

Public Service Academy Starts Tomorrow. Still Time to Register!

The Public Service Academy makes its maiden voyage tomorrow night at the Devorris Center for Business Development. There's still time to register until noon today. 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 concluding on September 27. Both sessions will be held 6 – 9 p.m. 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@blair-chamber.com.



Chief Financial Officer Position Open at the Chamber

The Blair County Chamber is accepting applications for the position of Chief Financial Officer. The position is fulltime. Applicants must have a strong financial background, particularly in Accounting, as well as an ability to oversee committee responsibilities. Send cover letter, resume, and salary and benefit expectations to Joe Hurd at jhurd@blairchamber.com.

Sustainable Blair County Night at the Altoona Curve is Thursday

The [Altoona Curve](#) has partnered with the [Blair County Conservation District](#) and the Chamber's [Sustainable Blair County Committee](#) has been among the beneficiaries. The District sets-up four or five tables each Thursday on the concourse at PNG Field and invites organizations associated with nature and conservation to display useful information for Curve fans. This Thursday, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at PNG Field, the committee will have a display table at the Curve game. "We're looking forward to providing some information on what we do and how people



can get involved," acknowledged Matt Michrina, Planogram Analyst at Sheetz and Vice-Chair of the committee. "We'll be featuring a number of ways that businesses can benefit from being more sustainable including some survey opportunities that help employers to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their sustainability efforts."

Chamber Board of Directors Meets Thursday

Summer is over for the Blair County Chamber's Board of Directors. The Board will meet Thursday at 7:30 a.m. at the Devorris Center. Agenda items will include an update on some staffing issues, a discussion of strategic planning initiatives and approval of a nominating task force. Anyone who would like to address the Chamber Board should contact Joe Hurd by noon on Tuesday at (814) 943-8151.

Welcome New Members...



The Blair County Chamber welcomes new members at the September Breakfast Club (seated, from left): Ellen Crook, [HUB INTERNATIONAL](#); Dennis Gilbert, [INNOVATIVE MANUFACTURERS CENTER \(IMC\)](#); Dustin Rhodes, [RHODES CURBSIDE CREAMERY LLC](#); Donna Gority, [BLAIR COUNTY NAACP BRANCH #2252](#).

Best Practices Forum to Address Compliance Issues

The Non-profit community in Blair County has built a reputation for being creative and resourceful. To stay ahead of the game – at least financially – non-profits need to be adept at fundraising. Sometimes that fundraising falls outside the law. And very often, the non-profit business isn't even aware that a law has been violated. To help clarify the difference between legal and illegal, the [Committee of Non-Profit Businesses](#) of the Blair County Chamber will hold a Best Practices Forum this Thursday, September 22nd from 8:15 to 9:45 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. The Forum, entitled, "It's Not Worth the Gamble!" will be presented by Michael Mirabella, Liquor Enforcement Officer for the Pennsylvania State Police's Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement. Mirabella will address a va-



riety of topics, mostly dealing with how to incorporate alcohol into fundraisers without peril. He will include a power point presentation that will be made available to all who attend. The cost to attend Best Practices is \$10 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members. Space is limited. To register, contact the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at www.blair-chamber.com.

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Committee Meetings

Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) Committee
September 12th
10:30 a.m.
Devorris Center

BASICS Steering Committee
September 12th
2:00 p.m.
Devorris Center

Sustainable Blair County Committee
September 14th
1:30 p.m.
Devorris Center

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JOB BOARD

Ribbon Cutting



Journey Center

The Chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of the newest location of [Journey Center](#) located at 4204 Broad Ave., Altoona. Journey Center is an Autism treatment facility that provides evidence based strategies of ABA therapy, social skills training, behavior assessments, speech and language therapy and related trainings. Pictured at the ribbon, from left: Donna Gority, Chamber Ambassador; Mayor Matt Pacifico, City of Altoona; State Senator Judy Ward; Kim Bennet, Founder/CEO; Ryan Finocchio; Joy Finocchio; State Representative Lou Schmitt; and Jessie Covert, VP - Sales and Membership Development, Blair County Chamber of Commerce.



Be a part of the moment. Watch the video [here!](#)

Altoona Community Theatre to Host "Business After Hours"



[Altoona Community Theatre](#), located at 1213 12th Street in Altoona will host the next Chamber "Business After Hours" on September 22nd from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The cost to attend is just \$7.00 for Chamber members who register by this Thursday. After Thursday, the cost is \$10. Non-members may attend the After Hours for \$20. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com.

Nominations Being Accepted for Chamber Board Positions

Nominations to the Blair County Chamber's Board of Directors are being accepted in the Chamber Office. Nominees must be Chamber members in good standing. Self-nomination is permitted.

To nominate, email Joe Hurd at jhurd@blairchamber.com and provide the nominee's name, the business he/she represents and why the nominee would be a good board member.



Submit Questions to Congressman Joyce

Congressman John Joyce will be the speaker at the next Chamber "Breakfast Club," set for October 13th at The Casino at Lakemont Park. The format for the event will be a Q&A with the Congressman answering questions submitted in advance from Chamber members. To submit a question, email it to Joe Hurd at jhurd@blairchamber.com. The Chamber's Public Policy Committee will put together the list of questions.

Congratulations...

... to the Chamber members who were recently selected as "Top Women CEO's" by Pennsylvania Business Central. They are: Amy Seltzer of [Seltzer Financial Strategies](#), Jane Grabenc of [First Commonwealth Bank](#), Suzanne Egan of [Suzanne Egan, Inc.](#) and Sue Griep of [United We Can of Blair County](#).

... to the Chamber members who were recently selected as "Signature Leaders Under 30" by [Pennsylvania Business Central](#). They are: Angelyn Skipper of [DiAndrea Media](#), Brittany Mayer of [Blair County Chamber of Commerce](#), Jared Keller of [Keller Engineers](#), Leslie Postek of [Gwin, Dobson and Foreman, Inc.](#), and Laura Green of [McCartney's Workplace Solutions](#).

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