

CONNECTIONS

CONNECTIONS is an e-newsletter published by the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University, Marty Wiseman, Ph.D., Executive Director. It is intended for public officials, economic developers, and community leaders, although anyone with an interest may subscribe to the list at no cost. Information is provided as a guide only, and is not guaranteed to be accurate. The mailing list is not sold or shared with anyone. To be removed from the list send an e-mail to Phil Hardwick at phil.hardwick@msstate.edu or REPLY to this e-mail and type UNSUBSCRIBE CONNECTIONS in the subject line.

September 29, 2009

Greetings:

The Stennis-Capitol Press Luncheons are held on the first Monday of each month (except holidays) at the University Club in downtown Jackson, Mississippi. Dr. Mark Keenum, President of Mississippi State University, will address the luncheon on Monday, October 5, at noon.

I'm often asked if these are workshops, conferences, seminars or what. Some have inquired as to whether it is a club that requires membership. The answer is none of these. The luncheons are simply a forum designed for newsmakers and public policymakers to have a dialogue with the Capitol Press Corps. They are a joint effort by the Stennis Institute of Government and the Capitol Press Corps. During the past year we have heard from political candidates for statewide office, elected officials, state government experts, and even the a panel of political reporters. We begin at noon with lunch from the University Club's outstanding buffet followed by a 15-20 minute presentation by the newsmaker, and then Q&A from the members of the press. The luncheons are informative and a good way to network with people who are interested in public policy and current events. And yes, the luncheons are open to the public. If you would like to be on the mailing list or desire more information go to www.stenniscapitolpress.wordpress.com. If you would like to attend next Monday's luncheon just send an e-mail by Friday noon to me at phil.hardwick@msstate.edu. The cost is \$15 and you can pay at the door.

Phil Hardwick

FORBES' ANNUAL BEST STATES FOR BUSINESS RANKING was released last week. It can be found at http://www.forbes.com/2009/09/23/best-states-for-business-beltway-best-states_table.html

GALLUP.COM'S "STATE OF THE STATES" series reveals state-by-state differences in political party affiliation, consumer confidence, well-being, and more, based on U.S. daily tracking data collected between January and June 2009. <http://www.gallup.com/poll/122042/State-States-Series-Midyear-2009.aspx>

HEALTH INSURANCE: Rural and Urban. In rural counties as of 2006, 82.6% of people under the age of 65 (when Medicare coverage begins) had some kind of health insurance coverage. In urban counties, 82% of those under 65 years of age had health care coverage. More and a map at <http://www.dailyonder.com/insured-health-care-rural-and-urban/2009/09/01/2323>

HOW TO LEAD A GREAT PANEL DISCUSSION - Seven keys from an expert.
<http://tinyurl.com/y8q5fkl>

GRANTS.GOV is a good source to FIND and APPLY for federal government grants. Check out New Opportunities This Week section.
<http://grants.gov>

HOW MANY RAILROAD ACCIDENTS IN YOUR COUNTY? The Federal Railroad Administration has an excellent Web site allowing generation of specialized accident/incident reports. It's at
<http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/officeofsafety/publicsite/Query/stateoverview.aspx>

CALENDAR

October

5 - Stennis-Capitol Press Luncheon, University Club, Jackson; Dr. Mark Keenum, President, Mississippi State University. More info at www.stenniscapitolpress.wordpress.com.

14 - Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History, William F. Winter Archives and History Building. As part of the History Is Lunch series, author Danny McKenzie and Jack Reed talk about the new book *A Time to Speak: Speeches by Jack Reed*. William F. Winter will introduce the program. For more information call 601-576-6998.

21 - Mississippi Economic Council's 8th Annual Hobnob Mississippi. More info at www.msmecc.com.

November

3 - SPECIAL ELECTION DAY: School board trustee elections in some counties.

12 - MS World Trade Center Awards Luncheon, Country Club of Jackson; 11:30 AM, For more info. e-mail rregan@mswtc.org or call 601-353-0909.

13/14 - Stennis Institute of Government, Selected to Serve, Mayors Leadership Retreat, Gray Conference Center. More info:
<http://www.sig.msstate.edu/selectedtoserve.php>

17 - Mississippi Economic Development Council, "Connecting With Your Members," MEDC Regional Chamber Workshop Series; 8:30AM-3:00PM, Newton, MS. More info at www.medc.ms.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Politics, it seems to me, for years, or all too long, has been concerned with right or left instead of right or wrong.

- Richard Armour

Phil Hardwick

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