



## Happy Thanksgiving to Our Fabulous Members!

It may well be the toughest, most unpredictable year ever but our business community is still standing strong. At this Thanksgiving, the Chamber is truly thankful for the many businesses and organizations that stayed true to our mission and helped get us all through tough times. We will continue to fight on your behalf and make Covid-19 nothing but a passing memory. Best wishes to you all!

## Don't Forget to Support "Small Business Saturday"

This Saturday is an important day for our small businesses, especially in a year in which so many of those businesses have been impacted by the pandemic. "Small Business Saturday" provides an opportunity for us to be completely intentional in directing our shopping dollars to the many small businesses that each day help stimulate our local economy. When it comes time

for you to buy those holiday gifts, don't forget that you can selfishly do yourself a favor by keeping your dollars here and prioritizing our small businesses. They truly are worth your consideration!



## Chamber Office Closed on Thursday and Friday

To continue to fight on behalf of our members takes persistence and endurance. It also takes occasional rest. To accomplish that last objective, the Chamber Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday to allow our staff

to catch its collective breath. The Office will re-open on Monday at 8:30 a.m. If you need any Chamber information or wish to sign-up for upcoming programs and events, visit the Chamber Website at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com).

## "Small Business Month" Has Created Special Winners

The Blair County Chamber's celebration of Small Business Month has featured, among other things, a Mega Basket Giveaway highlighting many of the county's small businesses. Three Mega Baskets have been given away during the month of November. There's still one to go! To become eligible to win the one remaining basket, simply take a selfie at any Chamber-member small business and send your selfie to Linda Stotler at [lstotler@blairchamber.com](mailto:lstotler@blairchamber.com). Selfies will be posted on the Chamber's Facebook page. All selfies submitted by noon on Friday will be eligible for that last basket. "Take as many selfies as you want for the giveaway," Stotler pointed out. "Just make sure they are from different businesses." For more information on "Small Business Month," contact Linda Stotler at (814) 943-8151 or email her at [lstotler@blairchamber.com](mailto:lstotler@blairchamber.com).



# Foundation Board Okays 2021 Budget

At its November 18th Board of Directors meeting, the Blair County Chamber Foundation approved its budget for 2021. That budget includes revenues of \$164,080 to fund programs within the BASICS program. The Chamber Foundation is the fiscal agent for BASICS. For more information on the Chamber Foundation, contact Cindy Cessna at (814) 943-8151 or email her at [ccessna@blairchamber.com](mailto:ccessna@blairchamber.com). BASICS is an acronym for Businesses And Schools Investing in Cooperative Solutions. It is a program of the Blair County Chamber.



# Welcome!

## Chamber Board Approves Seven New Members

The Blair County Chamber approved the following new members at its November 19th meeting: The Altoona Salvation Army Worship Center, B4 Club Therapy of Altoona, Double Tap Gun Range of Altoona, Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Nittany Valley, Four Seasons Abstract and Settlement, LLC of Hollidaysburg, Miller Home Furniture & Mattress of Altoona and SCG Hobby of Altoona.

## Zoom Presentation Set for "Bourbon, Bridles & Bluegrass" Trip

If you missed the September Zoom meeting showcasing the Chamber's "Bourbon, Bridles & Bluegrass" trip, don't despair. Another presentation is coming up on November 24th at 5:00 p.m., also on Zoom. The April 23-30, 2021 trip begins with a flight to Louisville, Kentucky; includes visits to Lexington; Ashville, North Carolina and Chattanooga, Tennessee; and finishes up in Nashville prior to flying home. That trip will be done with a partnership



between the Chamber, Ketrow KURTZ Travel and Globus. To register for the webinar, visit the Chamber Website at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com).

## Forum on Human Trafficking Postponed

The "Best Practices" Forum on human trafficking, sponsored by the Chamber's Committee on Non-Profit Businesses, has been postponed until Friday, January 8th from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the U.S. Hotel in Hollidaysburg. The presenter will be Ashley Owens, J.D., Children's Advocacy Center Director for Family Services, Inc. The cost to attend is \$15/person for Chamber Members and \$20 for non-members. A Continental Breakfast is included. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com).

## Chamber Members Asked to Update Contact Information

As the Chamber begins the process of compiling information for the 2021 Membership Directory, it's extremely important that you let us know if your contact information is up-to-date. And what to do if it's not! You can review your membership information online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). Go to the Chamber Membership tab and then click on the Member Directory link to find your business listing. Members can make changes directly in the data-



base on the website by going to the Chamber Membership tab and clicking on the Members Only link to log into your membership account or by emailing your changes to Cindy Cessna at [ccessna@blairchamber.com](mailto:ccessna@blairchamber.com).



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The Blair County Chamber of Commerce

# Seven Chamber Board Members Receive Approval for 2021

The 2021 Blair County Chamber Board of Directors will include seven current members who will be beginning new terms. Board members who have completed their first 3-year terms and have been approved for a second term are: Jan Fisher of UPMC Altoona, Cory Gehret of Stiffler McGraw, Alex Seltzer of Manpower of Altoona, Clark Stapelfeld of New Pig Corporation and Jamie Stumph of Advantage Resource Group. Board members who had served 1-year terms and were approved for a 3-year term are: Leslie Estep of Tyrone Area School District and Leonard Fiore III of Fiore Brothers Management.



Leslie Estep



Leonard Fiore, III



Jan Fisher



Cory Gehret



Alex Seltzer



Clark Stapelfeld



Jamie Stumph

## Posted a Power Card Offer Yet?

If you're a member of the Chamber and your business has goods or services that can be discounted, you won't want to miss the opportunity to place an offer on the Chamber's POWER Card. With more than 40,000 cards in circulation, it's a great way to get your offer directly into the hands of potential customers and gain an extraordinary amount of exposure for your business. You decide what you'd like to offer and the expiration date and simply submit it to Jessie Covert at [jcovert@blairchamber.com](mailto:jcovert@blairchamber.com).



## "Buy Here. Thrive Here." Yard Signs Still Available

The "Buy Here. Thrive Here." message continues to resonate throughout Blair County as more and more consumers are taking a look at effective ways to direct more of their spending dollars to local businesses. If you like the message and want to help keep it in front of people for an extended period of time, the Chamber is happy to provide a yard sign to you to place at your business (or even at your home). If you'd like to access a sign, simply come to the Chamber Office, located in the Devorris Center for Business Development. There is no cost to obtain a sign.

## New Members...



The Blair County Chamber welcomed its newest members at the 557th Breakfast Club on November 12. Pictured, from left: Richard Fiore, Jr., Chair-Elect, Blair County Chamber Board of Directors; Connie Hurd, **Country Club Terrace Apartments**; Larry Swartz and Doug Lutz, **Swartz Fire & Safety, Inc.**

## BENefact

## Job Board!

One thing we most often hear from our members is that they are having a hard time filling open positions within their organizations. Did you know the Chamber has a Job Board? That's right, Chamber member businesses can post up to 3 job openings on the Chamber's Job Board on our website FREE of charge! The site is open to all job seekers. Contact Gwen Query at [gquery@blairchamber.com](mailto:gquery@blairchamber.com).



See how ChamberChoice can be the people, the power, the plan for you!  
Call at 1-800-377-3539