

# It's YOUR BUSINESS

[www.centralpachamber.com](http://www.centralpachamber.com)

*Vision*

Volume 7, Issue 2 - February 2022

*Helping OUR Region Grow.*

*Mission*

*be the preferred Resource Center for our me  
port their economic and business develop*



## The Executive Team, pg. 3



### Board of Directors

**Rob Jones - Chair** **Skyler Herb - 1st Vice Chair**

Milton Historical Society Skyworks Equipment Rental

**Chenelle Thomas - 2nd Vice Chair** **Lennea Brown - Treasurer**

ClearView Asset Protection Heritage Springs Memory Care

**Genie Bausinger** **Will Greiner**

Milton Regional Sewer Authority Strong Spas

**Alison Hall** **Andrew Hertzler**

The UPS Store XW Construction

**Nathan Lawrence** **Brad Lawton**

United Plate Glass Lawton Insurance Agency

**Lauren McDonald** **Ashley Parrish**

The Wealth Factory First Commonwealth Bank

**Chris Pinchak** **Todd Ross**

Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning T-Ross Brothers Construction

**Ryan Workman** **E. Terry Baldwin - Solicitor**

Susquehanna Computer Innovations Baldwin & Baldwin

### Staff

**Tea Jay Aikey - President & CEO**

tjaikey@centralpachamber.com

**Jeff Shaffer - Communication Director**

jshaffer@centralpachamber.com

**Michael Porter - Education Coordinator**

mporter@centralpachamber.com

**Jessica Williams - Finance & Membership Director**

jwilliams@centralpachamber.com

## The Inside Scoop

Fresh ideas; the more the better.

Fortunately, we have a large number of people we can count on to be the Chamber staff's sounding board, and let us know of things they would like to see from the organization. I mention this, because as you'll see on page 3, we have an almost completely new Executive Team representing the Board of Directors, and therefore the membership. Read about the new officers, and always feel that you can reach out to them with your own thoughts, questions and ideas. They are an extension of the staff and great at relaying information to us. Congratulations to Rob, Skyler, Chenelle and Nea! We look forward to working with you in this capacity.

We welcome change here, because it provides an opportunity for growth. However, change can be difficult, too.

The Chamber was deeply saddened to learn that the Country Cupboard will close before month's end. It is a well-known landmark for locals as well as those traveling through the region. For us, it has been our host site for Legislative Events for many, many years. It was the perfect venue, in that it could host large crowds and was central to a bulk of the membership. The food has always been fantastic, too! If your schedule allows, please, take the time to join us for the final Legislative Event being held there on Feb. 18. And, read more about it on page 11.

We've all tried to do our part to pull each other through the circumstances surrounding COVID-19. Sometimes a success, but sometimes not. We offer our congrats to SEDA-COG this month, which shares it was able to distribute more than \$7 million to more than 300 businesses across the area. Read more on page 15.

There is much more to read, too, so don't miss a page! Enjoy the issue!



Jeff Shaffer, Editor  
Communication Director  
[jshaffer@centralpachamber.com](mailto:jshaffer@centralpachamber.com)

## It's Your Business Deadlines

Below are upcoming *It's Your Business* due dates to help ensure your member information appears in IYB. Every effort is made to include information in a timely manner.  
*Note: Only paid advertisements are guaranteed.*

**March Digital Issue**  
**News & Ads due by Feb. 11**

**Spring Print Issue\* (released end of March)**  
**Ads due by March 4**

**April Digital Issue**  
**News & Ads due by March 11**

**May Digital Issue**  
**News & Ads due by April 11**

\*The Central PA Chamber will print a special edition of IYB on a quarterly basis beginning this spring. Copies will be available at public member locations across the region. If interested in being a drop-off location, e-mail [jshaffer@centralpachamber.com](mailto:jshaffer@centralpachamber.com).



Backyard Broadcasting of Pennsylvania  
Century 21 Mertz & Associates  
ClearView Asset Protection  
Coldwell Banker Penn One Real Estate  
Contrast Communications  
Davis, Davis & Kaar  
Decal Dynasty  
Evangelical Community Hospital  
Fulton Bank  
Green Ridge Graphics  
Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning  
Heritage Springs Memory Care  
Hosterman Photography & Design  
i3 Point-of-Sale  
iHeartMedia  
Interaction Dynamics Group  
Java Momma  
Jersey Shore State Bank  
La Primavera Italiano Ristorante  
Lawton Insurance Agency  
Lewisburg Pharmacy  
LIVIC Civil  
MCPS of Central PA

Mifflinburg Bank & Trust Company  
NESCO Resource  
North Central Sight Services  
North Shore Railroad Company  
On Fire Promotions  
PenTeleData  
PPL Electric Utilities  
Raceway Mobile Storage  
RE/MAX Bridges - Ann Hilliard  
Riverwoods Senior Living Community  
Safeguard Business Systems  
Service 1st Federal Credit Union  
Service Electric Cablevision/SECVs  
Seven Mountains Media  
Sunbury Broadcasting Corporation  
Susquehanna Fire Equipment Company  
Susquehanna Valley Limousine  
T-Ross Brothers Construction  
The Standard-Journal  
The Wealth Factory  
TPS  
Unique Inspirations Limited  
Watsonstown Dental  
Weaver Wireless Consultants

The President's Club is an exclusive sponsorship program created to prominently recognize companies that contribute to the Central PA Chamber over and above their annual membership investment. For more information, call 570-742-7341.





Following the reorganizational board meeting on Jan. 13, the Central PA Chamber introduced the 2022 Executive Team. From left, Chenelle Thomas of ClearView Asset Protection, 2nd vice chair; Rob Jones of the Milton Historical Society, chair; Skyler Herb of Skyworks Equipment Rental, 1st vice chair; and Lennea Brown of Heritage Springs Memory Care, treasurer. This photo/cover photo is by Hosterman Creative. The additional photos are from the board retreat, where the directors met and caught up with one another, competed in a quiz show about the Chamber, and had new professional headshots taken by Brett Hosterman for the new year!

# The Executive Team

MILTON – The Central PA Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors selected its 2022 slate of officers at its reorganizational meeting Thursday morning, Jan. 13. Rob Jones, a board member and volunteer with the Milton Historical Society, was elected chairman. Now serving as 1st vice chair is Skyler Herb, a sales and marketing representative with Skyworks Equipment Rental. Chenelle Thomas, director of operations with ClearView Asset Protection, is now 2nd vice chair. And, Lennea “Nea” Brown, business manager for Heritage Springs Memory Care, will serve as treasurer this year. The same four directors also make up the executive committee.

“I am so proud, and humbled, to be the chairman of the board for the Central PA Chamber in 2022,” said Jones, who was also reelected to a second three-year term by the membership. “I take the choice from my fellow board members as a vote of confidence in my leadership skills. I cannot wait for an awesome 2022 with this

Chamber!”

“I would like to thank my peers for nominating and electing me as the vice chairman,” Herb said. “I’m excited to take on additional responsibilities with a chamber that has a strong, loyal and growing membership.

“Local businesses are expanding and new businesses are opting to break ground or replace vacant buildings in our area, which is a positive indication for our local economy. Exciting times are ahead in 2022 and for many years to come, which I look forward to participating in.”

Thomas, who was just elected to a new term after being appointed to an open seat in 2021, said, “I am looking forward to three years on the board with the Chamber. They do so much for businesses and the people within the businesses.

“I am a true believer of success is where preparation and opportunity meet. That’s what the Central PA Chamber is about!”

While the aforementioned are new to the officer role at the Central PA Chamber,

Brown previously served as 1st vice chair and was asked to return in the treasurer capacity.

“I am honored to serve in the position of treasurer as well as a board member of the Central PA Chamber of Commerce,” she said. “I truly believe in our mission and am committed to doing my part to represent the membership and promote economic growth.”

Tea Jay Aikey, Central PA Chamber President & CEO, noted there was lots of interest in being a board officer this year.

“It is wonderful to see so many business and organization leaders want to step up to assist with the Central PA Chamber’s vision and mission,” she said. “Those who were elected are highly respected by their peers, and not only at the board level but by the membership at-large.

“I look forward to working with this executive team throughout 2022 in order to continue being trailblazers in our arena, and assisting our members in all their endeavors.”



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P.O. Box 319

Phone: 570-742-8777 Fax: 570-742-6155

# New Members

**East West Drilling Inc.**  
**157 Buffalo Creek Road**  
**Mifflinburg, PA 17844**  
**570-966-7312**

**merle@ewdrilling.net**

**Merle Hoover - Sales & Marketing Rep.**

**www.ewdrilling.com**

*East West Drilling, Inc. (a division of East West Manufacturing) is "Meeting the needs of drillers around the world." We are committed to providing high quality used, rebuilt, and new machinery and products to the market. For over 20 years, we have worked with many domestic and international companies and industries to ensure we deliver high quality drill rigs, heavy equipment, products, and services to our customers. Most of our customers work in drilling for water wells, oil & gas, blasthole for mining, foundation & caisson, geotechnical, all forms of construction, and many other related industries to meet everyone's needs. Contact us for a price quote so we can work with you in selecting the right machines and products to meet the needs of your projects and customers. Feel free to search our entire inventory listed online or contact us for equipment or products requirements listed or not. We specialize in import/export of machines, products and parts globally by air, sea and land.*

**Timberhaven Log & Timber Homes**

**1081 Salem Church Road**

**Middleburg, PA 17842**

**570-765-7293**

**bobbilandis@timberhavenloghomes.com**

**Bobbi Landis - Marketing Director**

**www.timberhavenloghomes.com**

*Timberhaven Log & Timber Homes is a manufacturer and supplier of premium-quality, kiln-dried log, timber frame and hybrid homes, as well as outdoor timber structures and timber accents. We offer world-renowned engineered logs and timbers and focus on working closely with our customers to provide a complete solution to their dream home. With an average of 30 years industry experience per employee, we take great pride in our products and services and offer only the best in: kiln-dried engineered or traditional solid logs and timbers; most complete log, timber frame and hybrid home packages; the industry's best quality assurance programs including our 'complete' package guarantee and lifetime warranty; precision pre-cut, pre-sorted and inversely stacked logs and timbers; name-brand package components like Andersen windows and Therma-Tru doors; free custom-design consultation and technical assistance; dozens of log profiles and corner assemblies; professional sales network across the country. Your Dream . . . Our Passion. It's not just our tagline. It's the foundation for how we do business.*

**Mr. Milton LLC**

**5400 Eadom St.**

**Philadelphia, PA 19137**

**ny4david@gmail.com**

**David Damaghi - President**

*David Damaghi is a real estate investor who specializes in the rehabilitation of distressed properties. His objective is to keep these newly renovated properties at an affordable rate and bring as many jobs as he can to local communities. He is extremely eager to become part of the Milton community. The first phase will be creating affordable storage for entrepreneurs, small businesses, contractors, plumbers, electricians and more.*

*The second phase will be creating space with multiple amenities for manufacturers and warehousing businesses. This includes: wi-fi, a secretary (shipping and receiving packages), loading, offloading, use of forklift etc...*

**Amber G Co. Photography**

**139 Market St.**

**Lewisburg, PA 17837**

**570-523-9131**

**amber@ambergcophotography.com**

**Amber Gardner - Owner/Photographer**

**www.ambergcophotography.com**

*Amber G Co. Photography is located in the heart of downtown Lewisburg. Amber has been a portrait photographer for over eight years. Her senior work has been published in numerous magazines, and she has worked with many professionals and their families over the years. Amber is offering headshot, family, senior, maternity, and newborn photos at her studio.*

**United Restoration & Exterior Cleaning**

**1090 Lincoln Chapel Road**

**Millmont, PA 17845**

**570-428-3745**

**unitedrestorationsandcleaning@gmail.com**

**Adam Snook - Owner**

*Mobile contract cleaning company focused on exterior cleaning services. We specialize in siding, windows, roof and gutter, masonry and brick, stain removal and wood restoration. We use low-pressure technology to get the toughest surfaces clean again!*

**Cup O Code**

**48 A St.**

**Northumberland, PA 17857**

**570-850-8020**

**tim@cupocode.com**

**Tim Keeley - Owner**

**www.cupocode.com**

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### Storm Café

The Storm Café is the latest evolution of the successful Storm Family of water coolers. Already known for quick and simple cleaning and sanitation (using the SmartFlo reservoir technology), the Storm Café has been updated to include recessed faucets, a new fascia with additional lighting options, an updated SmartFlo, and a coffee pod brewer. With the looks you want and the features you need, the Storm Café is sure to find a home in any environment.

Model: Storm Café: Water and Coffee dispenser



Easy to use brewer works with popular single serve beverage pods.



Easy to clean. Top rack dishwasher safe.



Raised cup holder folds out for use with smaller cups or mugs.



Replaceable Reservoir System SmartFlo Water Cartridge.



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 "We Deliver"



See "Membership Renewals" on page 8.

Find the latest member news on our Facebook and Instagram pages and @ [www.centralpachamber.com](http://www.centralpachamber.com).





# Member Spotlight



Elaine Stauder, Communications Coordinator

[estauder@seda-cog.org](mailto:estauder@seda-cog.org)

570-524-4491

[www.seda-cog.org](http://www.seda-cog.org)

of success by partnering with us, an 11-county community and economic development agency. We partner with and invest in local companies to help them start, grow and excel. Communities are enhanced and revitalized with projects that improve homes and neighborhoods. From home improvement to sewers and sidewalks, parks and flood resiliency, we've got you covered.

**What is a service that people are surprised to learn you offer?**

We do everything from export assistance (market research, product compliance, export licensing, documentation, shipping, and much more,) to weatherization

(residents can make their homes more energy efficient with our free weatherization services, which includes materials and labor. From Nov. 1 to April 1, we also offer cold weather crisis assistance to fix your heating crisis.)

**What is your mission statement?**

SEDA-Council of Governments enhances the quality of life and economic advantage for residents and businesses in 11 central Pennsylvania counties through its vital partnerships and initiatives.

**How long have you been in business?**

Since 1957

**What makes your organization unique?**

Businesses can propel to the next level

Daniel Myers, Financial Advisor

570-522-9960



[d.myers@edwardjones.com](mailto:d.myers@edwardjones.com)

[www.edwardjones.com/us-en/financial-advisor/d-myers](http://www.edwardjones.com/us-en/financial-advisor/d-myers)

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

**How long have you been in business?**

Edward Jones is celebrating its 100th year in 2022, although I've been with Edward Jones for three years now, and celebrating our first full year at our current location at 260 Reitz Blvd., Lewisburg.

**What makes your business unique?**

We have a client first focus that puts the focus helping them achieve their goals. Because Edward Jones is the largest investment advisory firm in the nation, we have the resources of many tools and educational pieces for our clients.

**What is a service that people are surprised to learn you offer?**

We offer retirement planning and employer retirement plan consolidation, as well as temporary and permanent life insurance, estate planning and transfer of inherited investment assets.

**What is your mission statement?**

I partner with my clients with the utmost integrity, to provide complete and holistic wealth management. I will always strive to passionately serve the Lord, my family and my community.

**What other community organizations does your organization participate in?**

Personally, I volunteer at Higher Hope Church in Sunbury, Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary International, Union County Public Library, and actively participate in Chamber events.

**Want to appear in the  
Member Spotlight?**

**E-mail Jessica Williams at:  
[jwilliams@centralpachamber.com](mailto:jwilliams@centralpachamber.com)  
for details!**

# What's Happening

## Focus Central PA to host forum

SELINGROVE - On Wednesday, March 23, Focus Central PA will host the region's forward-thinking economic growth event, the Industrial Development Forum (IDF), at Susquehanna University.

Industrial development experts and thought leaders will cover critical topics, including: smart growth, economics, site selection, funding and talent in Pennsylvania.

The cost to attend is \$20 and registration is required. Visit [www.FocusCentralPA.org](http://www.FocusCentralPA.org).

The event schedule includes Jim Robey, PhD, Principal with Robey Analytics.

Robey, an applied economist, economic developer, and site selection consultant with more than 30 years experience, will provide a look at macro-economic conditions and what that means for industrial development moving forward.

Dennis Burnside, Executive Managing Director with Vestian will also speak. He brings a 30-plus year resume of serving large and small corporate organizations, the economic development community, and the commercial real estate service and investment industry to provide real estate market updates, trends and observations on what growth looks like moving forward.

In addition to the aforementioned speakers, the event will have expert panels presenting on "Ways to WIN at Site Selection", "Funding Strategies for Capital Investment Projects" and "Talent Advantages and Resources in Central Pennsylvania".

At IDF 2022, industrial and infrastructure investment projects in the region will be announced and recognized.

Joe Kantz, Focus Central PA Board Member and Event Committee Chair, said "As a County Commissioner in Snyder County for the past dozen years, I have seen smart growth in our region. One of the reasons we've seen this growth is because of the work of Focus Central PA. This forum will be a 'must attend' event for anyone who is interested in economic and industrial development in the greater, central PA area. When we approach growth in central PA from a regional approach, we succeed. This event will broaden our ability to work to-



# INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM

# 2022

**Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022**

**Visit: [www.focuscentralpa.org](http://www.focuscentralpa.org)**

gether and bring even more growth to our region to benefit our residents and our local economies."

For more details, visit [www.FocusCentralPA.org](http://www.FocusCentralPA.org).

# WEIS CENTER

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

SPRING 2022

season

# CIRCA

Contemporary Circus

Tues., Feb. 15  
7:30 p.m.

Adults: \$25  
Seniors 62+: \$20  
Youth: \$15  
Suggested for ages 12+

Bucknell UNIVERSITY [bucknell.edu/WeisCenter](http://bucknell.edu/WeisCenter)

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<b>Act</b> - Ethics, Servant Leadership, Personal Why Statements and Serving on Committees	<b>Connect</b> - Communication Protocols, Social Media Practices, Advocacy and Marketing

**Interested in attending an upcoming class?**

Contact Jeff Shaffer at [jshaffer@centralpachamber.com](mailto:jshaffer@centralpachamber.com) or 570-742-7341 and visit [www.centralpachamber.com/rtb](http://www.centralpachamber.com/rtb) to learn more!

Raising the Board is a program of the Central PA Chamber of Commerce.





Proudly serving Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry and Union Counties.




**We welcome you to visit The Link**  
**Friday, February 11, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**  
**Milton Public Library**  
 541 Broadway Street, Milton, PA



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- Job Matching
- Career Guidance
- Workforce Training
- Recruitment Events

**The Link is equipped with:**

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- Internet Access
- Printing



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**For the entire schedule including locations visit our Facebook page @TheLinkMCC under Events or to learn even more visit our website [CentralPACareerLink.org](http://CentralPACareerLink.org)**



**Questions? Call or email:**  
 Robert Eddy  
[reddy@censop.com](mailto:reddy@censop.com)  
 Craig Kurtz  
[ckurtz@censop.com](mailto:ckurtz@censop.com)  
 570-220-0003



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## Registration now open

**WILLIAMSPORT** - Non-profit organizations with 501(c)3 tax status in Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Tioga and Union counties are encouraged to register for Raise the Region 2022, which for the last several years has been the area's largest collective online fundraiser.

Raise The Region is scheduled for March 9 and 10.

Last year, it raised over \$2 Million in 30 hours for 272 local non-profits.

All participating organizations compete for prizes throughout the 30-hour event and every gift will be increased by stretch funds compliments of the Blaise

Alexander Family Dealerships. This year's program will be the largest yet, as organizer First Community Foundation Partnership of PA has added Tioga County, and the Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships has increased the stretch funds to \$175,000.

Register your non-profit organization by Friday, Feb. 25 at [www.RaiseTheRegion.org](http://www.RaiseTheRegion.org).

The Central PA Business & Education Association and several Central PA Chamber member organizations participate in Raise The Region. Any and all support is greatly appreciated!

*Leadercast returns May 4! Click here for details!*

Date	Event	Location	Time	Cost
2/9/22	Leader Starter Kata	Webinar	1 to 2 p.m.	Free
2/24/22	Energy and Waste Reduction through Continuous Improvement	Webinar	11 to 12 p.m.	Free
3/2/22	Overview of ISO 9001:2015 Requirements	Webinar	8 to 11 a.m.	Free



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[www.imcpa.com/events](http://www.imcpa.com/events)



**PENNSYLVANIA**

**Small Business Development Center**  
**Bucknell University**

**570-577-1249**  
[www.bucknell.edu/sbdc](http://www.bucknell.edu/sbdc)

Date	Event	Location	Time	Cost
2/8/22	Preparing for the Unexpected & Creating a More Resilient Business	Online (Live)	12 to 1 p.m.	Free
2/15/22	"Level Up" Your Communication Savvy	Online (Live)	12 to 1 p.m.	Free
3/3/22	Business Startup Basics for Central PA: The First Step	Online (Live)	9:30 to 11 a.m.	Free

# Membership Renewals

(As of Jan. 19, 2022)

7-Eleven Inc.  
Astro Village Listing Service  
Bend-Fab  
Berkshire Hathaway  
Homeservices - Hodrick  
Realty  
Borough of Milton  
Brynwood Rentals - 535, Inc.  
Bucknell SBDC  
Bucky Allis  
Chickadee eMarketing  
Christ Wesleyan Church  
Coldwell Banker Penn One  
Real Estate  
Country Comfort Alternative  
Living, Inc.  
Davis Davis and Kaar  
Delaware Township  
Supervisors  
Evangelical Community  
Hospital  
Fero Vineyards & Winery  
GAF Roofing  
Greater Susquehanna Valley  
United Way  
Greater Susquehanna Valley  
YMCA - Mifflinburg Y Center  
Greater Susquehanna Valley  
YMCA - Milton Branch  
Greater Susquehanna Valley  
YMCA - Sunbury Branch  
Herbert, Rowland & Grubic  
Kelly RV  
Kevin M. Welch, DPM  
La Primavera Italiano  
Ristorante  
Law Offices of Baldwin  
& Baldwin  
Lewisburg Pharmacy  
Matt Frye - State Farm  
Insurance  
Mericle Commercial Real  
Estate Group - Wilkes-Barre  
Mericle Commercial Real  
Estate Group - Williamsport  
Middle Creek Signs  
Milton Lions Club  
Milton Regional Sewer  
Authority  
Milton Transportation  
North Eastern PA American  
Red Cross Blood Services  
North Shore Railroad  
Company  
Northumberland County  
Housing Authority  
One Group Insurance  
Peggy Bouton - Coldwell  
Banker Penn One  
Pennsylvania American  
Water Company  
Pennsylvania Chamber  
Insurance  
Pennsylvania Cystic Fibrosis

Photography by David Miller  
Reliable Glass Construction  
Robinwood Day Care Center  
Ronald McDonald House  
of Danville  
Safeguard Business Systems  
SEDA-Council of  
Governments (SEDA-COG)  
Senator John Gordner's Office  
Service 1st Federal Credit  
Union - Bloomsburg  
Service 1st Federal Credit  
Union - Danville  
Service 1st Federal Credit  
Union - Danville Main Branch  
Service 1st Federal Credit  
Union - Elysburg  
Service 1st Federal Credit  
Union - Lewisburg  
Service 1st Federal Credit  
Union - Mifflinburg  
Service 1st Federal Credit  
Union - Milton  
Service 1st Federal Credit  
Union - Shamokin Dam  
Service 1st Federal Credit  
Union - Sunbury  
Service 1st Federal Credit  
Union - Williamsport/  
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SUN Habitat for Humanity  
Susquehanna Fire  
Equipment Co.  
T-Ross Brothers Construction  
The Coup Agency - Milton  
& Lewisburg  
The Northumberland National  
Bank - Northumberland  
Transitions of PA  
Travel Leaders - Lewisburg  
Union County Housing  
Authority  
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Watson Inn  
Watson Dental PC  
Weaver Wireless Consultants  
Weichert Realtors Premier  
Welch Performance  
Consulting  
Williamsport Crosscutters  
WorkForce Temps - Milton  
Workforce Temps - Sunbury  
Zartman Construction  
Zook's Enterprises



'Nine Cakes', an oil painting by Simonne Roy.

## LAC Members' Show

**LEWISBURG** - The Lewisburg Arts Council invites you to stop by Gallery 255 at the Public Library for Union County, 255 Reitz Blvd., Lewisburg, during the library's open hours to view the 2022 Members' Show, on display from Feb. 2 through March 30.

This show is free to the public and suitable for all ages.

Representatives from the Artists' Guild and/or the Photography Club will be available at Gallery 255 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays to answer questions and discuss the show.

This year's show celebrates two milestones - the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Artists' Guild and the fifth anniversary of the Photography Club. "Nine Cakes", an oil painting by Artists' Guild member Simonne Roy, honors these birthdays.

In addition to photographs, oils and watercolors, a wide variety of media will be represented, from acrylics to ceramics, from colored pencil to jewelry, from pen and ink to textile art. Individual pieces will be marked with a price, if they are available for sale.

Pieces on display are by professional as well as amateur artists, all of whom participate in one or both of the Lewisburg Arts Council's special-interest groups, the Artists' Guild and the Photography Club.

For more information about either group, e-mail [guild@lewisburgartscouncil.com](mailto:guild@lewisburgartscouncil.com) or visit [www.LewisburgPhotoClub.org](http://www.LewisburgPhotoClub.org).

The Lewisburg Arts Council has been connecting the community and the arts for more than 50 years. The Arts Council promotes the arts in the Susquehanna Valley, creating an intersection of artists and art lovers and cultivating a community where artists can thrive.

For more information about the Lewisburg Arts Council's events and activities, visit their web site and follow them on Facebook.

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## COME JOIN US AT OUR EVENTS

**Every Day** – We have a clothing and shoes **ONLY** bin at the puppet home as a fundraiser. It is a HandUp Foundation bin. It is located behind the puppet home at the back alley.

**Miss Curly's Right Hand Club** – Fundraiser for a monthly subscription of \$15 or more to help pay for our monthly utilities and insurances. Go to:

<https://hiskingdomkidz.networkforgood.com/projects/150483-2022-giving>

**Amazon Smile** - If you use Amazon Smile, you can help us while shopping. Go to Smile.Amazon.com click on Kingdom Kidz, and we will receive a donation from Amazon Smile. No extra monies taken from you.

**Saturday, February 12** – Valentine Puppet Presentation at 1 pm. Admission is \$3.00. Free Kingdom Kidz DVD to the first 20 children.

**Saturday, February 19** – Movie Matinee "Dolphin Tale" at 2 pm at the Puppet Home, 11 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Watertown. Doors will open at 1:30. Parking Available at Cronrath Grenoble Funeral Home Parking Lot. Popcorn will be served. **FREE** Choice of \$5 McDonalds gift certificate, Kingdom Kidz DVD, or Kingdom Kidz gift Certificate for puppet home activities to the first 20 children.

**Saturday February 19** – **SOUP SALE**, Chicken Corn, Veg. Beef. \$7.50 a Quart. Pick-Up Only at the puppet home, 11 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Watertown from 3 – 5 pm. Order by February 12 by calling 570-838-3133.

**Sunday, February 27** – Montandon Baptist Church, Morning Service at 10:30 am. Open to the Community. Address: 257 Main Street, Montandon.

### Quality Family Programming

[www.hiskingdomkidz.org](http://www.hiskingdomkidz.org) e-mail: [puppets@hiskingdomkidz.org](mailto:puppets@hiskingdomkidz.org)

Follow us on Facebook 570-838-3133

## Camp Koala Gala

MIFFLINBURG - Camp Koala, a non-profit that supports children in times of grief, will hold its annual Fundraising Gala from 7 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, April 2, at Rusty Rail Brewing Co. in Mifflinburg. Tickets are \$75 each or \$600 for a table of 10. You can purchase your tickets on Event Brite, here:

[www.eventbrite.com/e/249387293107](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/249387293107).

The gala is an evening of celebration, craft beer, wine, hors d'oeuvres and homemade desserts! Enjoy the live band, Route 15, and entertaining emcee, Mark Lingenfelter. You will also find a silent auction featuring items from local businesses, raffles, a red carpet Hollywood photo area, caricature artist, wine pull, and a live auction with auctioneer Lori Hess-Lauver. A limited number of VIP tables are available, and include event sponsorship for you or your business. For more information, e-mail [director@campkoala.org](mailto:director@campkoala.org).

To learn more about Camp Koala, visit [www.campkoala.org](http://www.campkoala.org), and find them on Facebook.



## Breakfast Briefings



Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Breakfast Briefing on an. 21! There were lots of new faces in The Smith Room, which we always love to see! All are welcome to attend, but please, register to secure your seat!

And, a special thank you to event sponsor Scott Frost of First Commonwealth Advisors! He talked about investment planning, retirement, protecting assets and more. For more information, visit: [www.fcbanking.com/personal/investment-brokerage-services/meet-our-financial-advisors/scott-frost](http://www.fcbanking.com/personal/investment-brokerage-services/meet-our-financial-advisors/scott-frost).

The Central PA Chamber holds Breakfast Briefings monthly at its location, giving members and guests the opportunity to network, learn more about each other and the Chamber. Breakfast is included!

Register at [www.centralpachamber.com](http://www.centralpachamber.com).

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# Time with Tea Jay

## Personal yet practical

"Please, be sure to listen to this message as our options have recently changed...Please, stay on the line until our next customer service representative is available..."

How often have you heard these messages?

I can guarantee you haven't heard them when you call the Central PA Chamber of Commerce during business hours! We answer the phones personally, promptly and professionally each time you call. It is our goal to be accessible to our members, whom we pridefully aim to serve, protect and promote.

To say 2022 is off to an outstanding beginning would be an understatement. I am really amped up to be able to offer more affordable, practical, and most importantly, result-driven benefits. Our 2022 Directory is in the final stages and the primary contact for your member business/organization will be receiving a hard copy in the mail soon. (Note: We will have extra hard copies here at the office should you want more.)

We're happy to announce our new 2022 Board Officers, and they are very excited and ready to serve. Board Chair Rob Jones has released "A message from the chair" and also did a video version, too, which can be found on our web site ([www.centralpachamber.com](http://www.centralpachamber.com)).

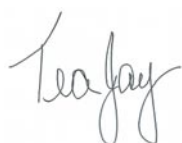
This month, we are hosting state Rep. Joe Hamm for our Legislative Event. This will most certainly be a sold-out event with the number of registrations continuously coming in! This is Rep. Hamm's first time with us, and he and his team are super excited to be there. Of course, it's all bittersweet with the Country Cupboard's recent announcement that it will close by the end of the month. We've maintained a decades-long partnership to hold events there, and we're grateful for all of the opportunities.

I also want to encourage you to visit our web site to and see all of the enhancements made to better promote our members. To start, our monthly magazine It's Your Business, which you're reading right now, has many new features. I'm so impressed with what our Communication Director Jeff Shaffer does with the limited funds we have to dedicate to such projects.

That brings me to another point. We have opted to NOT increase membership rates for 2022. While we have and continue to experience increased costs to conduct daily operations, we are working our hardest to be innovative and not pass along those increases to you, as we know you are faced with many financial challenges as well.

It's February, so that means there is "love in the air" no doubt. We love our members, and we would love to hear why you choose to make us your regional resource center. Have you considered doing a Why Us? video? It's FREE and gets you featured on the radio, in print and video, as hold music and so much more. Visit [www.centralpachamber.com/why-us](http://www.centralpachamber.com/why-us) for details!

I consider you all as my "valentines". I whole heartedly plan to continue to do what is necessary versus what is easy, to best ensure we are serving you and your needs.



Tea Jay Aikey  
President & CEO  
[tjaikey@centralpachamber.com](mailto:tjaikey@centralpachamber.com)



# Thank you!



The Central PA Chamber staff gathered in early January for a few moments to read back personal and professional notes and highlights from the last six months of 2021. Each week at staff meetings, team members jot down notes, which are saved in a jar and read at a later time. It was a great way to reflect on a busy year! Life can easily get away from us with full schedules, so maybe you and your team want to give something like this try!

## Looking to hire or even be hired?

**JOB OPENINGS**

Visit

[www.centralpachamber.com](http://www.centralpachamber.com)

and click on

**"Job Opportunities" under the "Economic Development" tab.**

**Want to post a job your business or organization has available?**

**E-mail [jshaffer@centralpachamber.com](mailto:jshaffer@centralpachamber.com).**



# Last call at Country Cupboard

LEWISBURG – The Central PA Chamber of Commerce will hold one final Legislative Event at the Country Cupboard before the well-known, Lewisburg-based restaurant and gift shop shuts its doors for the last time.

Country Cupboard publicly announced that it will close soon, following a couple years of hardship stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Chamber confirmed it will be able to host its previously scheduled Legislative Event on Friday, Feb. 18. The featured speaker will be state Rep. Joe Hamm (R-84), and the event is sponsored by Cabinetworks Group, Mifflinburg.

The Central PA Chamber is deeply saddened by the very difficult decision the owners of the Country Cupboard had to make. The two organizations maintained a decades long partnership holding Legislative Events at the restaurant in the familiar Col. John Kelly Room.

"It certainly is bittersweet to be hosting a pre-scheduled Legislative Event at the Country Cupboard in what is now expected to be their last month open," said Tea Jay Aikey, Central PA Chamber President & CEO. "Their team and facility have been so accommodating, and we will truly miss working with them regularly."

While the Country Cupboard venue will be hard to replace, the Chamber is confident it will be able to continue its popular event elsewhere in the future.

The Legislative Event allows Central PA Chamber members, area high school students and the general public to hear directly from – and ask questions to – elected officials at the local, state and national level. Many additional elected officials



A usual scene at Legislative Events held at the Country Cupboard, giving Central PA Chamber members, students and the general public at chance to network and meet some of their elected officials. The Central PA Chamber is very grateful for the long-standing relationship it has had with the staple restaurant location in Lewisburg.

are often in attendance as well. It is typically held four times a year.

Rep. Hamm is slated to speak on redistricting, election integrity and employment issues, which again has taken its toll on a community staple.

Registration is required to attend the final Legislative Event being held at the Country Cupboard on Feb. 18. To do so, visit: [www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events). The cost is \$17 and includes the breakfast buffet.

The Central PA Chamber will notify its members and public when another venue is determined.

**CENTRAL PA**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

welcomes

**State Rep. Joe Hamm (R-84)**



7:30 to 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 18 @ Country Cupboard, Lewisburg

Topics: Redistricting, Election Integrity & Employer Issues

Admission: \$17

Register @ [www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events)

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*Who Represents You?*

Where were you born?  
Johnstown, PA

Favorite vacation spot?  
Alaska, Arizona, Washington D.C. or the beach

Have any hobbies?  
Hunting and working outside

A fun fact about yourself?  
I wear camo shirts when I am not hunting.

What is your favorite Chamber memory?  
Our board retreat in 2021 was the best one that I attended...camaraderie, fun, team building and lots of laughs!

**CENTRAL PA**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**Rob Jones,**  
Milton  
Historical Society  
2022 Chair  
Term ending 2024



# Members Recognized

## Bowen Agency Realtors

SELINGSGROVE - Bowen Agency Realtors President Larry Johnson and Vice President Matt Hoffman have announced that Selingsgrove sales agent Melissa Laniewski has been named to the position of Recruitment and Training Coordinator. As a sales agent with over 16 years experience, she has been a top sales producer and a leader in the mentorship and training of new agents joining the company.

"Melissa's many years of experience, leadership and strong knowledge of all aspects of real estate contracts and transactions make her a great fit for this position," Johnson said. While maintaining her connections to past clients and continuing to help them with their real estate needs, Laniewski's new focus will be on welcoming and encouraging prospective agents to join the Bowen sales team, while also coordinating the mentorship program for new agents and implementing hands-on and classroom-style learning experiences.



Melissa Laniewski

## Evangelical Community Hospital

LEWISBURG - Evangelical Community Hospital recently awarded a couple of nurses with the DAISY Honor for Nursing Excellence.

Anne Griffin, RN, MSN, was presented the DAISY Award in November. Hannah Sauers, RN, BSN, was presented the DAISY Award in January.

The award is presented to deserving nurses who exemplify clinical expertise and compassionate care and recognized as role models in the nursing community.

Griffin was nominated for the award by Nicole Bingaman—the mother of a patient at one of the COVID-19 vaccination clinics in April 2021—who was present with her son to honor Griffin with the award.

In the nomination, Bingaman said, "I attended my son's (who is an adult with cognitive impairments due to a brain injury) COVID vaccination with him. The process was all a bit overwhelming, and he was feeling stressed out. Both times Anne was the nurse giving the shots. She was super friendly, relaxed, and made my son feel at ease. She did not treat him any differently as a 30-year-old disabled man than she would anyone else. He joked with her, she joked back. We both felt like she was a friend and was most certainly the kindest part of the process."

Griffin has a long history at Evangelical, beginning in October 2000 as a member of the PRN nursing pool. In January 2005, she began in pediatrics where she served until she transferred to the emergency department in December 2010. In September 2020, Griffin began serving at the ambulatory surgical center. Becoming "semi-retired" in October 2021, Griffin continues to be an active per diem employee serving patients through the COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

Sauers was nominated for the award by a colleague, Barb Jordan. In the nomination, Jordan said, "I want to tell you about one of your amazing CCU nurses. Her name is Hannah. I have watched her care for so many people including patients, family members and colleagues. She is flexible with her assignments. She is always smiling and the first to lend a helping hand. She is the co-worker we all want to be. Hannah is such a DAISY. Her compassion for



Anne Griffin

her vulnerable patients shows through her every action.

"We recently had a COVID-19 patient who Hannah cared for, for many days. She kept him and his family informed so they knew what was happening and what to expect next. She made sure he was comfortable every time she was in his room. Her technical skills and clinical assessment are always strong. She spent time with this patient. She talked to him. She listened to him. She prayed with him. She didn't just take care of this gentleman, she cared for him in his entirety."

Sauers began her work at Evangelical in June 2017 as a nursing assistant in the float pool. Continuing her commitment to nursing and her career, she participated in the hospital's student nurse externship program in 2018. In 2019, following her graduation from nursing school at Bloomsburg University, she accepted a full-time RN position in what was then the ICU/Stepdown Department. She has been a vital member of the hospital's critical care unit team of professionals throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



Hannah Sauers

## Stahl Sheaffer Engineering

SELINGSGROVE - Stahl Sheaffer Engineering is pleased to welcome David Corder, EIT as a designer for the Site /Energy / Environmental department in the firm's Morgantown, WV office. As a Designer for Stahl Sheaffer, Corder will leverage his previous experience in site and energy projects to support design efforts for various public and private clients. He also brings over three years of experience in the engineering consulting industry, including prior experience as a project engineer in the energy sector. He is a graduate of West Virginia University with a BS in Civil Engineering and Mining Engineering.



David Corder

## First Community Foundation Partnership of PA

WILLIAMSPORT - The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania (FCFP) recently expanded the fundraising team to include the hiring of Vanessa Hales and Abby Gulden-Luthi.

"FCFP has always provided a personal experience in helping the region's philanthropists with their current and long-term philanthropic planning," said Jason

McCahan, Director of Philanthropy. "With the expansion of our team, FCFP can work with more donors to guide them in their philanthropy in support of area non-profits or by creating scholarship opportunities for deserving students."

Hales will serve as the organization's Assistant Director of Philanthropy. She will be responsible for the planning and execution of the fundraising and development activities, including: writing solicitation and campaign materials, managing social media content, stewarding donors, and collaborating with other departments to ensure an integrated approach to both cultivation and engagement efforts. Hales has over 20 years of experience in resource development, communications, fundraising, building relationships, project management and event/volunteer management.



Vanessa Hales



Abby Gulden-Luthi



As the development officer, Gulden-Luthi will focus on cultivating new donors and overseeing relationships with current constituents in Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union counties. She will assist with annual, major and planned gift solicitations. Gulden-Luthi was born and raised in Lewisburg, attended Lewisburg Area High School and Bucknell University for both undergraduate and graduate degrees. She is the co-Founder of the Lewisburg Children's Museum and currently a member of the LCM Board of Directors. In addition to the LCM, she spends time volunteering for the Lewisburg PSA and The Green Dragon Foundation.

### Community Giving Foundation

**BERWICK** - The Community Giving Foundation has announced its new 2022 board members at its affiliate communities throughout the area.

In Berwick, CGF welcomed Matthew Getty, Cynthia Lombard, Marc C. Nespoli and Thomas J. Popko.

Getty is the owner of Campbell Printing Co. in Berwick. In addition to his involvement with the foundation, he serves as the vice-president of the Berwick Area Swimming Pool Association. Lombard is a retired community development specialist with over 25 years of experience working with human service agencies throughout Columbia and Luzerne counties. She was executive director of the Berwick Area United Way for 10 years, coordinating over 200 volunteers in raising and distributing charitable funds to support local agencies. After leaving the United Way, she worked with a Medicaid-managed healthcare company as a community relations and provider relations specialist.

Throughout her career and retirement, Lombard has remained active with the Columbia County Human Services Coalition. She was a founding board member and continues to serve on the boards of the Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine Clinic and the Dental Health Clinic. She also helped create the non-profit board for the Berwick Theater and Center for Community Arts.

Nespoli is a real estate professional who enjoys the challenge of helping his clients find a home. As the team leader of the Marc Nespoli Group brokered by eXp Realty, LLC, he now has a growing organization of agents all over the state of Pennsylvania. He is passionate about educating other agents and mentoring them in all aspects of the business. He has also been investing in real estate since 2013, bringing distressed or underperforming properties back to life. He volunteers with several local organizations, including: For the Cause, Berwick Industrial Development Association, Central Susquehanna Valley Board of Realtors, and Pennsylvania Association of Realtors.

And, Popko spent a career in commercial banking that began at United Penn Bank and continued through acquisitions and mergers with Mellon Bank and Citizens Bank. He then became business manager for his family-owned pharmacy. Recently, he returned to banking at First Keystone Community Bank as a commercial services officer.

At the Bloomsburg affiliate, CFG welcomed Elizabeth Dowd, Dr. Heather S. Feldhaus, Jeff Lylo and Leo V. Sokoloski.

Dowd is a resident acting company member with the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble (BTE). She is an active community member,

most recently with the Coalition for Social Equity, Women in Action workgroup, and co-organizer of the "Bloomsburg Reads" event. Dr. Feldhaus is a sociologist who specializes in the study of social problems. She is currently the Interim Associate Provost for Faculty Development, Dean of Graduate Studies, and Professor of Sociology at Bloomsburg University. She also founded the Center for Community Research and Consulting at BU. She enjoys being active in the community and is currently the vice president of the board of directors for the Community Strategies Group and serves on the United Way of Columbia and Montour Counties allocations committee.

Lylo is the owner of J. Lylo Jewelers, located in downtown Bloomsburg. After completing gemological certifications and apprenticing at Good as Gold in Bloomsburg, Lylo opened his own business in 1999.

He also serves on the board for Downtown Bloomsburg, Inc. And, Sokoloski is the Chief of Police at Bloomsburg University, overseeing the day-to-day management of police operations and life safety, property protection and investigations on campus. He also serves as a consultant for the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit, offering school crisis preparedness and practical services to help make schools safer and ready for all emergencies. At the Danville affiliate, CGF welcomed Marsha Albertson, Tim Karr, Shelley Nemeth and Bon Stoudt.

Albertson is a senior accountant at HRI, Inc., an asphalt manufacturing and construction company located in Muncy.

Following college, Kaar he served with the Army Black Horse Armored Cavalry Regiment as a 1st Lt. on the East/West German Border, followed by two years with the reserves. Returning to the area in 1973, he opened Villager Realty, Inc. Today, he serves as CEO/President of Villager Realty, a sales leader in the Central Susquehanna Valley with 33 agents, three locations, and appraisal, relocation, development, and construction divisions.

Nemeth is currently an independent consultant specializing and focusing on the training of pre-school teachers and educators. As an early childhood education professional, she has extensive experience in classrooms, administration of childcare programs, managing multiple childcare facilities, early learning programs, public relations, staffing, recruitment, curriculum development, staff training, and developing leadership training materials.

After moving away for school and work, Stoudt and his wife moved back to Watsontown in 2002. While being a stay-at-home dad, he volunteered with a number of local organizations for several years.



Elizabeth Dowd

Dr. Heather Feldhaus



Matthew Getty

Cynthia Lombard



Jeff Lylo

Leo Sokoloski



Marc C. Nespoli

Thomas J. Popko



Marsha Albertson

Tim Kaar



Shelley Nemeth

Bob Stoudt



# A celebration for Kingdom Kidz

WATSONTOWN - Kingdom Kidz Inc., 11 E. Third St., Watontown, recently celebrated the completion of a grant received from The Ralph and Josephine Smith Fund of the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania.

The grant was used to acquire audio technical equipment, which was installed in The Julie M. Holmes Creative Arts Center.

During the event, the entire building was also open for the public to experience the educational rooms that will afford students, parents and the community a unique opportunity to be creative.

Everyone attending experienced: a room designed for them to do black light puppetry; a room for designing and creating their own puppet to take home (equipped with 4 sewing machines); a room called "Kidz City" setup with chairs for the audience and windows in the city for them to use puppets to perform; a broadcasting room for participants to record their own character voices and then hear what their voices sound like; a room where they can pretend to be in a vehicle or a living room setting and use puppets as their characters; Peggy's Palace, a room setup for photo opportunities using puppets, trains and other props; and The Kate Huff Memorabilia and international Christmas tree room.



Standing in for a photo during the celebration are, from left: Tedd Brungard, Kingdom Kidz Inc. Chairperson; Cheryl Delsite of state Rep. Lynda Culver's office; Erin Ruhl of First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania; Diana Johnson of Watontown Area Business Association and First National Bank; Scott Gelnett of Gelnett & Associates; Donna Bridge, founder of KKI; Lisa Derr, general manager of KKI; Catherine Kramm and Jeff Coup of The Coup Agency; Dr. Alan Hack, superintendent of Warrior Run School District; and Terry Holmes, husband of Julie Holmes.

For more information concerning Kingdom Kidz, call 570-838-3133 and [www.hiskingdomkidz.org](http://www.hiskingdomkidz.org).

Gifts to the non-profit organization are tax deductible, less the value of any goods provided. Kingdom Kidz Inc. is not affiliated with a church or denomination.



Recently, the Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary Club distributed dictionaries to third-graders in the Mifflinburg Area School District. As part of 'Dictionary Day', the students also get to learn about Rotary and ways they serve the community. Club members pictured, from left, are: The Rev. Ralph Hibbs, Marcia Murray, Jan Wilson, Troy Berkheiser, Therese Miller, The Rev. Marian Anderson (Club President) and Dan Myers.

Throughout the year, the Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary Club also hosts speakers at its meetings. Some of the recent speakers included former Chamber Board Director Adam Wolfe of Pivot Physical Therapy and the Chamber's President & CEO Tea Jay Aikey. Wolfe is pictured with Anderson and fellow club member Marty Gates. Aikey also appears with Anderson and club member Shirley Brough.

Learn more at [www.lewisburgsunriserotarypa.com](http://www.lewisburgsunriserotarypa.com) and find them on Facebook.



## SEDA-COG distributes more than \$7 million to over 300 businesses

LEWISBURG - Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, SEDA-COG has assisted over 300 restaurants and other businesses in the hospitality industry, helping them obtain CHIRP (COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program) funding totaling more than \$7 million.

The following is the amount of funds awarded and number of businesses receiving grants per county: Centre - \$1,809,992 to 84 businesses; Clinton - \$426,792 to 20 businesses; Columbia - \$717,306.12 to 37 businesses; Juniata - \$275,973 to 9 businesses; Lycoming - \$1,264,226 to 54 businesses; Mifflin - \$512,576 to 20 businesses; Montour - \$203,080 to 10 businesses; Northumberland - \$994,997 to 35 businesses; Snyder - \$449,268.05 to 16 businesses; and Union - \$502,354 to 19 businesses.

Pennsylvania established CHIRP to allocate \$145 million in funding assistance across the state for businesses adversely affected by COVID-19.

Businesses applied to the grant through the Community Giving Foundation web site. The applications were then reviewed by SEDA-COG and staff from the CGF. Applicants were selected based on eligibility, those with priority need, date of application, and availability of funds. SEDA-COG then distributed funds to the awarded businesses.

Kim Wheeler, Executive Director of SEDA-COG, said, "These businesses were hit especially hard during the pandemic, and we are thrilled to be able to help them navigate the often-complicated world of government grant opportunities. This grant allows businesses some breathing room to get back on their feet."

SEDA-COG is a community and economic development agency in Lewisburg and is one of seven Local Development Districts in Pennsylvania.

SEDA-COG enhances the quality of life and economic advantage for residents and businesses in the 11 central Pennsylvania counties through its vital partnerships and initiatives.

Learn more at [www.seda-cog.org](http://www.seda-cog.org).



Mifflinburg Bank & Trust routinely makes donations to community organizations throughout the year. A few recently were also made to fellow Central PA Chamber members. Pictured, at right, is Torey Goff, Lewisburg office manager, making an EITC donation to Andrea Tufo, Executive Director of the Donald Heiter Community Center. The donation is being used to support the After School Ready-To-Read Program. In this program students have one-on-one reading time to help boost their reading and comprehension skills. Also pictured, at right, is Amber Bierly, a loan officer, presenting an EITC donation to Francis Gillott, SUN Tech Foundation secretary/treasurer; Kristy Etzler, assistant director; and Preston Ross, foundation chairman. The donation will be put towards the institute's summer day camp for 7th-, 8th- and 9th-grade students, at which students spend a week working on a project related to the program they selected. During this time, students are able to try out different programs based on their interests, which can help them select a program if they choose to attend SUN Area Technical Institute later in their high school career. And, a donation was also made to the Mifflinburg Buggy Museum, a historical organization that preserves the original Heiss Coach Works, a small industrial site representative of Pennsylvania and the United States at the turn of the 20th century. Jeffrey Kapsar, President and CEO of MBTC, presented the check to Leonard Manebeck, a board member of the museum. The organization's mission is to preserve, display, interpret and develop collections related to the buggy manufacturing heritage of Mifflinburg. They also provide a variety of educational programs and tours and serve as a resource for historical organizations and individuals.



In December, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf toured Mansfield University's Public Safety Training Institute (MUPSTI) at the Doane Center. Wolf received presentations on the institute's grant initiatives and virtual reality training along with demonstrations of new technology being implemented for first responders. Among the presenters was Lance Thomas (at right), president of Clearview Asset Protection, demonstrating multiple emerging technologies. For more, visit [www.clearviewassetprotection.com](http://www.clearviewassetprotection.com).

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## Business & Education

# First-hand look at business



At left are the Building Leaders for the Susquehanna Valley students that visited area businesses in December to aid them in developing their own fictitious business plans that will be presented this spring during BLSV graduation. Thank you to Susquehanna Valley Limousine for transporting them and Thermal Product Solutions, the Milton YMCA, HandUP Foundation and Cinn-Ful Treats for opening your doors to the students! They were also treated to lunch by The Breaking Bread Company. From left, in front, are: Lyn Bingaman, Mifflinburg Area High School; Sage Dunkleberger, Warrior Run High School; Cassidy McClintock, Mifflinburg; Emma Pick, Warrior Run; and Maria Darrup, Mifflinburg. Back: Christopher Reed, Meadowbrook Christian School; Delaney Kraus, Mifflinburg; Emma Podobinski, Warrior Run; Gavin Millett, Meadowbrook; Audrey Shipman, Penn Patten and Allie Zaktansky, Warrior Run; Emma East, Ryen Roush and Amber Birdsong, Milton Area High School; and Kurk Middernach of SVL. Moving clockwise: Brad Conner, Director of Engineering for TPS, leads the students on a tour. And, Kellie Bates, Membership Director/Fiscal Assistant for the Milton Y, provides information. She and WRHS student Audrey Shipman are featured in the above video.

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## St. Valentine's Lottery Bingo

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11**  
**REGISTRATION**  
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**GAMES START**  
**6 PM**

**Pre-Sale Tickets \$25**  
**At the Door \$30**

Buy Tickets ahead of time at:  
[www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events)

Bring your sweetheart and see if  
you are lucky at this Valentine's  
Day themed Lottery Ticket  
BINGO!

Proceeds from this event go to  
support the Central PA Business  
& Education Association which  
provides career exploration and  
leadership training for area  
students.

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BUSINESS & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

## Guest Column

**Population Bleed, Brain Drain,  
No Workers... we hear it all the  
time, but what can we do about  
it?**

We start with our young people, we  
start right now, and we provide  
three things:

★ Awareness – let our young  
people know about great careers  
right here at home

★ Training – give them the knowl-  
edge and skills you need, now and  
in the future

★ Investment – you in them, and  
more importantly, they in you  
I know you probably don't have  
time to do all of this, but don't worry,  
there's a great organization that  
does: The Foundation for Free En-  
terprise Education (FFEE).

For 43 years, FFEE's flagship pro-  
gram, Pennsylvania Free Enter-  
prise Week (PFEW) has taught  
students about real business, given  
them real skills, and made real con-  
nections. Consider PFEW's impact  
on 2021 PFEW graduate Brooke  
Mlecko.

"This program is incredibly valuable  
for any student, whether interested

in business or not. What I learned  
here is unlike anything I had ever  
done in school before. It took skills  
I have built in school, like time man-  
agement and collaboration, and in-  
tensified them like how real  
companies operate. As a person  
who one day hopes to take over  
her family lumber business, this  
program has not only taught me  
how to do that but has made me  
appreciate all the work that goes  
into my grandfather's company."

That's why I support FFEE and I'm  
asking you to support them, too.  
Students attend PFEW on a \$625  
sponsorship provided by local busi-  
nesses, chambers, foundations,  
and others who are taking action to  
reverse the brain drain and restore  
our communities to prosperity.  
Your gift checks all the boxes –  
Awareness, Training, Investment. It  
makes you part of the solution.  
For more information, contact  
FFEE President & CEO Karen Mu-  
sante at 814-833-9576, ext. 104,  
[karen@pfew.org](mailto:karen@pfew.org) or visit  
[www.pfew.org](http://www.pfew.org).

- Scott T. Lee,  
FFEE's VP of Marketing  
and Development

## Michael's Minutes

### Volunteers wanted



"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time;  
they just have the heart." – Elizabeth Andrew  
Volunteering is one of the easiest ways to  
show how much you care about an organiza-  
tion, a cause or your community. We all  
know that volunteering is not an easy thing to do because of  
a limited amount of time to dedicate to all the projects and direc-  
tions in which we are being pulled. This quote resonated with  
me to better understand that although time might be limited,  
when your heart is 100 percent committed to a project, you will  
make the time to assist however you might be able to do so.  
Volunteering is an ever-growing need within our community as  
we have so many non-profits in need of volunteers. For in-  
stance, the Central PA Business & Education Association is in  
constant need of volunteers, whether it's to speak in front of a  
group of students at Building Leaders for the Susquehanna Val-  
ley, setting up a booth at a career fair, helping with registration  
during our golf tournament, or running prizes at our upcoming  
St. Valentine's Lottery Bingo Fundraiser. This constant demand  
makes it even more important to have a great team of volun-  
teers that can rotate through all these events and help in differ-  
ent ways.

With such a high demand of volunteers, it is important to have  
great resources, like ones that connect volunteers to organiza-  
tions and vice versa. So, when I learned over a webinar about a  
new resource to provide such help, I knew I needed to share it  
with all our members and community members.

The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania  
has launched the web site [www.fcfpartnership.galaxydigital.com](http://www.fcfpartnership.galaxydigital.com).  
It will allow you to register and then obtain volunteers and ad-  
vertise for your needs as they arise. For more information on  
this, I would encourage you to reach out them directly.

In addition to volunteering, you might be interested in serving on  
a non-profit board. Luckily, we host a leadership training pro-  
gram designed specifically to train non-profit board members  
called Raising the Board (RtB). If you have interest in serving on  
a board, but think you need to develop the best skills to do so,  
this is the program for you. This course consists of four, two-  
hour weekly trainings to develop you into the best board leader  
you can be.

If you have any interest in participating, e-mail [jshaffer@centralpachamber.com](mailto:jshaffer@centralpachamber.com) to let him know your availability as we are start-  
ing to plan for a springtime session.

*Michael*

Michael Porter  
Education Coordinator  
[mporter@centralpachamber.com](mailto:mporter@centralpachamber.com)



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# Jessica's Jottings

## A great way to start the day

Did you know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day? Here at the Central PA Chamber of Commerce, we want to encourage you to partake in this meal and join us for breakfast!

We host Breakfast Briefings every month. These events are tailored around our guests, so you are able to eat a hot breakfast, network with other businesses/organizations in the region, and learn more about the Chamber and what we have to offer you. This year, we are offering two different types of Breakfast Briefings - ones hosted at the Chamber and the others hosted at member locations around the area.

There are details to consider for both breakfasts if you wish to attend.

The Chamber hosts 12 breakfasts, one per month. They are always 7:30 to 9 a.m. on a Friday morning. Attendance is limited to 30 people, which allows our attendees to have more one-on-one time with the sponsor, chamber staff and other attendees. There is a different sponsor for each breakfast, and they will have an allocated amount of time to address the audience about their services. We also allow every guest the opportunity to introduce themselves via an "elevator speech". Breakfast is provided, and best of all, these events are free to attend!

This year, we're also taking four Breakfast Briefings on the road! We will be traveling to Williamsport, Lewisburg and New Columbia. Off-site breakfasts are hosted by one of our members, who have the space and can offer similar accommodations to what the Chamber does for breakfast. Here, you will get the opportunity to tour a business in our region and learn about what they do while enjoying a hot meal and meeting new people. Attendance is still the same for these, and you still get the chance to introduce yourself. This breakfast is also free to attend!

With opportunities like these, there is no excuse for you not to get out there and network. If you are interested in attending a breakfast(s), simply go to [www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events), and register for as many as your schedule allows! All dates are currently up on the web site, so do not wait too long as these breakfasts fill up fast!

As always, we pride ourselves on making sure our guests stay safe during these events. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you, and I hope to serve you at an upcoming Breakfast Briefing soon!



*Jessica*

Jessica Williams  
Finance & Membership Director  
[jwilliams@centralpachamber.com](mailto:jwilliams@centralpachamber.com)

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## "Members Recognized" (from page 13)

In 2010, he became part-time deputy director of the Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC) and assumed the role of director later that year—a role he continues to hold today.

Stoudt's recent volunteer service has included board/committee roles with: Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce; Columbia Montour Partnership for Community Development; Columbia Montour Visitors' Bureau; Warrior Run Community Corporation's Pathways Committee; Montour County Recreation Authority; Friends of Allegheny Wilderness; SEDA-Foundation; Watsontown Borough Parks Renovation Committee; Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Land Steward; and the Boy Scouts of America.

At the Selinsgrove affiliate, CGF welcomed Robert Bertram, Jodi Cope and Stacey Napoli.

Bertram has been a Pennsylvania licensed realtor since 1998. He worked as a commercial realtor in the Harrisburg area for nine years. Two years ago, he joined together with four other

agents to open an eXp Realty office in Lewisburg, serving clients throughout Central Pennsylvania. He also currently serves as the president of the Selinsgrove Rotary Club and the president of the Snyder County Libraries board of directors.

Cope is the owner and practice manager at Selinsgrove Dental Arts. She moved to the Susquehanna Valley in 1994 with her husband to start the practice and raise their family. It is through these experiences that she learned the importance of giving back to the community she calls home.

Napoli is a long-time resident and business owner in the Susquehanna Valley. She first began her career in banking, and then later opened a family-owned business with her husband. She is currently the co-owner of Isabella's Restaurant and Bella's Pizza in Selinsgrove.

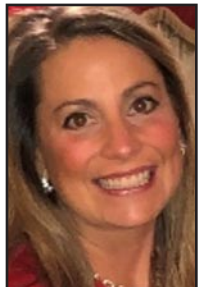
She has served on many local boards and committees, including: Selinsgrove Downtown Chamber, Evangelical Prime Annual Giv-



Robert Bertram



Jodi Cope



Stacey Napoli

# transitions

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ing Foundation, Evangelical Steering Committee, Selinsgrove Rotary, Women's United Way, Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce, Hunger Coalition for Union & Snyder Counties, Snyder County Library, and Women's Giving Circle of the Community Giving Foundation. She also recently joined the board with Sun Tech, New Berlin.

And, at the Sunbury affiliate, CGF welcomed Justin Michaels, Lindsie Wolfe and Frances Zartman.

Michaels is the vice-president of Surplus Outlet Grocery Stores and president of Justin Michaels Business Solutions, LLC. Michaels is actively involved with several organizations and programs throughout his community.

He is currently the president of the Spreading Antlers Children's Foundation, a board of trustee on the Selinsgrove State School, and serves on several other boards and advisory committees. He is also the head wrestling coach at Lewisburg Area High School.

Wolfe is a school psychologist with the Shikellamy School District. She believes community giving is essential to be connected with and support the community where she lives and works.

And, Zartman worked as a nurse at Sunbury Community Hospital for 15 years. She then returned to college to become a registered nurse with critical care credentialing and proceeded to work critical care at Geisinger for 11 years. Zartman loved working in healthcare with a community of friends and caregivers.

She is currently involved in many volunteer roles within her community. She serves as co-coordinator for Fort Discovery and is on the board of the Shikellamy Braves Foundation.



Justin Michaels

Lindsie Wolfe



Frances Zartman

### Villager Realty

LEWISBURG - Villager Realty, Inc. celebrated the end of the year 2021 announcing the names of its Realtors selected to be honored as Agents of the Quarter.

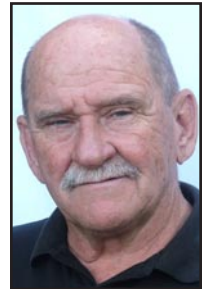
"We're celebrating those agents who conquer one change or challenge after another in the real estate industry – all while meeting the clients' needs with excellence," said Tim Kaar, President and CEO. "As I look at the number of homes these agents have sold this year, and the number of families helped, I remain very proud of this Villager team."

Karen Lagerman was chosen as Agent of the Quarter in the Northumberland office, while Ray Beachy was selected for this honor in the Lewisburg office. And, Gretchen Bellott was chosen to be the Agent of the Quarter for the Danville office, and as the Villager Realty Agent of the Fourth Quarter.



Gretchen Bellott

Karen Lagerman



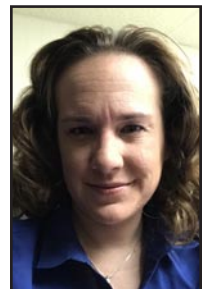
Ray Beachy

### Swift Kennedy & Associates

WILLIAMSPORT - Katharine Vernet has been hired as an employee benefits consultant at the Williamsport branch of Swift Kennedy & Associates, an insurance brokerage firm specializing in group employee benefits and senior insurance plans.

In this position, Vernet will help businesses find affordable medical, dental, vision, life, and disability plans, as well as alternative funding options.

Prior to joining Swift Kennedy, she worked as a benefits consultant at Wevodau Insurance & Benefit Strategies. Before that, she was secretary of the insurance trust at PennAg Industries Association, and a senior drug utilization reviewer at Express Scripts.



Katharine Vernet

### The Manufacturer's Association

YORK - The Manufacturer's Association announced the appointment of Miranda Martz to a newly created Pre-Apprenticeship Coordinator position, serving south-central PA.

Martz recently graduated at the top of her class from the Manufacturer's Association's state certified apprenticeship machinist program and is the first female machinist journeyman graduate from the program. She comes to her new role after six years at a local manufacturing company, working as an experienced lead of the CNC milling machining department. She has an additional combined 15 years experience in the diverse field so of manufacturing, including aerospace, military and medical.

Martz will help minimize the ever-growing regional job demand in trade manufacturing by empowering high school and middle school students through individualized, industry specific education with some of the industries' newest technological hands-on training. She has also long advocated and participated in promoting manufacturing careers to women and other non-traditional populations.

Originating in York County, the program has now expanded to include Lancaster County and the capitol region with plans for several other counties.



Miranda Martz

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# BY THE NUMBERS...

\*As of press time

There are already more than **30** events scheduled on our events calendar...check it out!

In January, a single Facebook post had over **4,800** organic page reaches.

More than **50** percent of the online calendar ad spots are already claimed. Don't wait, if interested!

## Join us at these upcoming events!

### CENTRAL PA BUSINESS & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION Seminar & Training Series

How to Deliver a Great Elevator Speech

9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesday, February 16

Central PA Chamber of Commerce, 30 Lawton Lane

Cost: \$5 Member/ \$10 Non-Member

Register: [www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events)

Presented by:



### CENTRAL PA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

welcomes

State Rep. Joe Hamm (R-84)



7:30 to 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 18 @ Country Cupboard, Lewisburg

Topics: Redistricting, Election Integrity & Employer Issues

Admission: \$17

Register @ [www.centralpachamber.com/events](http://www.centralpachamber.com/events)

Premier Sponsor:



## BREAKFAST BRIEFING

7:30 to 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 25 @  
the Central PA Chamber of Commerce,  
30 Lawton Lane, Milton.

Free to Attend - **Registration is Required**

Sponsored by:



## BREAKFAST BRIEFING

*Off-site!* 7:30 to 9 a.m. Friday, March 4 @ *Off-site!*  
Covation Center,  
217 W. Fourth St., Williamsport

Free to Attend - **Registration is Required**

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