



Chamber Office Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce Office will be closed on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. To register for Chamber programs or events or to access Chamber information, visit the Chamber Website at www.blairchamber.com.

Annual Meeting An Opportunity to Recognize Accomplishments

The Annual Meeting & Awards Presentation of the Blair County Chamber will be held on Friday, January 27th beginning at 7:30 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. "So many really significant things happened in the business community during 2022," noted new Board Chair Clark Stapelfeld. "The Annual Meeting is really the best time to acknowledge those. Otherwise, they may be forgotten." As in past years, the awards presented that morning are the highlight of the event. The award winners for 2022-23 are: Athena Award – Andrea Cohen, Judith A. Rossi Educator of the Year – Christine McGearry, George Award – Kenneth Decker, Joseph P. Rosenhamer Chamber Spirit Award – Barbara Smith, Donna D. Gorty Servant Leadership Award – Matt



Stuckey, Young Professional of the Year – Kirsten Stratton, and Small Business Person of the Year – Chris Cook. The cost to attend the Annual Meeting & Awards Presentation is \$30. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com.



Chamber "Check-Up" Takes Place Tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Without question, membership in the Blair County Chamber is an investment in your business and its employees. To help members to better understand how they can get the maximum value from that investment, the Chamber will hold a one-hour informational session each month to highlight what the Chamber does and the many benefits to belonging. The next Chamber Check-Up is tomorrow, January 17th. For member convenience, it is being offered at both 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. There is no cost to attend although it is important to register so that we can plan accordingly. To register, contact the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com.

Committee Meeting

Business Hall of Fame Subcommittee
January 19th
9:00 a.m.
Chamber Office



Ribbon Cutting



Leonard S. Fiore, Inc. to Host First "HD500"

The first-ever HD500 (formerly Business After Hours) will take place on January 25th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at [Leonard S. Fiore, Inc.](#), located at 5506 Sixth Avenue in Altoona. Make a pit stop on your way home from work and enjoy some food and beverages while networking with other business professionals. Chamber members who register to attend by Wednesday pay only \$7.00. After that, it's \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members. Call the Chamber or register online at [www.blairchamber.com](#). Be part of Chamber history at HD500!

Reliance Bank

The Chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the grand-opening of the new Reliance Bank branch office located at 226 W. Plank Road, Altoona. Reliance Bank is a full-service financial firm offering a variety of financial options and products designed for individual use and business. For more information go to [www.reliance-bank.bank](#). Pictured at the ribbon, from left: Sherri Stayer, Chamber Ambassador; State Representative Lou Schmitt; Mayor Matt Pacifico, City of Altoona; Joe Hurd, President/CEO, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; Becky Crilly, Senior VP/Director of Personal Banking; Phil Freeman, President/CEO; Melissa George, Assistant Branch Manager; Nicole McCreary, Personal Banking Advisor; April Reilly, Director of Marketing and Public Relations; Izzy Sheehan, Personal Banking Advisor; Geoff Barton, Branch Manager; Bruce Erb, Blair County Commissioner; Amanda Walker, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; and Nancy McClelland, Chamber Ambassador.

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

Registered for WE-LEaD Networking Yet?



Levity Brewing in Downtown Altoona will be the next destination for the Blair County Chamber's WE-LEaD Networking event, January 31st from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The networking event will be held on Levity's mezzanine level, which seats only 45. So anyone plan-

ning to attend needs to register as soon as possible. The cost to attend is \$22 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. That cost includes appetizers and one drink ticket. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at [www.blairchamber.com](#). Corporate sponsor of the WE-LEaD event is [P. Joseph Lehman, Inc.](#)

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The Blair County
Chamber of
Commerce

Spain/Morocco/Portugal Trip Attracts Interested Travelers

The Blair County Chamber and Epic Journeys are offering a trip in 2023 that will provide an opportunity for travelers to experience three exciting countries. The “Iberian Discovery & Morocco Trip” departs on September 11th and returns on September 24th. Among the cities included are Madrid, Toledo, Granada, Costa Del Sol, Tangier, Seville, Lisbon, Fatima, Avila, Segovia and Salamanca. Last week’s informa-



tional meeting about the trip drew a large crowd although there are still opportunities for interested travelers to sign up. For more information, contact Epic Journeys at (814) 266-5070.

Help the Chamber Foundation Fund Leadership Youth Program

The Chamber’s [Leadership Blair County Youth](#) program is in its 19th year and has helped hundreds of high school sophomores in Blair County to learn about the challenges and opportunities in Blair County as well as the importance of servant leadership. The program has been funded through donations to the [Blair County Chamber Foundation](#). Neither students nor the school districts that send them are

charged to participate. At the present time, donations have fallen short of the amount needed to cover the 2022-23 costs. As a result, the Chamber Foundation is reaching out to the business and education communities asking for help. If you or your business can make a contribution, please send it to the Chamber Foundation at 3900 Industrial Park Drive, Altoona, PA, 16602.

BASICS Committee Looking for Business Members

The [BASICS](#) Steering Committee of the Blair County Chamber has successfully overseen a variety of outstanding programs for many years. The committee, however, has many members from education but very few from business. “Having a balanced committee is essential as we explore ways to help young people navigate the career path,” explained Alex Seltzer of

Manpower, which is one of the few businesses represented. “It would be great to have at least five additional business members.” Any business member interested in serving on the committee should contact Joe Hurd at (814) 943-8151 or email him at jhurd@blairchamber.com. BASICS is an acronym for Businesses And Schools Investing in Cooperative Solutions.

Congratulations...

... to the [James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center](#) which was honored last week by the Chamber’s [Sustainable Blair County Committee](#) for achieving the Gold Level of Sustainability. The VA completed the Chamber’s Sustainability Survey which identifies strengths and weaknesses in how a business handles issues related to Sustainability. They are the first business to reach Gold status.

Advertising Opportunities Available for Membership Directory

As many Chamber members will attest, one of the greatest marketing opportunities available to businesses in the region is advertising in the Chamber’s Membership Directory. The Directory is not only mailed to Chamber members but is distributed to visitor and information centers, commercial and industrial prospects, newcomers and relocation sources as well as high volume distributors such as banks, realtors, hospitals, colleges, hotels, restaurants and retailers. For more information or to reserve ad space, contact Lana Fulton at (814) 380-7952.

Booths, Sponsorships Still Available for 2023 Home Garden & Healthy Living Showcase

The 2023 Blair County [Home Garden and Healthy Living Showcase](#) is March 3rd, 4th & 5th at Blair County Convention Center and both booths and sponsorships are available for businesses to reserve. Anyone who is interested in a booth should contact Stacy Hoover at (814) 943-8151 or email her at shoover@blairchamber.com. For sponsorship information, contact Jessie Covert at jcovert@blairchamber.com.

Annual Meeting *Say congrats in a creative way*

THESE CREATIVE WAYS TO OFFER YOUR CONGRATULATIONS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE JANUARY 23 EDITION OF NETWORKS DIGITAL NEWS
CONTACT JESSIE COVERT AT [JCOVERT@BLAIRCHAMBER.COM](mailto:jcovert@blairchamber.com)

- ◆ BRANDbyte
- ◆ Traditional Ad
- ◆ VIDEObyte