

A partnership with the Altoona Mirror and the Blair County Chamber of Commerce

## Leadership Blair County welcomes 30th class

By Brittany Mayer

This week marks the start of the 30th year of Leadership Blair County, a nine-month program that focuses on showcasing businesses and non-profit organizations in the area.

"It's an honor to be a part of the 30th Annual Leadership Blair County class," said Brittany Funcheon, executive director of Sheetz Family Charities. "Having lived in Blair County my whole life, I believe this opportunity will challenge me to grow both professionally and personally and take a more active role in addressing the needs of the community."

For 30 years, the program has had many individuals contributing to the curriculum and promoting Leadership Blair County to the community.

"The Leadership Blair County Program is special because it's more than just a leadership course; it's a collaborative effort that evolves with the needs of our community," said Megan Rossman, membership engagement manager at the Blair County Chamber of Commerce. "An Advisory Group works closely with the Chamber, bringing their extensive experience and valuable community contacts to the table, to plan the Program Sessions. This col-



The 30th LBC class poses for a group shot before introducing themselves to each other and beginning their orientation session.

laboration ensures that the program remains relevant and impactful, continually adapting to address the current challenges and opportunities within Blair County."

The goal of the program is to get more business professionals involved in the community. Many graduates go on to volunteer for a local organization or with the Advisory Group.

"Servant leadership is an incredibly important part of every strong community," said Melanie Shildt, chair of the LBC Advisory Group. "LBC provides the opportunity for class participants to



not only learn more about the communities in which they live, work, and play, but it also gives them insight into their own strengths, areas for growth, and passions so they can be strong servant leaders."

The 30th class is ready to start their journey to become servant leaders and active members of Blair County.

"The program is very organized, and each session is

designed to get us first-hand community involvement," said Funcheon. "Already having a chance to connect with a few other class members, I can tell that we are all very excited to see what this experience has to offer."

To watch the year progress and learn more about Leadership Blair County, follow the Blair County Chamber of Commerce on social media.

### CLASS OF 2025

<b>ANTHONY AUGUSTINE</b> Ward Transport & Logistics	<b>ANGELA LONG</b> Family Services Inc.
<b>JORDAN BARD</b> James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center	<b>SHERRI MCGHEE-BRENNEMAN</b> Department of Veterans Affairs
<b>NATHAN BEERBOWER</b> Sheetz, Inc.	<b>PAMELA PENNINGTON</b> Ward Transport & Logistics
<b>JOSHUA BOOKHAMER</b> Rockland Manufacturing	<b>APRIL REILLY</b> Reliance Bank
<b>JESSICA BRUNNER</b> Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation	<b>KYLE SARVER</b> Keystone Environmental Health & Safety Services
<b>PETER BUCCI</b> NPC	<b>JESSICA SHAW</b> ARC Federal Credit Union
<b>KATERINA FISCHER</b> Penn State Altoona	<b>EMILY SOLLENBERGER</b> Kish Bank
<b>BRITTANY FUNCHEON</b> Sheetz, Inc.	<b>DAWN SUMMERVILLE</b> Mount Aloysius College
<b>MICHELLE GRAVERT</b> Altoona Curve	<b>DOMINIC TORNATORE</b> New Pig Corp.
<b>COURTNEY HORNING</b> Blair Image Elements/ Blair Companies	

## Knisely & Sons take great pride in their commitment to Blair County customers

Knisely & Sons, Inc. was established in 1947 by Paul A. Knisely in the small northern Bedford County crossroads village of Queen, Pennsylvania. The company then moved to downtown Bedford in 1953. In 1956, it relocated to one of its current locations, 125 East Pitt Street. After also serving customers in Blair County for years, the company purchased a building in Historic Hollidaysburg and opened a second location in the summer of 2000.

Greg Knisely first worked for Knisely & Sons during the summers, then became full-time in June of 1979 and today he is the President of the company. Knisely says, "I can't put a date on when I started working summers - probably about the time I could effectively hold a screwdriver and turn a wrench."

Opening the office at 314 1/2 Allegheny Street in Hollidaysburg has helped the company better serve their customers in Blair County. "We love Blair County because of its people - they are honest, hardworking, and authentic. Same as we are." Knisely says of the company's relationship with the Blair County community. The additional location gives area residents a place where they can meet with a Knisely team member if needed. The company gutted and remodeled the inside of the two-story building and is proud to be one of



Greg Knisely, President of Knisely & Sons, Inc. at the company's Hollidaysburg office.

### MEMBER Highlight

the many businesses along Allegheny Street. The company occupies the first floor, and rents apartments on the second floor.

Over the decades, family members have contributed to the company's continued growth. First with Paul Knisely's three sons, Walter, Dale and Clair, who joined the business then eventually purchased the company in 1959. The family believes Knisely & Son's has been a leader in providing premier contracting services and products over the years. The com-

pany is a full-service company focused on design, installation, repair and maintenance of all types of residential, commercial, industrial and institutional mechanical systems and equipment. Their services include heating and air conditioning, geothermal comfort systems, plumbing, electrical, refrigeration, restaurant equipment, water conditioning, emergency generators and more. They employ factory-trained and state-licensed service and installation technicians who are continuously updated with the latest information making them fast and reliable. The team is committed to offering its customers superior service and that includes being available

24-hours, 365 days a year. Knisely & Son's, Inc. is proud of its achievements and its excellent reputation for quality and dependability.

Knisely & Son's, Inc. strives to help and support their customers and the communities in which they live. They also value being a member of the Chamber. Knisely and Son's, Inc. is a longtime member of the Blair County Chamber. "We joined the Chamber primarily to network with folks and get to know more of them better. The Chamber has served us well" says Knisely.

You can learn more about Knisely and Son's Inc. at their website, kniselyandsons.com.

## HD500 at The Health Insurance Place

The September HD500 will be held at The Health Insurance Place in Altoona. On September 25th you're welcome to come get a firsthand look at Altoona's only walk in center for health insurance, life insurance, and annuities. The new "store" concept gives people a way to easily access information in an easy-

going, fun and pleasant atmosphere. The Health Insurance Place is located inside the Station Medical Center at 1531 9th Avenue. The cost is \$10 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members. HD500 (Hump Day at 5) takes place 5pm-7pm. Register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com).

## Metzler's to host Down on the Farm



Pleasant View Farms will host the next Farm-City event.

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce Farm-City Committee is gearing-up for its annual 'Down on the Farm' event to be held Tuesday, October 1st from 5pm to 7 p.m. The Metzler Family will be hosting the event at Pleasant View Farms located at 261 Pleasant View Farms Road, Martinsburg. The Metzler family and staff will kick the evening off with a milking tour at 5pm, followed by guided tours of the maternity ward and calf

barn. Area FFA students will be there volunteering throughout the evening.

Admission is \$15 per person and includes a pulled pork dinner with side dishes from Frederick's Meat Market in Roaring Spring and drinks and ice cream from Ritchey's Dairy. Children 10 and under are free. Registration is encouraged as space is limited. You can register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com) or call the Chamber at 814-943-8151.

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