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Gioiosa has helped to spur ARC's growth

Retirement has been a two-edged sword for Vic Gioiosa. As President and CEO of ARC Federal Credit Union until a little more than a month ago, the 66-year-old Gioiosa has enjoyed the opportunity to spend more time with his wife Sherry, their three children and their eight grandchildren. But he also admits that the competitive juices of making ARC the best it can be still flow.

The Chamber: What were your greatest hesitations in deciding to retire?

Vic: Leaving a job that I loved and what the future would hold in retirement.

The Chamber: During your career at ARC, what would you consider to be your greatest sources of pride?

Vic: The confidence that our members placed in ARC FCU to grow from \$41 million in assets when I started and to \$130 million and from 9200 members to over 13,400 members when I retired. I am proud that our staff developed the expertise to offer many new

Chamber Q&A

services to our members such as Business loans, student loans, and many digital services. I am also proud of the many community awards and recognitions we have received such as being voted multiple times as the Hometown favorite and our selection into the Blair County Chamber Hall of Fame.

The Chamber: What would people in Blair County be most surprised to know about Vic Gioiosa?

Vic: Perhaps two things, first that I am very competitive and always strived for ARC FCU to be the best among our peer group of Credit Unions and second my favorite personal time is being with my family on a beach vacation with beautiful weather.

The Chamber: Steve Dalecki has been named as your replacement as President/CEO of ARC. What

does Steve bring to that position?

Vic: Steve started with ARC FCU in 2005 as a Penn State University intern and was hired. He developed a wide range of knowledge in financial services at ARC FCU, including titles and responsibilities of Loan Officer, managing the marketing program, and managing the IT program. Steve was promoted to Chief Operating Officer (COO) in 2011 and ultimately COO and Executive Vice President (EVP) in 2019. Steve's selection as ARC FCU's President and CEO has stemmed from a multi-year mentored leadership development program and a succession planning process led by myself and the ARC FCU Board of Directors. I have worked with Steve for 17 years and I am confident that he will be an excellent leader for ARC FCU. He will continue ARC FCU on its great path and achieve even greater accomplishments in the coming years.

The Chamber: What are



Vic Gioiosa is taking a positive approach to retirement. Will his golf game take that same approach?

you likely to miss most as you step away from the day-to-day responsibilities?

Vic: Working with all the great staff and Board of Directors of ARC FCU in helping our members with their financial needs to improve their lives and their businesses and provide a

positive impact for our community.

The Chamber: What's still on Vic Gioiosa's "bucket list?"

Vic: Spending more time with my family and attending my grandchildren's school and sporting events. Plenty of travel especially to warmer climates during

our central PA winter months. Continuing my involvement in this great community of Blair County and learning more about the history of our area. Probably the most ambitious item on my bucket list is to improve my golf game. It needs a lot of work.

Knisely epitomizes business commitment

There is little doubt that the future of the Blair County business community will be heavily tied to the ability of the county to retain its young people.

Roger Knisely understands that. It is why he has represented his Rotary Club for the past eight years in the planning and execution of the BASICS/Rotary Career Fair. And it's also why he has volunteered to represent the HVAC industry as a presenter at that event.

The Vice-President of Knisely & Sons, Roger started going on service calls with his father when he was only eight years old. He started working fulltime for the company in 1976. He joined the Claysburg Rotary Club in 1997.

"The Career Fair has become a high priority for me," Knisely acknowledged. "I've been most impressed with the number of businesses that give of their time and resources for the young people who are trying to figure out what to do with their futures. The business people spend a full day with the kids but also have to prepare for the day. I applaud all of them."

The only thing that Knisely finds discouraging is that there are still too many students and parents who don't think the event is



Roger Knisely's recruitment effort for Career Fair presenters always starts with the same target: Roger Knisely.

important enough to attend.

"It's an incredible opportunity," he pointed out. "So many educational decisions, so many life decisions need to be made at that stage of a young person's life. The Career Fair clarifies so many of those decisions. We've heard so many of the students admit after a presentation that what they heard either moved them closer to a career choice or moved them further away. That's the essential value of this event."

Knisely believes that the BASICS/Rotary Career Fair has become even more important due to the struggles that businesses are having in finding and keeping valuable employees.

"I'm aware that several companies in our region are turning down work because they don't have the manpower to do it," he admitted. "All industries seem to be having some degree of difficulty finding knowledgeable employees. We keep our ears open and advertise as

needed. Sometimes we have to be creative and sometimes the trade schools will call us if they have a good candidate. It can be challenging."

Thanks to people like Roger Knisely, who can see the benefits of helping young people in identifying career opportunities, all Blair County businesses are likely to realize an uptick in quality employees.

(Knisely & Sons has been a Blair County Chamber member since 1989.)

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS Academy

A special thanks to the businesses that sponsored the Young Entrepreneurs Academy during 2022







"Breakfast Club" to focus on business/education partnership

Nearly three decades ago, the Blair County Chamber created a program to help businesses and schools to understand and appreciate the importance of working more effectively together. The birth of BASICS – Businesses And Schools Investing in Cooperative Solutions – has made incredible inroads in ways that people from both business and education approach challenges in leadership, entrepreneurship and workforce development.

BASICS is traditionally the topic of the Chamber's "Breakfast Club" each May and that tradition will continue on May



John McKeegan

McKeegan became Mount Aloysius College's 15th president on June 1, 2020. He

19th at The Casino at Lakemont Park beginning at 7:45 a.m. The keynote speaker will be John McKeegan, J.D., President of Mount Aloysius College who will talk about the important business and education connections that exist in higher education.

had previously served for a decade at Linfield University in McMinnville, Oregon. He received a B.A. from Bucknell University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Notre Dame. He also practiced law prior to entering educational administration.

Born and raised in Central Pennsylvania, McKeegan volunteers with a number of community organizations. He and his wife Theresa have six children and three granddaughters.

Among the other items taking place at Breakfast Club will be the presentation of

Attendance Counts Awards to some outstanding seniors at Blair County schools. There will also be an award presented to a Claysburg-Kimmel eighth grader who was selected as the winner of an Essay Contest, sponsored by the BASICS Committee.

The cost to attend Breakfast Club is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. A breakfast buffet is included. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at www.blairchamber.com. Corporate sponsor of the May Breakfast Club is South Hills School of Business & Technology.

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