

Chamber Monitoring Coronavirus Situation and Planning Strategy

Like most organizations throughout the country, the Blair County Chamber is keeping a close eye on the Coronavirus situation and will alert members to any changes regarding upcoming events and programs. "As of this moment, it's likely that we'll move forward with scheduled events," explained Board Chair Darin Tornatore. "Most of our gatherings over the next few months will not involve bringing-in large crowds to large venues. We're hopeful that as the situation improves, to be more comfortable returning to a more aggressive approach to scheduling."



BRANDbytes Are Opportunities That Are Difficult to Ignore

Last week's debut of NETworks Digital News caught the attention of many Chamber Members who took the time to



email or even leave voice messages giving us the thumbs-up on the publication. They also wanted more information on the BRANDbytes program since it features a whole lot of exposure at an incredibly reasonable price. We understand their interest and look forward to helping them to reach their target audience. For more information on BRANDbytes, call Jessie Covert at 943-8151 or email her at jcovert@blairchamber.com.

Save the date!
Business Excellence Dinner
June 22, 2020

Exciting events coming your way!

Chamber Check-Up
Thursday, March 26
3:00 -4:00 p.m.
The Chamber
[Register Here](#)

Business After Hours
Thursday, March 26
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
East Freedom Surgical Assoc.
[Register Here](#)

Safety Workshop
Friday, March 31
7:30 -9:30 a.m.
Hoss's - Duncansville
[Register Here](#)

Public Speaking Workshop
Tuesday, March 31
8:00 -11:45 a.m.
The Casino at Lakemont Park
[Register Here](#)

YP CEO Panel Discussion
Thursday, April 2
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Devorris Downtown Center
[Register Here](#)

Safety Tour
Friday, April 3
8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Blair County Department of
Emergency Services
[Register Here](#)

ELIC Director to Address Executive Roundtable

Are you aware that a recent study by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce found that Pennsylvania loses an estimated \$3.47 billion annually for the state's economy as the result of childcare issues? This number includes \$591 million annual loss in tax revenue as well as an annual loss to Pennsylvania employers of 2.88 billion on absences and employee turnover as the result of childcare breakdowns. This Wednesday, March 18th at 7:30 a.m. at The Blairmont Club, Andrea Heberlein, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission will address the Chamber's Executive Roundtable on how employers can get a better handle on the problem and will ask for feedback from Roundtable members



on what they experience in terms of lost time associated with childcare responsibilities. For more information on the Executive Roundtable, contact Joe Hurd at 943-8151 or email him at juhurd@blairchamber.com.

MEMBERcongrats

... to First Commonwealth Bank, which was recently recognized by the Federal Department Insurance Corporation's "Monet Smart Success Stories – Winter 2020 Edition" for having the Impactful Money Smart for Adults Partnership of the Year. The Bank was one of only four institutions nationwide recognized by the FDIC...



Two Chamber Ribbon Cuttings This Week

The Blair County Chamber will cut ribbons at two member-locations this week. On Tuesday, the scissors will be in action at Stuckey Automotive's new collision center in Duncansville at 3:00 p.m. On Friday, the Chamber Ambassadors head to the Juniata section of Altoona to C&J Cabinet Company for an 11:30 a.m. ribbon cutting. For more information on Chamber ribbon cuttings, contact Linda Stotler at 943-8151 or email her at lstotler@blairchamber.com.



Committee Meetings

Finance Task Force
Monday, March 16, 3:00 p.m.
The Chamber

WE-LEaD Committee
Tuesday, March 17, 8:00 a.m.
The Chamber

Workplace Wellness
Tuesday, March 17, 1:30 p.m.
Devorris Center

CEO Executive Roundtable
Wednesday, March 18, 7:30 a.m.
The Blairmont Club

Chamber Foundation Board
Wednesday, March 18, 8:00 a.m.
Devorris Center

Chairperson Summit
Wednesday, March 18, 1:30 p.m.
Devorris Center

LB Youth Committee
Wednesday, March 18, 3:30 p.m.
Devorris Center

Chamber Board Meeting
Thursday, March 19, 7:30 a.m.
Devorris Center

BENEFact

Chamber Membership can save you money.

For March, we are highlighting the "Members In Motion" member benefit. This FREE member benefit allows you to share exciting news and events going on in your business. Just send us what you would like us to share in the form of a press release or flyer and we will add it to the Members in Motion section on our website homepage. We'll even add a link to your website or flyer if one is provided!

[Click here for a complete list of benefits exclusive for Chamber Members.](#)

Australia, New Zealand Will Be First Chamber Trip Destinations in 2021

The Blair County Chamber will begin its 2021 travel schedule with a trip to Australia and New Zealand from January 19th to February 7th. The Chamber is working with Heritage Travel on this trip. Globus is the tour partner. The trip includes Australian stops in Melbourne, Cairns and Sydney and New Zealand stops in Auckland, Matamata, Rotorua and Queenstown. An informational meeting on this trip will be held this Wednesday, March 18th at 6:00 p.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. Cindy Sullivan and Susan Gaines of Globus will be the presenters. There is no cost or obligation to attend but the Chamber asks that potential attendees register by calling (814) 943-8151.



WE-LEaD Networking Event Sold Out

The Chamber's WE-LEaD program will hold a special networking event on March 23rd from 5-7 p.m. at U.S. Hotel Liberty Hall in Hollidaysburg.



The event features a delicious evening of wine tasting, gourmet chocolates, delectable cheeses and light hors d'oeuvres. It sounds like a great event, right? Then why did you wait so long to sign up for it. Now it's sold out! Don't despair, its popularity practically guarantees it will be scheduled again at some later time. If you were fortunate enough to register for this one, have a great time!!

East Freedom Surgical Associates to Host "Business After Hours"

The next Chamber Business After Hours will be held at East Freedom Surgical Associates, located at 15721 Dunning Highway, Duncansville on March 26 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Cost to attend is \$10 for Chamber Members and \$20 for non-members.

EARLY BIRD MEMBER SPECIAL: register by March 19 for only \$7.00.

Reservations can be made by calling the Chamber at 943-8151 or register online.

Highmark/Chamber Golf Classic Expected to Be a Sellout

Registration is now open for the Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Chamber Golf Classic. The Classic will be held on Monday, May 4 at Iron Masters Country Club with a lunch/registration at 11:00 and tee off at Noon. It is expected to be a sellout. If you are interested, simply complete the form on the Chamber Website and return it to the Chamber! Any questions, please contact Stacy Hoover at The Chamber, 943-8151.



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ChamberChoice

Chamber Check-Up a Great Way to Explore Opportunities

If you or one of your employees have been members of the Blair County Chamber for some period of time and don't feel that you know enough about the advantages of membership, then Chamber Check-Up is for you. The one hour educational program will be held on March 26th at 3:00 p.m. at the Chamber Office, located in the Devorris Center for Business Development. "We have so many of our own members who are unsure of what we do and how they can benefit from their membership with us," acknowledged Chamber President Joe Hurd. "This short program helps them to make a solid connection that can mean a big difference for their businesses."

As an extra incentive, anyone who attends the Chamber Check-Up can then attend the next Business After Hours at no charge. That After Hours is set for East Freedom Surgical Associates from 5:00 to 7:00 on the same



day as the Chamber Check-Up. "Attend the Check-Up and then head to the After Hours," Hurd pointed out. "It's a great way to learn and network the same day." There is no cost to attend Chamber Check-Up but registration is recommended. To register, call the Chamber at 943-8151.

Chamber Holding Summit for Committee, Roundtable Chairs

In what has become a tradition, the Blair County Chamber will host an informational summit for the people who chair the Chamber's committees, sub-committees and roundtables. The Summit will take place this Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development and will include discussion of ways to make the committee structure more effective. For more information or to serve on a Chamber committee, contact Joe Hurd at 943-8151 or email him at jhurd@blairchamber.com.

A Few Spots Remain on New Chamber Committee

The Chamber's Board of Directors has created a new committee that will be charged with determining new and better ways to recruit members to the organization. "The Board believes that we need to take a more formal approach to reaching non-members and helping them to understand the importance of the business community working more closely together," explained Chamber Board Chair Darin Tornatore. Any Chamber member who would like to be part of the Membership Recruitment Committee should call Joe Hurd at 943-8151 or email him at jhurd@blairchamber.com.

Next Job Fair is April 15th

The Blair County Chamber will once again participate in a local Job Fair to help employers who are looking to hire this Spring. Coordinated by PA Career-Link Blair County, the event will take place on April 15th from 10:00a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at The Jaffa Shrine in Altoona.

(From 10:00 to 10:30 is for veterans only!) There are 100 spots available and 80 have already been reserved. Anyone interested in the remaining spots should call Greg Crooks at 814-940-6219.



Hosting Opportunities Available for 2021 Business After Hours

If your business is interested in hosting a Business After Hours during 2021, contact Stacy Hoover at (814) 943-8151. A few months still remain but they won't be around long. Call today!!



Chamber Board Meeting Will Discuss Long Range Planning

As the Blair County Chamber looks to undergo a full scale strategic planning process later this year, much of the discussion at Thursday's board of directors meeting will focus on process and desired outcomes. "The Chamber is in a good place," remarked Board Chair Darin Tornatore. "We've identified a lot of future initiatives that we'd like to undertake and this is the time to create a plan to address those." The Chamber board meets at 7:30 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development. Any Chamber member who would like to address the board should contact Joe Hurd by Tuesday at noon at 943-8151.

"Public Speaking Mastery" a Must for Anyone in Business

The Blair County Chamber and Dale Carnegie Training will hold a half-day workshop on March 31st from 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 at The Casino at Lakemont Park. The workshop, entitled "Public Speaking Mastery" will help attendees learn how to assess their own presentation strengths and weaknesses, understand audience expectations, write a fail-proof outline, speak with conviction and confidence and use their own enthusiasm to capture attention. Dale Carnegie trainer Fred Vornbrock will be the presenter. The cost to attend is \$49 for Chamber members and \$59 for non-members. The cost includes a buffet



breakfast and all materials. To register, call the Blair County Chamber at 943-8151 or register online.



Active Shooter Preparation Program Set for March 27th

The Blair County Chamber's Safety Committee will hold a special program on March 27th at Hoss's Steak & Sea House in Duncansville entitled, "Review of Strategies for Active Shooter Preparation and Best Practices Recommendations for Facility Safety." The presenter will be Bob Winters. Registration and a buffet breakfast begin at 7:30 a.m. The presentation is from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. The cost to attend is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. To register, contact the Chamber at 943-8151 or register online.

Informational Meeting

**New Zealand
& Australia**
Jan. 19-Feb. 7, 2021

March 18

6:00 PM

**Blair County Chamber
of Commerce
Devorris Center for
Business Development**