

## U.S. Chamber Manager to Speak at Thursday's "Breakfast Club"

The Blair County business community faces a number of challenges in 2022, particularly at the federal level, and those challenges will be the topic of the next Chamber "Breakfast Club," set for February 10th at 7:45 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. Laura Manion, Manager of the Great Lakes Region of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, will be the speaker. She replaces Kevin Courtois who had a scheduling conflict. The cost to attend the Breakfast Club is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. A buffet breakfast is included. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). Corporate sponsor of the February Breakfast Club is Leonard S. Fiore, Inc.



Laura Manion

## Career Fair Subcommittee to Meet Tuesday

The first meeting of the planning committee for the annual BASICS/Rotary Career Fair will be held tomorrow, February 8th, at the Devorris Center for Business Development. The Career Fair is for high school sophomores from all Blair County schools. The event is set for April 27th at the Blair County Convention Center.



## Sustainable Blair County Planning "Vision Workshop"

The Chamber's Sustainable Blair County Committee meets on Wednesday at the Devorris Center at 1:30 p.m. The committee is in the process of planning a Visioning Workshop on March 1st to raise awareness of the importance of sustainability to the business community. Interested people should contact Joe Hurd at the Chamber at (814) 943-8151.

## Attractions/Hotel Roundtable to Meet at PNG Field



The Attractions/Hotel Roundtable, a partnership between the Blair County Chamber and Explore Altoona, will meet Wednesday at

8:15 a.m. in the conference room at Peoples Natural Gas Field. The Roundtable will discuss better ways to transport visitors from hotels to other destinations within the county of which they may have an interest.

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[www.phhealthcare.org](http://www.phhealthcare.org)

# Is Your Business Ripe for a Ransomware Attack?

Businesses are increasingly being targeted for ransomware attacks, paying millions of dollars-per-year to cyber-criminals to recover stolen data. Last year, about 38% of businesses globally reported that they were hit by a ransomware attack. Will your business be next? The Blair County Chamber has a Data Security Roundtable that meets each month to discuss ways to help businesses be prepared for all data threats. If you'd



like to join the Roundtable, contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at [jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com).



CLICK to watch!

## Home Garden & Healthy Living Showcase Right Around the Corner!

The 51st Annual Blair County Home Garden & Healthy Living Showcase isn't until March 25-27 but the enthusiasm for the event (and the nice weather that often accompanies it) has already begun. Sponsorships are available as are exhibitor opportunities. This is the first-ever Home Garden & Healthy Living Showcase held at the Blair County Convention Center so don't wait to secure your sponsorship or your booth. For more information, contact Stacy Hoover at (814)



**MARCH 25, 26, 27**

943-8151 or email her at [shoover@blairchamber.com](mailto:shoover@blairchamber.com). The Showcase is a partnership between the Blair County Chamber and the Blair-Bedford Builders Association.

## Chamber Offering "Band of Brothers" Tour

The Blair County Chamber and Ketrow KURTZ Travel will be offering a special "Band of Brothers" Tour from September 2-16, 2022. The Tour follows the path of Easy Company from its training bases in Toccoa, Georgia and England into combat in France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and on to final victory at Berchtesgaden, Germany – Adolf Hitler's Alpine Retreat. For further information, contact Ketrow KURTZ Travel at (814) 695-1100.



## Committee Meetings

Home Garden & Healthy Living Showcase Committee  
February 8th  
8:30 a.m.  
Devorris Center

Committee of Non-Profit Businesses  
February 8th  
10:00 a.m.  
Devorris Center

BASICS/Rotary Career Fair Subcommittee  
February 8th  
2:00 p.m.  
Devorris Center

Attractions/Hotel Roundtable  
February 9th  
8:15 a.m.  
PNG Field

Chamber Safety Committee  
February 9th  
8:15 a.m.  
Devorris Center

Sustainable Blair County  
February 9th  
1:30 p.m.  
Devorris Center



**NEW EPISODE - WATCH HERE!**

A recap of your Chamber at work  
**STREAMING MONTHLY TO YOUR  
EMAIL AND SOCIAL MEDIA FEED**



## Saluting Our Renewals!

We would like to thank those members that have continued to invest with the organization by renewing their membership in the month of January.

### Celebrating 105 Years

Goldstein, Heslop, Steele,  
Clapper, Oswalt & Smith

### Celebrating 62 Years

Penelec - A FirstEnergy Company

### Celebrating 51 Years

Stuckey Automotive -  
Stuckey Ford & Stuckey Subaru

### Celebrating 49 Years

WTAJ Your News Leader

### Celebrating 48 Years

Coldwell Banker Town & Country Real Estate  
Mount Aloysius College

### Celebrating 43 Years

Richard C. Sutter & Associates, Inc.

### Celebrating 30-39 Years

Ralph J. Albarano & Sons, Inc.  
Encompass Health Rehabilitation  
Hospital of Altoona  
Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center  
Greenwood Pools & Spas  
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Morefield Communications, Inc.  
The Music Emporium, Inc.  
New Look Uniform & Embroidery, Inc.  
St. Leonard's Home, Inc.  
Stiffler, McGraw & Associates, Inc.  
G. B. Wineland & Son, Inc.

### Celebrating 20-29 Years

Altoona Community Theatre  
Celebration Villa of Altoona  
Colonial Courtyard at Tyrone  
Durbin Companies  
The Lytle Group, Strategic HR Consulting  
Quality Corrections & Inspections

### Celebrating 10-19 Years

Allstate - The Gibson Agency  
Altoona Curve Booster Club

American Eagle Paper Mills  
AmeriServ Bank  
Baker Tilly US, LLP  
Blair Auto Service & Power Equipment, Inc.  
Britz & Associates  
CCS Custom Building & Remodeling Inc.  
Creative Kids Education Center, LLC  
Dean Patterson Chevrolet,  
Cadillac, Mazda, Hyundai  
Forsheys Ag and Industrial  
Gallagher Insurance Agency  
Kretina Builders, Inc.  
Lytle Testing Services  
Nittany Professional Cleaning, Inc.  
PHN - Altoona Community Health Center  
PNC Bank, NA  
RT Contracting, Inc.

### Celebrating 5-9 Years

Bun Air Corporation  
Central PA Physicians Group  
Coldwell Banker Town & Country  
Real Estate/Sandra A. Kurtz  
Duncansville Pharmacy, Inc.  
Mighells Brothers Excavating, Inc.  
Nason Foundation  
Quality Inn  
Tame Your Mane Styling, LLC  
US Renal Care of Altoona  
Weber Murphy Fox, Inc.

### Celebrating 1-4 Years

Academy Performance & Exercise  
Center City Church  
Escape Altoona Co.  
Executive Barberz 2 Hair Salon  
Fiore Brothers Management, LLC  
Hampton Medical Direct Primary Care  
Howard Hanna Bardell Realty  
Jersey Mike's Subs  
W.H. Kelly & Son Monuments  
Roofworks USA, Inc.  
Representative Louis C. Schmitt, Jr.  
Sweat For Vets, Inc.  
State Senator Judy Ward



## Share Your Unemployment Compensation Story

The harsh reality is that many businesses in our county can't find enough employees and some of those businesses are now faced with significant increases in their Unemployment Compensation cost. Although the state hasn't changed the rating formula, businesses with claims, including fraudulent claims, are seeing the impact of the pandemic in their unemployment comp payments because of their claims experience. To make matters worse, the state has had to borrow money to keep the Unemployment Compensation fund solvent and is expected to raise rates or add surcharges over the next several years. The impact will further restrict the ability etc. The Chamber is seeking information from its members to determine the level of increases that they are experiencing so that we can reach out to elected officials for some kind of relief. Please send information on how your UC bill has been impacted to Joe Hurd at [jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com).

## Presidents' Forum Opportunities

The Presidents' Forum, a professional development program for upper-management members of the Blair County Chamber, will be creating additional Forum Groups this Spring and will also offer opportunities for interested business leaders to become part of existing Groups. The Chamber will hold an informational meeting on February 23rd at 8:00 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. Interested persons should contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at [jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com).