

## We're Preparing For a Reasonable End to All This!

For several weeks, we've been dealing with the day-to-day realities of Covid-19. We will continue to post information that our members need to know to stay ahead of the game. But we're also starting to anticipate a time when restrictions are reduced or even lifted. To get that process started, we are emailing all of our members two posters that we encourage you to display in some prominent areas of your business. Only one is likely to apply, at least at the outset. The first – Still Here and Ready for the Next Challenge – is for businesses that have remained open. The second – We're Back, Determined to Be Better Than Ever – is for businesses that have been given the okay to re-open. Let people see that you're ready for new challenges!! The posters will be emailed to you tomorrow (Tuesday). Use them as you see fit!!



## Chamber Entering the Virtual Meeting World!

It's been more than a month since many of the Chamber's committees, subcommittees and roundtables have been able to meet as the result of Covid-19's impact on the business world. While the Chamber has had discussions for quite some time on how these groups might be well-served to have an option for members unable to attend in person, little progress has been made. Circumstances, however, have accelerated those discussions. "The Executive Committee of our Board has been meeting virtually for several weeks," explained Chamber Board Chair Darin Tornatore. "Our full Board will meet in that format later this week and the Chamber staff is beginning to schedule



virtual committee meetings for May and June. There's a definite upside for proceeding in this manner and we're looking forward to input from our members." Chamber committees will be alerted to future meeting dates when the schedules are finalized.



## Is Now the Time to Join a Chamber Committee?

With efforts being made to hold at least periodic committee meetings virtually, now might be a good time for Chamber members who haven't been able to attend committee meetings in the past to now consider joining a Chamber committee. A description of those committees is in the center section of the Chamber's Membership Directory as well as on the Chamber Website. Anyone who would like to be added to a Chamber committee should email Joe Hurd at [jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com).

## An Apology From the U.S. Chamber Foundation ...

The "Save Small Business Fund" of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, that began taking applications last Monday, was a huge attraction for businesses looking for \$5,000 grants. In fact, it was too much of an attraction. More than 15,000 applications were filed shortly after the site went live which crashed the site and left many applicants unable to get through. "We apologize for this situation that we recognize was both frustrating and disappointing," admitted Carolyn Cawley, President of the U.S. Chamber Foundation.



## Update on April Events and Programs

A few of our events have been updated since last week's newsletter. The status for the remainder of our April calendar is listed below:

•Presidents' Forum Steering Committee	April 27th	Cancelled
•Australia/New Zealand Informational Mtg.	April 28th	Cancelled
•BASICS/Rotary Career Fair	April 29th	Cancelled
•Transportation Committee	April 30th	Cancelled
•WE-LEaD Educational Program	April 30th	Postponed TBD
•CHamber Board Meeting	April 30th	Zoom

## Penn State Altoona Student Showcase Set For Friday

The Semi-Annual Penn State Altoona Student Showcase will still go on ...virtually!

The May 1st event will once again be a partnership between Penn State Altoona, the Blair County Chamber and the Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation. The

Showcase will be done as a Zoom session and will include the announcement of the Pechter Business Plan Competition winners. The presentations that day will focus on Electro- Mechanical Engineering Technology, Rail Transportation Engineering, Business Internships and Security and Risk Analysis. The access the link to attend the Student Showcase go to: [Altoona.psu.edu/showcase-spring20](https://Altoona.psu.edu/showcase-spring20).



## Application Deadline for Leadership Youth Extended to May 1st

Ninth grade students in Blair County schools who are interested in applying for the 2021 Leadership Blair County Youth program will now have until May 1st to submit an application. Previously those applications and referral forms could be secured in the guidance offices of the local schools. Since schools are not currently open, both can be found online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). There are also videos on the website that feature previous LBCY students talking about their experiences in the program. Leadership Blair County Youth is a program of the Blair County Chamber of Commerce.





## Highmark/Chamber Golf Classic Still On-Track for June 8th

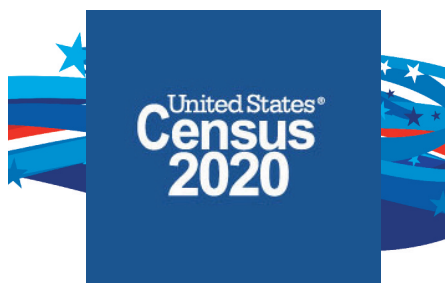


The Highmark/Chamber Golf Classic will be held on Monday, June 8th, at Iron Masters Country Club. "With the likely opening of local golf courses in advance of that date, we're confident that the Golf Classic will proceed as scheduled," acknowledged Chamber

President Joe Hurd. "This event comes at a time when the business community will need a much-deserved break from the months of hibernation and uncertainty." For more information on the Classic or to register, email [shoover@blairchamber.com](mailto:shoover@blairchamber.com).

## Don't Forget to Reply to the Census!

Lost in the discussion of important matters is the fact that the 2020 Census has been underway for several weeks. We encourage businesses and their employees to respond to the Census as soon as possible since the information that is accumulated has such an incredible impact on so many aspects of our daily lives. For example, a response rate of 100% will mean that a school district, municipality, city, county and social service program will receive its maximum share of federal funding for



the next ten years. Although the Census will be completed in mid-August, it's better to get your facts together now and submit them by the end of April. For more information, go to [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

## SUCCESS STORIES!

★ Sheetz, Inc. announced that beginning April 19th, all stores will have a special hour dedicated for at-risk customers. Those hours would be from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. every Sunday for senior citizens or anyone in a high risk category.

★ Saint Francis University established a Student Emergency Support Fund for those impacted by Covid-19. So far, 110 alumni and friends have donated \$14,717 to that fund which has financially helped more than 75 students.



... to Conner Owen, a student at Hollidaysburg Area Junior High School and Chloe England, a student at Williamsburg Community School, who were winners in the BASICS 8th Grade Career Essay Contest.

## BENEFact

Chamber Membership can save you money.

For April we are highlighting the POWER Card member benefit. COVID-19 has changed the way many of us do business forcing us to find new and innovative ways to reach potential clients/customers. If your business offers goods or services that can be discounted, placing a POWER Card offer can provide the exposure you've been looking for. With nearly 40,000 cards in circulation, this member-to-member benefit opens the door to thousands of potential customers. Utilize this amazing FREE member benefit by emailing Jessie at [jcovert@blairchamber.com](mailto:jcovert@blairchamber.com).

**Click here for a complete list of benefits exclusive for Chamber Members.**



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