

GREATER READING CHAMBER ALLIANCE



• 606 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601
 • 610.376.6766 • fax 610.376.4135
 • info@greaterreading.org
 • www.greaterreading.org

Our mission is to be Berks County's leading unified resource for building a healthy, competitive business community. Our vision is to assist companies to retain, expand and grow their operations and employment and attract new businesses to Berks County.

GRCA's Annual Dinner Honors Top Businesses, Features Sarah Thomas

The Greater Reading Chamber Alliance (GRCA) last month celebrated the Berks County business community at its Annual Dinner held at the Truck N Brew at Willow Glen Park. Nearly 600 people attended the outdoor, upscale-tailgate-themed evening, which was punctuated by a keynote address from Sarah Thomas, the NFL's first female referee.

"Our dinner was a terrific hit with our members, which was topped off with an inspirational speech by Sarah Thomas. Sarah's down-to-earth story of a star college athlete to her groundbreaking entry into the NFL demonstrates again that hard work, tenacity and perseverance are the keys to success regardless of one's gender or background. And with the new NFL season starting, the crowd loved her story and her passion for the high-profile job she took up again opening week at the Buffalo-Pittsburgh game," said Jim Gerlach, President & CEO of GRCA.

Thomas' address featured some light-hearted moments as well. She asked the crowd to raise their hands if they were football fans, which resulted in a flurry of hands flying up. Thomas then asked the crowd to repeat after her as she said, "I promise, I will no longer boo the officials."

The ceremony kicked off with the DoubleTree by Hilton Reading being recognized with the 2021 Albert Boscov Economic Development Award. Jim Boscov, Chairman & CEO of Boscov's Department Store, was on hand to present Craig Poole, General Manager of the DoubleTree by Hilton Reading, with the award.



Sarah Thomas

The area's Top Growth Businesses were also honored. Good Life Companies, Service 360 Group and Heeby's Surplus rounded out the top 3. The honored businesses are for-profit companies who had revenues of at least \$1 million in each of that most recent fiscal years.

Smaller businesses were recognized in the category of Entrepreneurial Excellence. Burns Logistics, Berks Surveying & Engineering and Financial Planning Advisors made up the top three. The honored companies are for-profit businesses who had revenues of at least \$250,000 in each of the most recent fiscal years.

"GRCA always looks forward to the Top Business Awards every year," said Michele Richards, Director of Treasury Sales of Fulton Bank and GRCA's board chairwoman. "We are excited to recognize a business community that continues to flourish despite a challenging 12 months. It's so gratifying to see everyone come together and celebrate business growth, development, and in many cases, continued commitment to Greater Reading. Congratulations to all our honorees!"

About The Greater Reading Chamber Alliance: Our mission is with excellent and committed leadership and coordination, we: attract new businesses to our community, support the businesses which are already here, nurture local start-ups, develop the workforce for today and the future, and advocate on behalf of the business community.



UPCOMING EVENTS

For further information contact: Leah Fassnacht, Director of Communications & Marketing
 lfassnacht@greaterreading.org, 610.898.7780

October 13 – Building Berks Awards & Trade Expo

Doubletree by Hilton Reading
 701 Penn Ave, Reading, PA 19602
 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
 \$100/person
 Advanced Registration Required

October 21 – Berks Alliance Community Forum Where will we get local news?

Virtual link will be sent the week of the event
 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 FREE to Attend
 Advanced Registration Required

October 26 – Essentials of Effective Leadership

Center for Business Excellence
 49 Commerce Drive
 Wyomissing, PA 19610
 5 weeks on Tuesdays: Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23
 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 \$695/person for Chamber Members
 \$895/person for Not-Yet Chamber Members

October 27 – 2021 MFG Summit

RACC Schmidt Training & Technology Center
 10 S. 2nd Street, Reading, PA 19602
 8:00 – 12:00 p.m.
 \$20/person
 Advanced Registration Required



October 30 – Chamber Trip 2021 Greece – Land of Gods and Heroes

10/30 – 11/7
<https://www.aventuraworld.com/booking/login/>



FROM GREAT TO Greater

ACCELERATE YOUR BUSINESS GROWTH WITH A GRCA MEMBERSHIP

Join GRCA now to build new networks, gain resources and tools to maximize profitability, and get ahead of the competition. Your success is our business.



To learn how to become **BETTER** with a GRCA membership, visit joinGRCA.com.