributors has very much benefited from this partnership. I would absolutely recommend PWAC to any business that needs a friendly, reliable crew to lend an extra set (or sets) of hands," said Mauro.

"I very much appreciate the services that PWAC provides, and the crews of employees are always very friendly. Besides that, they are also very hard working and reliable. **Nothing but praise for PWAC from me!**"



Contact us at 724-548-5664 or at [info@progressiveworkshop.org](mailto:info@progressiveworkshop.org) if your business has a production need! We offer a variety of services, and our employees would be glad to help.



# FROM PROGRESSIVE WOOD WORKS... GARDEN BOXES FOR PRE-SALE!



Progressive Wood Works garden boxes are now available for pre-order!



VISIT [PWACPROGRESSIVewoodworks.com](http://PWACPROGRESSIVewoodworks.com) TO ORDER A GARDEN BOX  
HAND-CRAFTED AND FINISHED BY OUR WOODSHOP EMPLOYEES!

Order pickup can be scheduled from March 1 to April 30.



**ALSO!** Our newest Easter-themed seasonal items are now available for pre-order! These laser-etched cutting boards would make great gifts or decorations for the Easter holiday season. Order online at [pwacprogressivewoodworks.com](http://pwacprogressivewoodworks.com)!



# BIG NEWS!

## WE'RE EXPANDING!



Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County

## Adult Achievement Center

### Leechburg

Opening Spring 2024

We are working to open our **fifth** location, another Adult Achievement Center, in Leechburg, PA to serve the population of adults with disabilities in the southern Armstrong County area! We expect **AAC Leechburg** to be a great addition to our agency that will provide needed services to an area of the county where there are no other opportunities for individuals to receive this kind of programming.



This new space includes a courtyard, which we hope to renovate and make available to the public. We are looking forward to the great opportunities that will come with this new location!



# CHRISTMAS

at PWAC!



Ron (employee) and Cameron (staff)



We held our annual Employee Christmas Party at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kittanning on December 20th! We all enjoyed a homemade meal together (made by our staff members Marilyn and Jax), our CEO Michelle announced that everyone would be receiving a pay raise, and we celebrated with dancing, caroling, and a visit from Santa! We also had an Ugly Sweater Contest...there were lots of great contestants, as you can see!



Tim and Ray



Here are a few of the winners:  
(From left) Kentony, Nate, Brian, Dana, and Erma (above)!







Mr. and Mrs. Claus made a visit to see all the clients and employees! Then, everyone enjoyed the photo booth and some dancing. See all the photos online on our Flickr account linked on our website!



Sam



Sue, Erin, Lydia, Tammy



Alicia



Staff members Stacy, Becky, and Chris

We enjoyed our annual Staff Christmas Party at the CU Club in Ford City on December 9! Everyone shared a great dinner and karaoke to celebrate the season.





# DOOR DECORATING

# CONTEST



South Room



We had our annual Door Decorating Contest for Christmas across all our locations! Here are the winners:

1. **The South Room** (at Oak) - Polar Express Theme
2. A 3-Way Tie! --> **AAC, North Room, and the Industrial Center** (with a "Christmas Vacation" theme)
3. The **Woodshop AND PWAC Shelocta**

Everyone who participated got to celebrate with a pizza party!



Fiscal Department



AAC



North Room



Wood Shop



Shelocta



Industrial Center



# OTHER PWAC HAPPENINGS



In December, a group of PWAC employees and staff members traveled to a few personal care facilities in the area to sing Christmas carols to the residents!

Our staff are always finding new and creative ways to get everyone moving during the day, so the clients and employees have been learning some dance moves!



Our AAC Kittanning clients have been enjoying some great learning opportunities out in the community: exercising at the local YMCA, and learning to count money to pay for some sweet treats at Oakmont Bakery!



Employees and staff have been working on some new activities and crafts...check out the Valentine's Day gnomes made of yarn!





# STAFF ANNIVERSARIES!

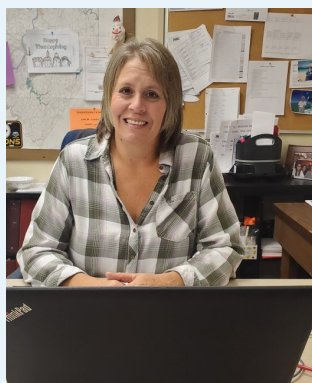
## DECEMBER-FEBRUARY

### Happy "Workiversary"!

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

#### DECEMBER

Jen Wingard 12-4-2023  
Pam Cromie 12-11-2018



#### JANUARY

Traci Wilson (not pictured) 1-8-2024  
Mel Heckert 1-23-2017

#### FEBRUARY

Amy Gray (not pictured) 2-16-2004  
Bogie Goughler 2-19-2018





# Valentine's Day

## Word Search

L	E	T	T	E	R	S	F	S	E	S	O	R	S
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N	S	E	I	V	O	M	W	I	W	N	E	E	N
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LOVE  
LONELINESS  
VALENTINE  
DINNER  
HOLD HANDS  
PARTY  
DANCING  
LETTERS  
SWEETS  
CARD  
ROMANCE  
ROSES  
WHISPER  
FLOWERS  
DATE  
COUPLE  
HEARTS  
MOVIES  
KISS  
FLIRT





# 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

### AAC Leechburg

Coming soon!

### 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](http://www.progressiveworkshop.org) and check us out on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Flickr! Email us at [info@progressiveworkshop.com](mailto:info@progressiveworkshop.com) with referrals and general inquiries.





**Move People Toward Jobs!**