

NETWORKS

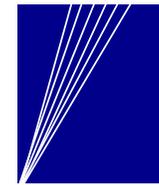
DIGITAL NEWS



March 14, 2022

Blair County Chamber Recognized by PA Business Central

Pennsylvania Business Central newspaper just released its Top 100 Organizations for Central PA and the Blair County Chamber is among those on that list. "It's a significant honor for the Chamber since there are so many organizations in that geographic area doing outstanding things," acknowledged Chamber Board Chair Richard Fiore, Jr. "We're hopeful that our members will also feel a sense of pride. They make us what we are through their investment and involvement." Chamber members also honored in the Top 100 are: 1st Summit Bank, Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries, Altoona Beauty School, Altoona Curve, Altoona Grand Hotel, Altoona Lung Specialists, American Eagle Paper Mills, Ameriserv, Baker Tilly, BrandDemon, Central PA Community Foundation, DelGrosso Foods, Doing Better Business, E.B. Endres, Encompass Rehabilitation Hospital, First Commonwealth Financial Corporation, First National Bank, Gingrich Insurance, Griffith Family Foundation, Gwin Dobson & Foreman, Inc., Homewood at Martinsburg, Imler's Poultry, Jeff Long Construction, Keystone Payroll, Lakemont Park, Leonard S. Fiore, Inc., McQuaide Blasko, Moore Power Sales, Mount Aloysius College, New Pig Corporation, PC Works Plus, Penn Highlands Healthcare, Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, PSECU, Saleme Insurance Services, Seltzer Financial Strategies, Sheetz, Inc., Skills of Central PA, Stuckey Automotive, The Giant Company, UPMC Health Systems, Wessel & Company and WPSU.



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

WE-LEaD Networking Event is Tonight at Zach's

The Chamber's WE-LEaD Committee will hold a Networking For Women in Business Event tonight from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Zach's Sports & Spirits in Altoona. The event is an opportunity to relax and enjoy hot hors d'oeuvres and cold beverages while interacting with a great group of business women. The cost is \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for non-members. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151. WE-LEaD is an acronym for Women Encouraging - Leadership, Education and Development.

Limited Slots Available for YEA! Investor Panel Event



The 2022 Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) class will present their business proposals to a panel of investors on March 29th at 6:00 p.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. That event is the highlight of the YEA! program. At the present time, there are still three investor slots available for interested businesses. The cost is \$1,500 each. Interested businesses should contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151.

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Saluting the Sponsors of the Home Garden & Healthy Living Showcase

The 51st Annual Blair County Home Garden & Healthy Living Showcase, set for March 25-27 at the Blair County Convention Center, has the potential to be one of the largest shows in many years. Besides the many exhibitors at this show, there are four outstanding businesses that have stepped-up as sponsors to make the show even more of a success. Those sponsors are: Renewal By Anderson, Smithmyer Plumbing & Heating, RoofWorks USA and Holiday Pools & Spas. "The sponsors provide additional credibility to the value of the show," admits Stacy Hoover of the Chamber. "When businesses like these invest in sponsorship, it sends a



message that resonates loud and clear." For more information on the show or to reserve one of the few remaining booths, contact Stacy Hoover at (814) 943-8151 or email her at shoover@blairchamber.com. The Showcase is a partnership between the Blair County Chamber and the Blair-Bedford Builders Association.



Chamber Recognizes "All-Stars" for February

The Blair County Chamber's ability to offer quality programming, events, recognition and advocacy efforts depends largely on the willingness of sponsors to step up to help underwrite the costs associated those efforts. So at the end of each month, we publish a list of businesses or individuals who sponsored anything Chamber-related during the month. They have helped us to make a difference in the business community. All-Stars for February are: C&J Rental Management at The Columns, Leonard S. Fiore, Inc., Lung Disease Center of Central Pennsylvania, McCartney's WorkPlace Solutions, MD Tax Pros, Inc. dba Jackson Hewitt Tax Service, Outsource Bookkeeping/ dba Liberty Tax Services and The UPS Store.

Nomination Period Continues for Business Hall of Fame



After a two-year hiatus, the Business Hall of Fame is returning, albeit with a few significant changes.

The event, started by the Blair County Chamber in 1990, will be held on June 16th at The Casino at Lakemont Park. Perhaps the biggest change is that event is now a luncheon instead of a dinner. The Hall of Fame luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. and conclude by 1:30 p.m. The luncheon will still be highlighted by the presentation of the Hall of Fame Awards. But rather than the four inductees in past years, there will be no more than two presented at this event. The Awards of Distinction will likewise undergo a change. While holdovers like Excellence in Small

Business and Young Emerging Business will remain, there will only be one recipient in each of those categories instead of the three that existed in the past. And for the first time, there will be a Non-Profit Business of the Year Award. In the past, the Hall of Fame judges presented awards for safety, technology and sustainability. Those awards will be presented under a category known as "Business Specialty Awards" but only when a particularly outstanding accomplishment is identified. Despite the many changes that the Business Hall of Fame is undertaking, the nominating and selection process remains the same. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Chamber website at www.blairchamber.com. For more information, contact Stacy Hoover at shoover@blairchamber.com.

Committee Meetings

BASICS Steering Committee
March 14th
8:00 a.m. / Zoom

Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) Subcommittee
March 15th
10:00 a.m. / Zoom

Executive Roundtable
March 16th
7:30 a.m. / Blairmont Club

Sustainable Blair County
March 16th
1:30 p.m. / Devorris Center

Leadership Blair County Youth Committee
March 16th
3:30 p.m. / Devorris Center

INVEST IN THEIR DREAMS

Consider donating to the Chamber Foundation

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Chamber to Launch Membership Campaign on March 28th



The Chamber is launching a major Membership Campaign that will begin on March 28th and conclude on May 31st. The campaign, which will be introduced by the Chamber's Membership Committee, will feature a variety of initiatives that include a recruitment component by the Board of Directors, incentives for current members to help identify and sign-up prospective members and even a percentage discount on dues for those who join. Even with the incredible importance

associated with making the campaign a success, the Chamber marketing staff has still seen value to inject a level of fun to the project. The campaign itself has been branded, "Catch'22 Membership Challenge." The slogan centers on the opportunity for Chamber members to earn \$50 in gift cards by recruiting a non-member and taking the recruitment process to its completion. For the joining new member, there is an immediate 10% discount off the first year's membership, provided they join prior to the May deadline. (For more information, contact Jessie Covert at jcovert@blairchamber.com.)

Safety Workshop to Focus on Sex Trafficking

The Blair County Chamber's Safety Committee will host a workshop on April 13th from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. The topic will be "Sex Trafficking: From Instant Message to Instant Nightmare." The presenter will be Bubba Fatula who will identify ways to recognize the signs of sex trafficking. The cost to attend is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. To register, call



the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com. Sponsor of the workshop is CareSmart Solutions.

Highmark Chamber Golf Classic Main Sponsorships Sold Out

The highly-anticipated Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Chamber Golf Classic will be held on Thursday, May 19th at Iron Masters Country Club. As always, there will be contests, prizes, giveaways, a pig roast and great opportunities to network. While there are still opportunities to reserve a four-some or an individual golf spot, the main sponsorships for the event have all been sold. Tee and green sponsor-

SOLD OUT!

ships are still available. To register for golf, contact Stacy Hoover at the Chamber at (814) 943-8151. To become a tee and green sponsor, contact Jessie Covert at that same number.

Congratulations...

... to DiAndrea Media, which on behalf of the Blair County Conservation District, received the 1st place award at the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts Annual Video Award Competition.

Young Professionals to Hold Family Fun Night

The next Young Professionals of Blair County event will be held on Thursday, April 7th at Slinky Action Zone in Duncansville from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Young Professionals Committee invites attendees to bring their children, spouses and other family members to join the fun. Different packages that include laser tag, arcade games, duck pin bowling, pizza and beverages are available for purchase at the event. The cost to attend the event is \$10 for members of the Young Professionals and \$15 for non-members. There is an early bird special for those who register before March 24th that is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. To register, visit the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com.

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