

Finance Task Force to Resume Examination of Chamber Programs

Prior to Covid-19, the Chamber created a Finance Task Force to take a close look at Chamber programs and events. The purpose was to recommend to the Chamber's Board of Directors whether to keep, revise or eliminate existing programs and events. The Task Force will meet on Tuesday to resume that discussion. A significant part of the process will be a survey issued to Chamber-member businesses asking for input on the relevance of current Chamber offerings. A follow-up survey will ask for suggestions from members on the possible development of new programs. For further information on the Finance Task Force, contact Cindy Cessna at (814) 943-8151 or email her at ccessna@blairchamber.com.



Chamber Executive Committee to Meet Thursday

The Executive Committee of the Chamber will meet on Thursday at the Devorris Center beginning at 8:30 a.m. The Committee will discuss a possible partnership related to sustainability as well as reviewing a strategy for implementing various aspects of the Chamber Alliance with the Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County. Anyone who would like to address the Executive Committee should contact Joe Hurd by Tuesday at noon at (814) 943-8151.

Letter to Congressman Supports Restaurant Revitalization Fund

The ongoing challenges facing local hospitality businesses has caused the Blair County Chamber to petition lawmakers and rally other chambers to generate support for HR 3807 which would re-fund the Restaurant Revitalization Fund. That fund was officially closed on June 30th after the \$28.6 billion that had been allocated was exhausted. All told, only 28% of the applications that were received by the SBA were funded. The estimate of unfunded requests is



nearly \$75 billion. The Chamber has asked Congressman John Joyce to cosponsor HR 3807.

Chamber Joins Coalition for Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment

The Blair County Chamber has joined with chambers from across the country to form a Coalition for Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment. The Coalition urges Congress to create legislation that, once passed, will invest in roads, bridges, ports, airports, transit, rail, water and energy infrastructure and access to broadband. The Chamber's Transportation Committee will oversee the organization's involvement in the Coalition.



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Chamber Opposes Tax Increases for Small Businesses

The Biden Administration has proposed \$3.6 trillion in tax increases, including increasing the corporate tax rate by one third to 28% along with a host of other tax increases on employers. Just as businesses are beginning to recover from the pandemic, rehiring and raising wages, the administration's proposal would increase by one-third the tax rate paid by many employers. There are 51,321 employers in Pennsylvania that will see their taxes increase under the proposal. This includes 35,475 small businesses with fewer than 500 employees. The Blair County Chamber has



signed-on with the U.S. Chamber to oppose the tax increases. Nearly 85% of the Blair County Chamber's membership have less than 50 employees.

Effort by Chambers Keeps OMB Standards in Place

When it was announced earlier this year by the Office of Management and Budget that it intended to raise the limit for municipalities to maintain status as Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) from 50,000 to 100,000, it put 44 municipalities in jeopardy of no longer being eligible. One of those was the Altoona MSA. Through the efforts of chambers of commerce from throughout the country – including the Blair County Chamber – OMB announced last week that it has decided to keep the limit at 50,000. “That’s a



huge relief,” admitted Chamber President/CEO Joe Hurd. “Declassified cities would have either lost access to some federal programs or seen a reduction in federal funding.”

Missed the Healthcare Presentations? Here's How to Catch-Up

The Chamber's series on healthcare options, presented during the last few weeks of June, was videotaped so that those unable to attend could download it and watch it at their convenience. Unfortunately, the third part of the series, which featured Your Benefits Advisor, had technical difficulties and will be re-presented at a later time. To access the previous two presentations, go to: Hampton Medical : [Healthcare](#)



Series pt.2 Hampton Medical DPC 6-22-21 - YouTube and Empower 360: Healthcare Series pt.1 Empower360 6 16 21 - YouTube.

Committee Meetings

Finance Committee
July 20th
2:30 p.m.
Devorris Center

Finance Task Force
July 20th
3:30 p.m.
Devorris Center

Membership Committee,
July 22nd
10:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

BENEFact

Did you know that as a Chamber member business, both you and your employees can now receive discounted rates to educational programs and networking events held throughout the year? Increase your professional network and save money when you register to attend at www.blairchamber.com.

Did you know?

The Chamber has an Instagram!



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Data Security Roundtable Schedules Second Meeting

The first meeting of the Chamber's Data Security Roundtable, held last Thursday, was a huge success in terms of generating great conversation among technology providers who deal in some meaningful way with data security. A second meeting has been scheduled, this one on July 28th at 11:00 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. The meeting will be in-person but will also offer a Zoom option. The purpose of this meeting is to devise a game plan to help local businesses better understand data security issues and be



proactive in preparing for them. To attend the meeting, contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at jhurd@blairchamber.com.

Great Opportunities Exist for Committee Participation

As the Chamber heads into the heart of the summer, many Chamber committees are already gearing-up for a busy fall. To get that process underway, those committees are looking for additional members to tackle significant objectives. The committees that would like to add to their numbers are: Workplace Wellness, Sustainable Blair County, Committee of Non-Profit Businesses, Farm-City and Membership. Anyone who has an interest in



being part of any of these committees should contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at jhurd@blairchamber.com.



Congratulations...

... to Doug Hershey of Thought iQ, LLC who was recently named Rotarian of the Year by the Altoona Sunrise Rotary. Hershey orchestrated Rotary's 960 volunteer hours on 18 community projects and assisted with distribution of more than 18,000 pounds of food to those in need.

... to 1st Summit Bancorp, the parent company of 1st Summit Bank, which was named one of the country's best community banks by American Banker Magazine. This is the eighth year in a row that 1st Summit has received this honor.

... to Blair Regional YMCA whose Women's Summer Basketball League is observing the 40th anniversary of its founding.

Mark your calendars...



Grab your business cards for a great night of networking!

Thursday, July 29 • 5-7 p.m.

Register online at www.blairchamber.com

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.

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