

Chamber Board to Review Member Survey Results”

When the Blair County Chamber’s Board of Directors meets on Thursday, much of the discussion will likely focus on the results of the recent survey of Chamber members. “As a follow-up to calls that the Chamber staff made to all member-businesses in April, we wanted to get some additional insight on what members were thinking on issues like social media and how they were weathering the ongoing challenges with Covid-19,” explained Board Chair Darin Tornatore. “The data will help our Board as we begin a new strategic planning process.” The Chamber plans to continue with periodic surveys to determine member preferences as it formulates future meeting agendas.



Partnership With U.S. Chamber Will Create Important Dialogue



The decision of the Blair County Chamber to accept a partnership opportunity with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce should result in some positive dialogue, according to Chamber President Joe Hurd. The opportunity involves a U.S. Chamber initiative to

address Inequality of Opportunity through education, employment, entrepreneurship and criminal justice reform. “It makes sense for us to have some conversations that will hopefully yield some new and innovative strategies for us and for groups in our community that have much to offer but who don’t always have a seat at the table,” Hurd noted. “We see a variety of positive things that can come from this initiative.”

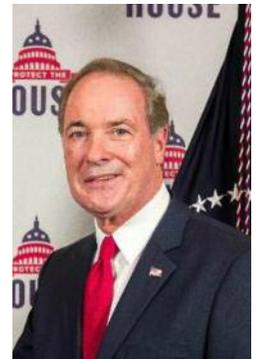


“Thank you to the Blair County Chamber of Commerce for helping to guide our business community through the shutdown and re-opening.

*-Courtyard by Marriott
Microtel Inn & Suites
Wingate Altoona*

Congressman Joyce to Address Executive Roundtable

Congressman John Joyce will be the featured speaker at Monday’s Executive Roundtable meeting. The Congressman will provide an update on key issues related to



the business and education communities and will field questions from Roundtable members. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. The Executive Roundtable is a committee of the Chamber that consists of CEO’s of Blair County businesses with at least 100 employees. For more information on the Roundtable, contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at jhurd@blairchamber.com.

Congratulations...

... to Barbara Hollander, who will retire as Altoona Site Coordinator for Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, after twenty-one years in that position.

Bloom Yoga Ribbon Cutting Proves Timing is Everything!

When Sharon Green (pictured below, fourth from left), owner of Bloom Yoga, scheduled her "Business Before Hours" and ribbon cutting at her new Altoona location, she evidently wasn't superstitious. She scheduled it for Friday, March 13th. Sharon must have known something that others didn't know because very soon after cutting the

ribbon, Covid-19 reared its ugly head and shut everything down. What Sharon lost out on to this point was the opportunity to have her ribbon-cutting photo featured in the Blair Business Mirror. Rather than holding back the photo any longer, we are publishing it in today's NETworks Digital News. Congratulations Sharon!



Buy Here. Thrive Here., PA 30-Day Fund Looking for Support

As more businesses enter the recovery phase from Covid-19, it's important that they don't need to accomplish that alone. Two programs geared to assist businesses are the Buy Here. Thrive Here. program and the PA 30-Day Fund. Buy Here. Thrive Here. is the Chamber's media-based effort to promote the importance of local buying as a way to help local businesses gain some revenue stability. The PA 30-Day Fund helps small businesses by providing grants of \$3,000 as a bridge to getting a business on firm footing. The one thing that both programs need is help with the financial



aspect of making a difference. To contribute to Buy Here. Thrive Here., contact Joe Hurd at jhurd@blairchamber.com. To contribute to The PA 30-Day Fund, email Jim Foreman at jforeman@procarebetter.com.

Committee Meetings

Executive Roundtable
June 15, 8:00 a.m.
Zoom

WE-LEaD Committee
June 16, 8:30 a.m.
Zoom

LBC Alumni
June 16, 2:00 p.m.
Zoom

Chamber Foundation
June 17, 8:00 a.m.
Zoom

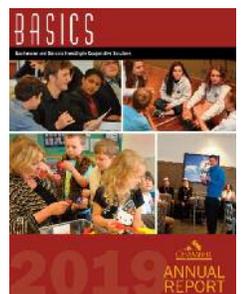
LBC Youth Committee
June 17, 3:30 p.m.
Zoom

Chamber Board of Directors
June 18, 8:00 a.m.
Zoom

Committee of Non-Profit
Businesses
June 19, 9:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

Always Wondered What BASICS Is? Let Us Show You!

The Blair County Chamber's BASICS program has been the catalyst for career exploration in local school districts for many years. Yet many people still aren't



aware of the many significant things that BASICS offers. To end the confusion, the BASICS Steering Committee has compiled an Annual Report document that is now available for people to download. Simply go to the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com and you will see the BASICS icon on the site's homepage. BASICS is an acronym for Businesses And Schools Investing in Cooperative Solutions.

Mark your calendars!
Business After Hours
July 16 • 5-7 p.m.

Get your business cards ready!

Allegheny Lutheran
Social Ministries
Logan Blvd., Altoona



Saluting Our Renewals!

With the *Blair Business Mirror* on a multi-month hiatus, the Chamber has been unable to publish the list of members who have renewed their memberships as well as the number of years that those members have continued to invest with the organization. Concluding this week, we will publish the names of those who have renewed. This week's renewals are from May (listed below). At a time when the Chamber faces many financial challenges due to our inability to hold programs and events, it's more important than ever that our members continue to stay active by renewing their memberships.

Celebrating 40-43 Years

Frederick Lock & Key, Inc.
Dennis L. Olewine, Contractor

Celebrating 30-35 Years

AgChoice Farm Credit, ACA
Black's Home Sales, Inc.
Tony D. Branda Mustang & Shelby Parts
Carlin & Associates
Kimmen Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Link Computer Corporation
Minetech Engineers, Inc.
Ritchey Well Drilling, Inc.

Celebrating 20-29 Years

Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area/
Allegheny Ridge Corp.
Altoona Beauty School, Inc.
Altoona Center for Nursing Care
The Baltimore Life Companies
Copy-Rite Banner Zone
Cove Forge Behavioral Health System
DeGennaro's Used Cars & Service
First Stop Shop, Inc.
Hollidaysburg Manor Apartments
Penn State Extension, Blair County
Office
E. Merrill Smith Funeral Home, Inc.
Wells Fargo Advisors

Celebrating 10-19 Years

Altoona Water Authority
Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.
Blair County Golf & Driving Range
Electric Motor & Supply, Inc.
Empire Communication Systems, Inc.
Lightner Communications
D.B. Mackey Insurance Agency
Mels Business Systems, Inc. dba
MBS Keystone

Pennsylvania Highlands
Community College
Society of St. Vincent DePaul -
Altoona-Johnstown
Zach's Sports and Spirits

Celebrating 5-9 Years

Beauchamp Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Coldwell Banker Town & Country
Real Estate/Scott White
Epic Journeys, LLC
Genter Enterprises, Inc. dba
Sinking Valley Lawn Care
The Good Funeral Home, Inc.
Griffith Family Foundation
MacInnis Group, LLC dba PennStress
Mountain View Eye Associates
Outsource Bookkeeping Services, Inc.
dba Liberty Tax Services
Southern Alleghenies Service
Management Group
Sylvan Veterinary Hospital
TRS Roofing, Inc.

Celebrating 1-4 Years

Allied Mechanical & Electrical
Blair School of Martial Arts, LLC
BrandDemon Strategy+Design
The Film Center
Grane Hospice Care
Great Commission Schools
HealthCare First Credit Union
Holiday Pools and Spas
Innovative Technologies, Inc.
Luther Lawn Service, LLC
Rita's of Altoona
Top Hat Chimney Sweeps
Ventura Construction Services, Inc.
John Wolf
Young Life of Central Pennsylvania



Highmark/ Chamber Golf Classic Headed Toward Another Sellout

The Highmark/Chamber Golf Classic has been one of the more highly anticipated events for several years. It appears that even a date change and the accompanying pandemic can't discourage business people from signing-up for this year's event, set for August 20th at Iron Masters Country Club. The goals, as always, are a sellout and the opportunity to have a great time. To register as a golfer or a volunteer, contact [Stacy Hoover](#) at 943-8151. If you'd like to be considered for one of the remaining sponsorships or to reserve a tee-and-green sign, contact [Jessie Covert](#) at that same number. It's been a difficult couple of months. It's time for some fun and relaxation!



BENefact
Chamber Membership
can save you money.

For June we will be highlighting Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies. This FREE member benefit allows members who wish to promote a new location, renovated space or even a new addition to call the Chamber to schedule a ceremony. Chamber staff, along with dedicated Ambassador's, will come out to participate. To discuss ribbon cutting availability, contact Linda Stotler at the Chamber or email lstotler@blairchamber.com.