

ACE Award Nomination Period Ends Friday

The Farm-City Committee of the Blair County Chamber has announced that nominations will be accepted until Friday for the 2022 Agricultural Community Excellence (ACE) Award. The award allows for nominations of agriculturally-oriented individuals, agribusinesses and non-profit organizations that make a positive impact on agriculture in Blair County. The ACE Award will be presented on November 2nd at the Chamber's Farm-City Dinner. To access a nomination form, contact the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or visit the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com.



Public Service Academy Accepting Registrations for September Sessions

The Blair County Chamber will be launching a Public Service Academy, a project of the Chamber's Public Policy Committee, this fall. The Academy is designed to encourage and educate people on ways to become part of the political process, either as an elected official or as a volunteer on boards, commissions or agencies. The Academy will feature two three-hour sessions beginning September 13 and September 27. Both sessions will be held 6 – 9 p.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development at 3900 Industrial Park Drive, Altoona. Instructors will be Sarah Seymour, Blair County's Director of Elections and Voter Registration, Academy co-chairs



John Eichelberger and Donna Gority, Public Policy Committee Chair Chris Michelone, Chamber President Joe Hurd and ABCD Corporation President Steve McKnight. Cost to participate is \$25/person and includes both sessions, pizza and beverages. Space is limited. Certificates will be presented to those completing both sessions. To register, contact Joe Hurd at the Chamber at 814-943-8151 or jhurd@blairchamber.com.

September "Breakfast Club" to Focus on Cyber Security

The next Chamber "Breakfast Club" will focus attention on a topic of growing importance to the business community. That topic is Cyber Security. To identify ways that businesses (and individuals) are vulnerable to cyber criminals, the Chamber is happy to have FBI Special Agent Mackenzie Monarko as the Breakfast Club speaker. Breakfast Club is September 8th at 7:45 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. The cost to attend Breakfast Club 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. Corporate sponsor of the September Breakfast Club is UDNI.



Committee Meetings

Data Security Roundtable
August 31st
11:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

Public Policy Committee
September 1st
8:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

BASICS Attendance Subcommittee
September 1st
1:30 p.m.
Devorris Center

Congratulations...

... to [Leonard S. Fiore, Inc.](#), which was recently recognized with a safety award by the Keystone Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors.

Cyber Security Networking Event is Thursday at Zach's

The Chamber's Cyber Security Roundtable will host a networking event on September 1st from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Zach's Sports & Spirits in Altoona. "We're inviting anyone who handles cyber security at a business or anyone who has an interest in discussing the many challenges associated with protecting data," explained Zach Beckel of UDNI, who chairs the Roundtable. The event is called, "Bits, Bytes & Brews." There is no cost to attend – all food and drink is the responsibility



of the attendees. No need to register either. Just show up!! Direct questions to Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email to jhurd@blairchamber.com.

"Hope for Families" Fundraising Begins This Week

The [Leadership Blair County Alumni Association](#), a committee of the Blair County Chamber, has launched a campaign called "Hope for Families" that will raise funds to purchase bedding as well as accepting bedding donations for needy children. This initiative replaces Basket of Hope. Bedding donations should include new bedding (pillows, pillow cases, comforters, sheets, blankets or even a complete bedding set) in neutral colors and gender neutral prints – twin size only. Monetary donations



will be accepted with 100% used toward the purchase of bedding. The campaign goal is to provide bedding for 125 children, ages 5-16. Donations can be dropped off at the Chamber Office each day this week between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Home Run for Safety is Next Wednesday at the Ballpark

One of the region's most popular events is returning in September. The "Home Run for Safety" will be held at PNG Field on September 7th from 7:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The event is hosted by the Blair County Chamber's Safety Committee in association with the [Altoona Curve](#). Keynote speaker is Tony Samento, president of Samento Industrial Training Systems in Mechanicsburg, PA. There will be Safety Stations on topics like CPR/First Aid, Emergency Action

Plans, Fire Safety. Electrical Safety, Incident Management and Ticks/Lantern Fly. There will also be vendor booths. Businesses can become vendors by contacting Stacy Hoover at (814) 943-8151 or emailing her at shoover@blairchamber.com. The cost to attend Home Run for Safety is \$30 for Chamber members and \$40 for non-members. To register, visit www.blairchamber.com. Breakfast sponsor for the event is [Care Smart Solutions](#).

LBC Scholarship Donations, Dues Payable Online

[Leadership Blair County Alumni](#) can now pay their annual dues and make scholarship donations online. Go to the Donation Location on the Foundation page of the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com.

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Chamber Partnering With Saint Francis on Training Needs Survey

The Chamber is partnering with the Saint Francis University Shields School of Business on a Training Needs Survey for the region asking businesses and organizations to identify their particular needs. To access the survey go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CF33BGS>. Deadline to complete the survey is September 2nd. As part of the partnership, Chamber members will get a 20% discount on training programs offered by Saint Francis.

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