

## Business Excellence Award Nomination Deadline is Today



The prestigious “Lifetime Achievement Award for Business Excellence” will be presented by the Blair County Chamber at its [Business Excellence Dinner](#), set for October 23rd at the Blair County Convention Center. The award recognizes an individual who, during at least the past twenty-five years, has been regarded as a business leader in the region who has positively impacted the Blair County business community. Nomination forms are available on the Chamber Website at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). Deadline to nominate is today, August 7th.

## Senator Ward to Speak at Thursday’s “Breakfast Club”



State Senator Judy Ward will be the keynote speaker at the next Blair County Chamber “Breakfast Club,” set for this Thursday, August 10th beginning at

7:45 a.m. at The Casino at Lakemont Park. The format for the event will be Q&A with questions being submitted by Chamber members to the Public Policy Committee. Lisa Hann of Family Services, who chairs that committee, will

moderate the Q&A session. Senator Ward is a former committee chair at the Chamber, was a Chamber Ambassador and is a graduate of the [Leadership Blair County](#) program. She has also received the Chamber’s Athena Award. The cost to attend Breakfast Club is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. A buffet breakfast is included. To register, contact the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). Corporate sponsor of the August Breakfast Club is [Stuckey Automotive](#).

## Congratulations...

... to [Holland Brothers Meats](#) of Duncansville, who won national recognition at the American Cured Meats Championships in Charleston, South Carolina. This event is held in conjunction with the annual convention of the American Association of Meat Processors.

## Committee Meetings

### Chamber Ambassadors

August 8th, 8:00 a.m., Devorris Center

### Experiences & Lodging Roundtable

August 9th, 8:15 a.m., Holiday Inn Express

### Sustainable Blair County

August 9th, 1:30 p.m., Devorris Center



## Chamber Recognizes “All-Stars” for July

The Blair County Chamber’s ability to offer quality programming and advocacy efforts depends largely on the willingness of sponsors to step up to help underwrite the costs associated with those efforts. Each month we publish a list of businesses or individuals who sponsored anything Chamber-related during the month.

All-Stars for July are:

[1st Summit Bank](#), [Altoona-Blair County Airport](#), [Altoona Curve Baseball](#), [Arrows Christian Academy](#), [Berry Solutions Group](#), [Blair Companies](#), [Central States Manufacturing, Inc.](#), [Escape Altoona Co.](#), [Hoss’s Corporation](#), [Keller Engineers, Inc.](#), [Leonard S. Fiore, Inc.](#), [Lung Disease Center of Central Pennsylvania](#), [McCartney’s Workplace Solutions](#), [Morefield Communications, Inc.](#), [P. Joseph Lehman, Inc. Consulting Engineers](#), [Reliance Bank](#), [Roaring Spring Family of Businesses](#), [Saint Francis University Graduate Business Programs](#), [Seltzer Financial Strategies, LLC](#), [Sheetz, Inc.](#), [The EADS Group](#), [UPMC](#) and [Veeder-Root Company](#).

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## Foundation Friends



Kish Bank made an EITC donation to the [Blair County Chamber Foundation](#) to help with projects benefitting local youth. In the photo (from left) are: Bob Bilger - Kish Bank, Rachel Prosser - President of The Foundation, Emily Sollenberger - Kish Bank and Jessica Kitt - Kish Bank.

## National S'mores Day Event is Thursday

Lake Raystown Resort will host a tri-county mixer this Thursday from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in recognition of “National S’mores Day.” Members of the Blair County Chamber, [Bedford County Chamber](#) and [Huntingdon County Chamber](#) are invited to attend this free event. The event includes a fire pit S’mores bar on the terrace, high-end S’mores themed cocktails and mocktails, games for adults and kids, a number of give-aways and, perhaps the most appealing, a showboat cruise. “We salute [Lake Raystown Resort](#) for not



**NATIONAL S'MORES DAY**

only planning a quality night out but creating an opportunity for members of three chambers to get together and enjoy the beautiful scenery,” acknowledged Chamber President Joe Hurd. Unfortunately, registration for this event closed on August 2nd.

## Chamber to Partner With Toastmasters on 4-Part Workshop

One of the greatest challenges that many people in business have as they move up the corporate ladder is the ability to speak effectively in front of large groups or small. To help address that, the Blair County Chamber and [Toastmasters International](#) will partner on “Speechcraft,” a hands-on workshop delivered in four two-hour sessions created to help people hone their

speaking skills. The sessions will be held from 3-5 p.m. every Tuesday from September 12th to October 3rd at the Devorris Center for Business Development. The cost is just \$50 for Chamber members for all four sessions and \$75 for non-Chamber members. Class size is limited to ten people. Call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 to secure your spot!

## DODGE N' DIVE - 23

## Dodgeball Teams Gearing-Up for “Dodge N’ Dive”

This Saturday, August 12th, the [Blair County Chamber Foundation](#) will be holding a Dodgeball Tournament at [Lake-mont Park](#). “Dodge N’ Dive – 23” will pit local business teams against one another in a spirited competition that will be part of a great day. Among the other highlights of the day will be food trucks, a beer garden, a basket raffle and more! The cost to enter a team (minimum of six people, maximum of ten) is just \$150. To register, by Wednesday, August 9th, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or email Brittany Mayer at [bmayer@blairchamber.com](mailto:bmayer@blairchamber.com).

**Home**  
SEPT. 13 **RUN**  
**FOR SAFETY**

## A Great Event for Information, Networking

Once again this year, the Safety Committee of the Blair County Chamber will be partnering with the [Altoona Curve](#) on an event that has had a huge following in the past, particularly among people in the safety and security fields. Home Run For Safety will be held on Wednesday, September 13th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Peoples Natural Gas Field. The event will feature a variety of presenters, demonstrations and exhibitors. Cost to be a vendor is just \$75 and includes one registration (including breakfast and lunch). For information on sponsorships and vendor opportunities or to register as an attendee, contact the Chamber at (814) 943-8151.



# Thank you!

## 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 July.

### Celebrating 30-39 Years

Advantage Resource Group  
American Cancer Society  
Blair Mill Outlet  
Blair-Bedford Builders Association  
Burgmeier Hauling, Inc.  
Cresson Motors, Inc.  
Hilecrest Angus  
Hoss's Steak & Sea House  
Corporate Office  
Irwin Financial, Inc.  
Knisely & Sons, Inc.  
Kooman & Associates, LLC  
Overhead Door Company  
of Blair County, Inc.  
Preferred Healthcare System  
Reilly, Creppage & Co., Inc., CPA  
Seven Mountains Media  
Southern Alleghenies Planning &  
Development Commission

### Celebrating 20-29 Years

Austin's Texas Hot Dogs, Inc.  
Comfort Inn Altoona  
Gearharts Moving & Storage, Inc.  
Junior Achievement of Western PA

### Celebrating 10-19 Years

Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8  
Bennetti Tree Service, Inc.  
Central Blair Recreation &  
Park Commission  
Chicago Rivet & Machine Co.  
City of Altoona  
Comfort Suites

Evergreen Insurance, LLC  
Freedom Excursions by Scully, LLC  
Global Live Line, Inc.  
Jilco, Inc.  
Joshua House, Inc.  
Mid Penn Bank  
Peter C. Pham, DDS, PC  
Sheehan Ins., LLC  
T2B Commercial Interiors

### Celebrating 5-9 Years

Altoona Grand Hotel  
Atlas Therapy  
Dale Oxygen, Inc.  
Evolution Expressions  
Fairfield and TownePlace Suites  
by Marriott Altoona  
McCloskey's Landscaping, Inc.  
Revival Fitness & Rehab  
Sandi Kaminsky

### Celebrating 1-4 Years

Allegheny Orthodontic Associates  
Arrows Christian Academy  
Being Liang  
Cricket Wireless  
Fair Winds Wealth Strategies  
Forr, Stokan, Huff, Kormanski & Naugle  
Invisible Fence  
Lawruk Real Estate  
Rabenstein Heating, Air Conditioning  
& Plumbing Inc.  
SERVPRO of Southern Blair and  
Bedford County

## WE-LEaD Schedules Ax-Throwing Event



The next WE-LEaD event will take place on September 20th from 5:30 to 7:30 at [Slings Throw House](#) in Altoona. The cost to participate is \$30 for Chamber members and \$40 for non-members. Food is included. To register, contact the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). Corporate sponsor is [Leonard S. Fiore, Inc.](#) WE-LEaD is an acronym for Women Encouraging: Leadership, Education and Development

## Chamber Committees Recruiting Additional Members

Ask anyone who currently serves on a Chamber committee and they'll likely tell you what a great experience it is, both based on what they learn and who they meet. After most committees have taken a well-deserved hiatus during July, it's time to move-on to the August calendar. And the opportunities for Chamber members to join committees, subcommittees and roundtable groups is ideal. The Chamber currently has nearly two dozen ways that are available for members to get involved. The listing is on the Chamber website at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). If you or someone from your business would like to join a committee, contact Joe Hurd at [jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com).

Save the Date

## DOWN ON THE FARM

The ultra-traditional "Down on the Farm" will be held on September 27th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at

PINEY CREEK GREENHOUSE  
MARTINSBURG

More details to come!



Anywhere! Anytime!



Register for events at  
[blairchamber.com](http://blairchamber.com)