

# NETWORKS

## DIGITAL NEWS



## 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](http://www.blairchamber.com).

## Altoona Grand Hotel to Host Next HD500

The next Chamber HD500 will be held on January 24th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at [Altoona Grand Hotel](#), 1 Sheraton Drive in Altoona. The event will be held inside the Tropical Courtyard, showcasing some of the hotel's favored hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Plenty of great networking opportunities and plenty of terrific door prizes. Cost to attend is just \$7.00 for



Chamber members if you register by Wednesday. After that, it's \$10. Non-members can attend for \$20. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com).

## Alliance Annual Meeting to Feature Noted Author, Speaker

The first-ever Annual Meeting of the Alliance for Business Growth and Economic Development will be held on Friday, January 26th from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Blair County Convention Center. The highlight of the event will be a presentation by Winona Dimeo-Ediger, a nationally recognized consultant in operationalizing talent attraction for communities like Blair County. The meeting will also provide



a look-back at the accomplishments of 2023 and the gameplan for making 2024 the start of something great. The cost to attend the Alliance Annual Meeting is \$30 for Chamber members and non-members. To register, go to [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com) or call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151.

## First Advocacy and Operations Board Meeting Set for Thursday

The first-ever meeting of the Chamber's Advocacy and Operations Board will take place this Thursday, January 18th, beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. The new board will replace the Chamber's Board of Directors now that the Alliance for Business Growth and Economic Development has been established. The Alliance Board will oversee all operations. The Advocacy and Operations Board will continue to monitor all Chamber programs and approve new members.



### Committee Meetings

**Blair County Chamber  
Foundation Board**  
January 17th  
8:00 a.m.  
Devorris Center

**Transportation Committee**  
January 19th  
8:15 a.m.  
Devorris Center

[blairchamber.com](http://blairchamber.com)

## Ribbon Cutting



## Reliance Bank

The Chamber held a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of the newest Reliance Bank branch located at 1300 Eleventh Ave., downtown Altoona. Reliance Bank is a community bank serving Blair and Centre Counties. Products and services include checking and savings accounts, personal loans, mortgages, lines of credit, commercial loans, digital banking, and more. For more information go to [www.reliancebank.bank](http://www.reliancebank.bank). Pictured at the ribbon, from left: Nancy McClelland, Chamber Ambassador; CJ Johnson, the office of Congressman John Joyce; Amanda Walker, the office of State Senator Judy Ward; State Representative Lou Schmitt; Mayor Matt Pacifico, City of Altoona; Becky Crilly, Senior Vice President/Director of Personal Banking; Phil Freeman, President/CEO; Jamie Bianconi, Branch Manager; Joe Hurd, President/CEO, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; April Riley, Director of Marketing; and Jessica Sheets, Chamber Ambassador.



## WE-LEaD to Hold Networking Event at Dazzling Realty

The Chamber's WE-LEaD Committee will hold its first event of 2024 – a networking opportunity from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on January 31st at Dazzling Realty, LLC, located at 521 North 4th Avenue in Altoona. That building is the new home to Mama Randazzo's Catering and Behe Brothers Brewing. The cost to attend this event is \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for non-members. To register, call the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). The corporate sponsor for this event is [Blair Companies](#).

## Interested in Joining a Chamber Committee?

The creation of the Alliance for Business Growth and Economic Development will initially change a few things along the way but for 2024, very little will change on the Chamber side. Including the important work undertaken by the Chamber committees. If you're unfamiliar with the committees and what they do, take a few minutes to visit the Chamber Website at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). The committees are listed and described there. If you find something that appeals to you, call Joe Hurd at the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or email him at [jhurd@blairchamber.com](mailto:jhurd@blairchamber.com).

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The Blair County Chamber

## Welcome New Chamber Members



The Blair County Chamber of Commerce welcomes the following new members: from left: Nate Blough, Wes Rhone, [SOLARSHIELD METAL ROOFING](#); Chris Knab, [EUROPEAN MOTORCARS LLC](#); Tom Lundgren, [NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN COUNSELING](#); and Mitchell Frederick, [FREDERICK'S MEAT MARKET LLC](#).