

GENTLEMEN OF
GOAL
MAGAZINE

Fashion and Philanthropy



Chad Amond

President & CEO



Years in current position. Years in current industry?

6 years at Westmoreland County Chamber and twelve years total in the Chamber of Commerce world.

Education?

Bachelor of Arts in Communication, Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock
Master of Business Administration, Seton Hill University, Greensburg, PA
Institute of Organizational Management, United States Chamber, Villanova University

Hometown? Grew up in Derry

Currently Resides in? Unity Township

What lead you to your current profession?

Chad Amond was named President & CEO of the Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce in 2011. The Westmoreland County Chamber is the largest and most active business association in Westmoreland County, representing over 1,000 members and offering a host of programs and services to a wide array of businesses across all industry types. Under Mr. Amond's leadership, the Chamber is dedicated to supporting, encouraging, and advancing responsible business development by providing several member benefits including advocacy for a business-friendly environment, leadership development, and a forum for building professional relationships. In his role, Mr. Amond is responsible for implementing the organization's strategic plan, identifying opportunities to increase membership value, managing day-to-day business operations, and serving as the organization's principal communicator.

Previously, Mr. Amond served as President of the Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce. Under his guidance, that organization grew to become one of the largest and most influential business associations in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania representing over 725 companies in Monroeville and across Pittsburgh's east suburbs.

Prior to his service as a chamber of commerce executive, Chad served the key communications and marketing executive at Forbes Hospital in Monroeville PA and held several senior level positions in the field of sports marketing and management – most notably with the Philadelphia Flyers, Philadelphia 76ers, and at Pittsburgh's former Mellon Arena.

Who has been most influential to you throughout your career?

There are really too many to mention. But my wife, my parents, grandparents, and in-laws have been instrumental on the family side of life. And to have the career that I do, a strong family matters so much.

On work side of life, a gentleman named Tom Senker was an instrumental mentor. Tom was the president of a health system in which I worked when I was younger. Having reported to Tom, he taught me so many things. But one I will never forget is that he would be as kind and respectful to the top physicians and surgeons as he would be to the front desk volunteers and the custodians. Having a leader that was focused on treating people with respect and kindness no matter their role is one of the things I try to do each and every day.

To what event, decision, person, characteristic or other do you attribute your success to the most?

I always say there are two kinds of people in the world. The ones who are humble and the ones who are about to be. So, this question is a tough one for me to answer, because I'm still working on my success. And I don't want to be the one who is about to be humbled.

I will say this, to me work ethic is the primary trait that I think can make anyone successful. And success is different for everyone. Some people consider success how much they have in their investment accounts and others consider success the fact that they can pay their bills and spend a lot of time with their family. Whether you are an electrician, a teacher, a small business owner; a software engineer, or a chamber president, working hard, being diligent, always being engaged and continuous lifelong learning are the fundamental keys to success.

What do you love and dislike the most about your job? Or, what inspires you the most and disappoints you the most?

First, I am blessed and honored to lead the largest and most influential business association in Westmoreland County and one of the most active Chambers in all of SWPA.

One of the things I love most about my role with the Chamber is that I get to interact with people who influence our community each and every day. I'm inspired by all of the people who are trying their best day in and day out to make Westmoreland County a better place to live, work, and play.

I guess one thing that would disappoint me and that we need to work better on is that sometimes people think the Westmoreland County Chamber is simply a networking group. We are much more than that. While we do make thousands of contacts and build relationships each year for local and regional businesses, we also focus on critical issues like workforce development, advocating for a stronger business climate, and developing the next generation of leaders who will make our community an even better place. Plus, we've been a key driver of Westmoreland County's next Comprehensive Plan – "Reimagining Our Westmoreland". The plan will serve as the County's official guide for land use and development over the next 10-20 years. It will be Westmoreland's "road map," detailing a long-term vision and policy agenda for important quality of life issues like economic development, land use, housing, population, parks, infrastructure, transportation, and more. Ultimately, the Plan will answer: "what should Westmoreland County look like in 10-20 years and how do we get there?" and how can our county help make the entire Pittsburgh region even stronger.

If you could do anything professionally, what would it be and why?

If I had a magic wand, I would make our communities to work together more collaboratively. One thing about SWPA is that we are often times too parochial. It's okay to root for the logo on the helmet on Friday nights in the fall. And I understand that each community celebrates its rich history and heritage, but we need to work together more closely to make our community a better place in the long term.

If you had to give a younger person in your field one piece of advice what would it be?

Engage in statewide and national organizations that provide continuous learning opportunities. Not only will you gain professional knowledge, but you'll also get the perspective of your colleagues from around the state and the county.

Define success in one statement.

Success is different for everyone. But hard work and dedication will lead you to your definition of success.

What cause, or purpose are you most motivated to support and why?

There are so many wonderful not-for-profit organizations making a positive difference in our community. GOAL Magazine is just one example. From charitable foundations to local theaters, and from childcare centers to drug rehab programs, the residents and businesses of Westmoreland County put a lot of focus on helping those less fortunate. Like most people, I try my best to support all of these groups. Even if it's not with direct dollars out of my own pocket, I make sure I share the word of the great work they are doing with other community leaders so the whole community can be more aware.

What cause do you feel deserves more attention nationally?

Workforce. This is a national issue and one that we are struggling with here in Westmoreland County. There is a skills gap between our employers and our workforce. We need to make sure our young students know that a career in the trades and working with their hands can provide a strong career with a family sustaining income.

What style or outfit do you feel most accurately portrays your personality?

I think I was pulled out of the womb by my necktie. I wear a suit and tie just about every day. Although that trend seems to be changing pretty rapidly. Often times I'm the only person in the room wearing the suit. I was told once it's always better to be over dressed than underdressed.

What do you normally wear to work?

Suit & tie. Or at least dress pants, dress shirt and jacket.

Someday, looking back on your life, what had to have happened for you to feel proud and fulfilled?

If my four kids end up being smart hard workers and good caring people, I will feel proud and fulfilled.

Favorite Quote

"I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have." – Thomas Jefferson

If you were to share one life lesson to our youth what would it be and why?

Form solid friendships and strong professional relationships.

If you could change one thing about yourself or your life what would it be?

Abraham Lincoln has been quoted for saying "We can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses." I often times think of this quote and consider that optimistic and pessimistic viewpoints of your own life are from what perspective you view them. Sometimes I look more at the thorns than the roses. I'm not sure I would change anything about my life other than more often looking at the roses than the thorns.

What do you consider your greatest personal accomplishment and why?

My greatest accomplishment is without question convincing my wife Amy to marry me. Not only is she a beautiful, smart and talented professional woman, she is a remarkable mom to our four kids. Plus, she has put up with me for the past 20 years.