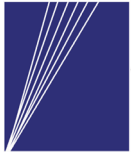


WE-LEaD to Hold Networking Event



WE-LEaD
Women Encouraging - Leadership,
Education, and Development

The Chamber's WE-LEaD Committee will be holding a networking event on May 24th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. on the patio at Park Hills Golf Club. The cost is \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for non-members. The cost includes two

beverage tickets and hors d'oeuvres. To register, call the Chamber of Commerce at (814) 943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com. Corporate sponsor of the event is Bella Lucia.

Executive Roundtable to Discuss Staffing Challenges

As more and more Blair County businesses struggle to maintain minimum staffing levels, the Chamber's Executive Roundtable will meet Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at The Blairmont Club to discuss possible ways to encourage people to rejoin the workforce. Also attending the Roundtable meeting will be State Senator Judy Ward and State Representatives Jim Gregory and Lou Schmitt. For more information on the



Executive Roundtable, contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at jhurd@blairchamber.com.

Chamber Foundation Board to Review BASICS Request

The City of Altoona is looking to fund projects in Blair County that emphasize career and employment opportunities and the Chamber's BASICS program is hoping to access funding through the City to help offset the cost of those programs. A letter that would be sent to the City from BASICS will be reviewed on Wednesday at the meeting of the Blair County Chamber Foundation Board of Directors. The Foundation Board meets at 8:00 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business



Development. For more information on the Foundation, contact Cindy Cessna at (814) 943-8151 or email her at ccessna@blairchamber.com. BASICS is an acronym for Businesses And Schools Investing in Cooperative Solutions.

Chamber Board of Directors Meets This Week

The Board of Directors of the Blair County Chamber will meet Thursday at 7:30 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. There is also a Zoom option. Among the agenda items will be a discussion of possible workforce programs that will lead to a regional effort aimed at helping to address staffing shortages. To address the Board, contact Joe Hurd by noon on Tuesday at (814) 943-8151.

"Business After Hours" is Thursday at the Convention Center

After a hiatus of more than a year, the Chamber will hold a "Business After Hours" this Thursday from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Blair County Convention Center. Enjoy an evening of food, beverages and networking! Cost to attend is \$6 for Chamber Members and \$20 for non-members. To register, call the Chamber at 814-943-8151 or register online. We hope to see you!

**JOIN
OUR TEAM**
DIGITAL MEDIA MANAGER

-- Full-time position --
To apply for this position, email a resume and cover letter to Joe Hurd at jhurd@blairchamber.com.

Leadership Adult Class to Complete Mini-Projects

The Adult Class of Leadership Blair County will have its 8th Session on Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The session title is "Servant Leadership in Action & Strategic Planning." It includes completion of mini-projects that class members will be doing through Blair County which emphasize the importance of Servant Leadership. For more information on Leadership



Blair County, contact Gwen Query at (814) 943-8151 or visit the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com.

Committee of Non-Profits to Hold Legislative Breakfast

The Chamber's Committee of Non-Profit Businesses will hold a breakfast meeting with State Legislators on Friday, June 4 from 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. State Senator Judy Ward and State Representatives Jim Gregory and Lou Schmitt will attend and answer questions from attendees, specific to issues impact the non-profit community. The cost to attend is \$20 for Chamber members and \$25 for non-



members. Breakfast is included. To register, contact the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or [register online](#).

Welcome New Members...

The Chamber welcomed its newest members at Breakfast Club held May 13.



Seated, left to right: Rob Orr, **APPALACHIAN RUNNING COMPANY**; Michael Kasun, **MICHAEL KASUN STATE FARM AGENCY**; Chris Cook, **LaJo's ITALIAN SAUSAGE**; REVEREND EVELYN MADISON; standing, left to right: Sam Liberman, Joel Locke, **SIMPLY CLEAN CARPET & UPHOLSTERY SERVICES, LLC**; Andrew Holodnik, **VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**.



Committee Meetings

LBC Alumni Committee
May 17, 1:30 p.m.
Devorris Center

WE-LEaD Committee
May 18, 8:30 a.m.
Devorris Center



Help Us Get the Word Out!

If you're receiving this newsletter, it means that you're a member of the Blair County Chamber. Are there other Chamber members that you know who aren't receiving the newsletter? Are there other employees at your business who could benefit from receiving it? All we need is their name and email address. There's no cost involved. We currently have nearly 5000 members who get the newsletter each Monday. We'd love to have more!

Oh, By the Way . . .

With nearly 5,000 Chamber members receiving the email newsletter, wouldn't it make sense to be able to reach those people inexpensively? Let Jessie Covert of the Chamber show you how. Call Jessie at (814) 943-8151 or email her at jcovert@blairchamber.com.

Ribbon Cutting



Michael Kasun State Farm Agency

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand-opening of Michael Kasun State Farm Agency located at 1635 East Pleasant Valley Boulevard, Altoona. With more than 40 years of experience in customer service, Michael Kasun provides customers with personalized service while offering a complete line of protection services for home and business. For more information go to KasunCares4U.com. Pictured at the ribbon, from left, State Representative Lou Schmitt; Sherri Stayer, Chamber Ambassador; Doug Wolf; Marcia Cowher, Agent; Denny Walter, Agent; Jake from State Farm; Mike Kasun, owner; Karen Kasun; Kelly Wike, Agent; Joe Hurd, President/CEO, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; Amanda Walker, the office of Senator Judy Ward; and Vicki Karns, Chamber Ambassador.

LBC Adult Class Raising Money to Benefit Covid-19 Response Fund

The Chamber's Leadership Blair County Adult Class held an Easter fundraiser with Bedford Candies. Class member Aaron Lantzy said, "The money raised from this fundraiser, which was just over \$1300, will be used as the seed money to cover the costs of our upcoming Day at the Races Around the Bases fundraiser to be held May 22 at the Altoona Curve." The event will begin at 2 pm and will include an afternoon of betting on virtual horse racing, an all you can eat buffet, live auctions, raffles, 50/50's and other games of chance. The 2021 LBC Class is raising money for the



Blair County COVID-19 Response Fund managed by The United Way of Blair County as their class project. All the money raised for the Blair County COVID-19 Response Fund will stay in Blair County. To reserve tickets or for more information, please contact McQuaide Blasko Attorneys at Law by calling 814-283-2000.

Congratulations!

... to Jimmy Johns Altoona, which will have a Chamber ribbon-cutting on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. Jimmy Johns Altoona is located at 3420 Pleasant Valley Blvd., Suite 1A.



Leadership Adult Program Accepting Applications for 2022

One of Pennsylvania's most successful adult leadership programs is accepting applications for its 2022 Class. Leadership Blair County will begin its 27th year in August. The program focuses on the concept of Servant Leadership and provides a comprehensive array of informational sessions that also creates exceptional networking opportunities. The class is limited to twenty-four participants. To apply, visit the Blair County Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com. The LBC Adult application deadline is June 30th.

BENEFact

Chamber Membership can save you money.

Did you know that the Chamber works in partnership with ChamberChoice, a health insurance plan offered through the Chambers of Commerce Services Corporation? Chamber members have access to a diverse suite of valuable products and services that can benefit your business. [Click here](#) to learn more.