# It's Your Business

www.centralpachamber.com

Volume 10, Issue 2 - February 2025

# Congratulations, Tea Jay, pg. 3

One of PA Business Central's
Top 100 People for 2025!

2025 Legislative Events,

Help Us, Help You,

pg. 15

pg. 10



Board of Directors

Genie Bausinger - 1st Vice Chair

Milton Regional Sewer Authority

Ashley Parrish - Treasurer

First Commomwealth Bank

Alison Hall

Re/Max Bridges

Rachael Herb

Service 1st Federal Credit Union

**Noelle Long** SEDA Council of Governments

Ron Mackley

Community Member

Sheri Marshall

Edward Jones

Lauren McDonald

The Wealth Factory

Jeff Comitz - 2nd Vice Chair

Thermal Product Solutions

**Michael Medley** 

Michael Medley Goup Life Insurance

**Michael Porter** 

Pennsylvania College of Technology

**Brandon Schemery** 

Casale, Bonner, Hillman & Southard

**Paul Smith** 

Sync Solutions

**Peter Swift** 

Camp Susque

**Tina Welch** 

Welch Performance Consulting

James Baldwin - Solicitor

Baldwin & Baldwin

Staff

Tea Jay Aikey - President & CEO

tjaikey@centralpachamber.com

Jessica Beaver - Finance & Membership Director

jbeaver@centralpachamber.com

Ryan Workman - Communications Director

rworkman@centralpachamber.com

The Inside Scoop

Welcome to our February issue of IYB!

You'll find a lot of LOVE in this issue, to and from your Chamber! First, check out the 2025 President's Club members listed below. Thank you to this elite group of Central PA Chamber supporters who go above and beyond to help us achieve our mission and vision. 2025 has

been off to a roller coaster start and it doesn't appear to be letting up anytime soon!

Next, you'll see our President & CEO, Tea Jay Aikey, has been honored by Pennsylvania Business Central as one of the "Top 100 People for 2025." Nobody works harder for all of our members. Tea Jay spends counless hours outside the normal business day to keep the Central PA Chamber the preferred resource center for the business and nonprofit community of the Susquehanna river valley. Jessica and I are thrilled that her work is getting noticed and honored the way she deserves!

You'll notice Jessica wants you to know all about Facility Usage reservations. We're always making improvents when possible and want to make sure you are aware of this awesome benefit for your

Each of the quarterly breakfasts at the Watson Inn, keynote speaker, and sponsor have already been booked for 2025. We hope you'll join us welcoming both new and longtime friends of the Central PA Chamber for these well-attended events.

As always, thanks for reading!



Ryan Workman, Editor Communications Director rworkman@centralpachamber.com

# he President's Clu

Thank you, 2025 Members! (Committed as of publishing.)

**Asbury Riverwoods** CSIU The Coup Agency

**Decal Dynasty Eight Days a Week Studios Evergreen Wealth Solutions** First Commonwealth Bank

**Fulton Bank** Heritage Springs Memory Care

Hosterman Photography & Design

**Hot Frog Media** iHeart Media

**Intrada Technologies** Jersey Shore State Bank

**Keystone Advertising** 

Lawton Insurance Agency LIVIC Civil

MC Federal Credit Union Meixell-Diehl Insurance

Mifflinburg Bank & Trust Company

Milton Savings Bank North Central Sight Services

North Shore Railroad Company

Payroc Point of Sale Pennsylvania American Water

**PenTeleData** 

Real IT Care

Roto-Rooter / Sorg Inc. Service 1st Federal Credit Union

**Purdy Insurance Agency Riverfront Financial Services** 

Service Electric Cablevision **Stahl Sheaffer Engineering** The Standard Journal Sunbury Broadcasting Corp. Susquehanna Fire Protection Co. Susquehanna Valley Limousine Swift Kennedy & Associates **Sync Solutions** T-Ross Brothers Construction **United Plate Glass UPMC** 

The UPS Store The Wealth Factory WellSpan Evangelical **Community Hospital** 

The President's Club is an exclusive sponsorship program created to prominently recognize members that contribute to the Central PA Chamber over and above their annual membership investment. Learn more at centralpachamber.com/tpc.

#### IYB Deadlines

Below are upcoming It's Your Business due dates. 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. 14

**Spring Print Issue\*** (released early April) Ads & Flyers due by March 7

**April Digital Issue News & Ads** due by March 14

\*The Central PA Chamber also publishes IYB Quarterly four times a year. Copies are available at public member locations across the region.







# Chamber Leader Recognized

**Tea Jay Aikey** President & CEO

The following is an excerpt from the January 2025 Pennsylvania Business Central Publication:

MILTON – The dynamic economic and social fabric of central Pennsylvania is driven by its people. Whether it's delivering goods and services efficiently, applying expertise to solve challenges, or providing essential care, it's not just the businesses and institutions that make it happen — it's the individuals behind them. We all recognize those standout individuals — the ones with vision, determination, and the drive to do more than simply complete a task. These are the people who dream big, expand opportunities, and excel. We are inspired by the profound influence a single person can have on their workplace, their community, and the lives of those around them. The stories of these exceptional individuals can teach, inspire, and motivate us to elevate our own standards of excellence. That's why we're thrilled to present Pennsylvania Business Central's Top 100 People for 2025!

As always, we reached out to community leaders, local chambers of commerce, and you, our dedicated readers, to help identify the individuals whose remarkable contributions have made them stand out as true leaders. We received an impressive array of nominations that reflect the diverse richness of central Pennsylvania and its business community.

Tea Jay Aikey was named President & CEO of the Chamber and its affiliates in October 2017. Hired in March of 2011, she was previously the Finance & Membership Director and Executive Assistant.

Tea Jay utilizes her experience in manufacturing, marketing, and customer service to assist Chamber members. She owes her success to being extremely organized, highly motivated and a dedicated self-starter. She works for the members and aims to serve, protect, and promote their endeavors.

Tea Jay is compassionate and committed to helping others, which makes her job with the Central PA Chamber a perfect fit. She played an essential role in creating local job fairs focused on giving second chances to re-entry candidates released from prison. She currently serves on the Board of Administration for Delaware Run Wesleyan Church where she is a member and is also a volunteer with the Prisoner Visitation & Support (PVS) organization. Tea Jay, always believes in doing what is right for the members versus what may be easy.

Read more about Tea Jay and get to know the Chamber staff.

# CENTRAL PA Board Retreat

The newly elected board of directors met for the first time in January. Following the regularly scheduled, monthly meeting, the directors and staff met in the Smith Training Room for a 'board retreat' including snacks and a 'Did You Know?' trivia game show. The full board divided and competed against each other as two teams, Tea Jay asked questions, Jessica kept score, and Ryan took photos. The final tally was very close, but ultimately the team, pictured below, came out the victors.







Find New Members & Membership Renewals starting on page 8.





Central Susquehanna **Intermediate Unit** 

How long has your business/organization existed?

Since 1971

What makes your organization unique in your industry (i.e. a service people wouldn't think you provide)?

We assist local school districts with

.....

Terri Locke, Director of Special Education & **Alternative Placement** 570-523-7104

tlocke@csiu.org, www.csiu.org 90 Lawton Lane, Milton, PA

What benefit/opportunity from your

Chamber membership do you utilize or

I would like to continue leveraging the

businesses through community events,

fostering relationships that support both

opportunity to connect with local

professional growth and regional

want to utilize?

development.

programming for students with special needs. We are a service agency that can provide classroom, center-based programming, and itinerant services.

#### Why are you a member of the Central PA **Chamber of Commerce?**

I belong to the local chamber to support and

engage with local businesses, fostering connections that contribute to the growth and success of our regional community.





Kristy Teisher, **Founder and Director** 570-971-8831

eatsharelove@yahoo.com www.eatshare.org 412 Liberty Street, Watsontown, PA

How long has your organization existed? We started serving meals to neighbors in December 2021. We became a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in February 2023.

#### What makes your organization unique in your industry (i.e., a service people wouldn't think you provide)?

Eat Share brings warm meals and emergency groceries to neighbors in need, serving Lycoming, Northumberland, Union, and Snyder Counties. We offer a welcoming and warm resource that doesn't ask questions or make people prove they meet special requirements to receive support. We also host free community meals across our

service region and promote food sharing to our local blessing boxes. In addition to spreading kindness through meal donations, we also want to reduce food waste and welcome donations of excess food from local restaurants, food trucks, grocery stores, businesses, home gardeners, etc.

#### Why are you a member of the Central PA **Chamber of Commerce?**

We were recently welcome to attend a Breakfast Briefing with one of our Volunteer Chefs, who is a business owner and Chamber member. Upon meeting the Chamber and learning about opportunities for networking, advocacy, and increased

community support—we were immediately excited to join this group of professionals as we continue to expand the work of our nonprofit.

#### What benefit/opportunity from your Chamber membership do you utilize or want to utilize?

We are brand new to the Chamber and still learning about all the benefits available, but we look forward to continuing to meet new community members, learn from their expertise and guidance, and advocate for community enhancement.



Why are you a member of the Central **PA Chamber of Commerce?** 

To network with like minded entrepreneurs and expand awareness of my business.

Dave Tamkus, Owner 570-274-5479

#### How long has your business existed?

Tamkus Art & Design was established in 2019 as a side hustle, with the intention to grow to a full-time operation. In January of 2024, the dream of being a full-time entrepreneur became a reality.

What makes your business unique in your industry (i.e. a service people

tamkusartdesign@gmail.com www.tamkusartdesign.com Shamokin, PA

#### wouldn't think you provide)?

Tamkus Art & Design primarily provides graphic design services that range from logo design to marketing material design to branding packages. A unique service that I provide is hand painted signs and murals. Over the past 5 years, I have painted over two dozen hand painted signs and murals for business.

# What's Happening



MILTON YMCA 12 BOUND AVE **MILTON, PA, 17847** 570.742.7321



**DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH** 

TIME: 5:30PM - 7PM

AGES: GRADE 2ND-5TH

COST: FREE (MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND)

**REGISTRATION BEGINS 1/17 & ENDS 2/12** 





#### **INSTRUCTOR:**

ANDY MCNEAL MHS BOYS VARSITY TENNIS COACH

**MAX PARTICIPANTS: 12** 

**BRING SNEAKERS & WATER** 



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FOR MORE INFO CONTACT LILLY WIRT AT LWIRT@GSVYMCA.ORG





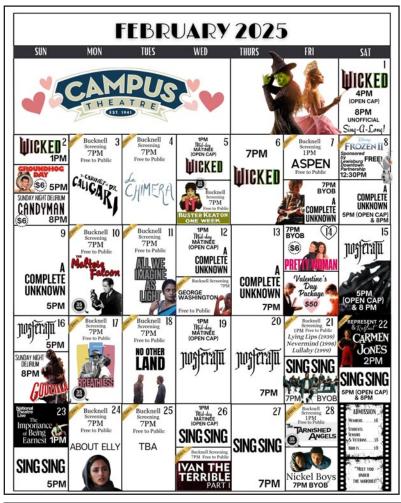


familiesinrecovery@svmediation.org











Find the latest member news on our Facebook and Instagram pages!

Date	Event	Location	Time	Cost
2/5/2025	Reasonable Suspicion Training	Webinar	10 to 11:30 a.m.	\$75.00
2/13/2025	Using Artificial Intelligence to Enhance Onboarding, Engagement, and Performance Management	Webinar	9 to 10:30 a.m.	\$99.00
2/25-26/2025	ISO 9001:2015 Internal Auditor Training	Virtual	8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	\$595.00



## New Members

Eat Share, Inc. 412 Liberty Street Watsontown, PA 17777 Phone: 570-971-8831

Kristy Teisher, Founder and Director

eatsharelove@yahoo.com

Eat Share is a collection of volunteers throughout north central Pennsylvania who bring warm meals to neighbors when it's needed most. Our mission is to support our community and extend kindness through food sharing. We also seek to partner with other community services to strengthen our collective resources and decrease food waste.

Sub-Licious! 5140 State Route 405 Milton, PA 17847 Phone: 570-742-3005 Bob Keister, President 570-742-3005

sublicious.pa@gmail.com

High quality subs. For us "It's All About The Subs" Offer a variety of Subs, Cheese Steaks and Salads. Real Hoagie Shop Taste in 6", 9", 12" and 18" sizes! Great prices and quick service. Call ahead and carry out or dine in.

Axemann Tavern 102 North Market Street Selinsgrove, PA 17870 Phone: 570-657-0933

Cristina Roth, Director of Marketing

570-657-0933

cristina@axemannbrewery.com

Axemann Tavern is located in a renovated historic building in Selinsgrove, providing a new destination for beer enthusiasts to enjoy Axemann brands, along with craft food and BBQ by Smokehouse Fixx. Stop by for drinks, food, and great service! And check out the renovations to the historic 102 N Market Street building, featuring repurposing of wood, metal, and brick features.

Bassett Homes, DBA Bassett Kitchen and Bath

530 North Derr Drive Lewisburg, PA 17837 Phone: 570-416-2650 Paige Bassett, COO 570-898-4619

paige@bassetthomes.us

Kitchen and Bathroom remodeling service that offers everything in house from Design to Installation.

Have You Applied?



Morning Glories Flower & Gift Shoppe LLC 1012 Elm Street Watsontown, PA 17777 Phone: 570-966-6311

Julia Erb, Owner 570-966-6311

morninggloriesflowershoppe@gmail.com

Florist sells custom design flower arrangements, ornamental plants and gift merchandise.

Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania

Carver Hall 400 East Second Street

Bloomsburg, PA 17815 Phone: 570-389-4655

Dan Knorr, Executive Director of Economic Development &

External Affairs 570-389-4655

dknorr@commonwealthu.edu

Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania was established in 2022 through the integration of Bloomsburg University, Lock Haven University and Mansfield University to expand high-quality, affordable academic opportunities and support vibrant on-campus student experiences. Powerful ideas start here, carried by dynamic stories and voices, resulting in empowered students. Together, we provide financially responsible degree options that maximize experiential learning, career preparation, and efficient time to degree completion.

Onyx Med Spa 115 Farley Circle Suite 202 Lewisburg , PA 17837 Phone: 570-423-7443 Shahryar Vahabzadeh, RN sha@theonyxmedspa.com Medical spa

LIFE Child Care Learning Center 436 West 4th Street Williamsport, PA 17701 Phone: 570-322-7141

Barbara Reeves, Administrator

570-322-7141

ccwclife2016@gmail.com

LIFE Child Care Learning Center is a non-profit preschool and daycare center. We enroll children beginning at 6 weeks old up to the end of 6th grade. Our childcare for school aged children includes transporting them to and from school every weekday and assisting them with homework. We are an official site for CACFP, which provides meals to children.

Bassett Homes, DBA Bassett Kitchen and Bath

530 North Derr Drive Lewisburg, PA 17837 Phone: 570-416-2650 Paige Bassett, COO 570-898-4619

paige@bassetthomes.us

Kitchen and Bathroom remodeling service that offers everything in house from Design to Installation.

("New Members" continues on page 10)

# Membership Renewals

(As of Jan. 31, 2025)

Hot Frog Print & Media Inc.

Watson Inn

Peggy Bouton - Coldwell Banker Penn One

**UPMC** Williamsport

**UPMC Muncy** 

**UPMC** Lock Haven

**UPMC** Wellsboro

**UPMC Specialty Care** 

UPMC Williamsport Divine Providence Campus

Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices - Hodrick Realty

B & W Disposal, Inc.

Turbotville National Bank

Timberhaven Log & Timber Homes

Milton Lions Club

Christ Wesleyan Church

Robinwood Day Care Center, Inc.

Budman Auto Body

State Representative Joe Hamm

Herring, Roll & Solomon P.C. Sunbury

Herring, Roll & Solomon P.C. Danville

Marie Rose Massage and Aesthetics

Photography by David Miller

Elite Auto Glass Inc.

Stahl Sheaffer Engineering, LLC

One Group Insurance

Warehouse Battery Outlet

Fairchild Brothers, Inc.

Joseph S. Kowalski

**Higher Information Group** 

Starr Portables LLC

Milton Steel Company

Service Electric Cablevision, Inc.

Ronald McDonald House of Danville, Inc.

Standard Journal

Milton Savings Bank - Milton Branch

Milton Savings Bank - Loan Production Office

Horizon Farm Credit

Zartman Construction. Inc.

The Sholley Agency - Lewisburg

The Sholley Agency - Selinsgrove

The Sholley Agency - Mifflinburg

GKN Hoeganaes Corp.

Brynwood Rentals - 535, Inc.

Wyrope Williamsport Federal Credit Union

Spherion Staffing & Recruiting - Williamsport

Spherion Staffing & Recruiting - Sunbury

Davis Davis and Kaar

Cole's Hardware, Inc. - Lewisburg

Cole's Hardware, Inc. - Danville

Central Builders Supply Company

SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG)

Seven Mountains Media LLC

Ciro's Ristorante Italiano

Eastern Atlantic States - Regional Council of Carpenters

Suburban Propane

Rotary Club of Milton

Megan Dugan - State Farm Insurance

The Coup Agency - Milton

The Coup Agency - Lewisburg

Revival Tabernacle, Inc.

LIVIC Civil - Northumberland

LIVIC Civil - Bloomsburg

LIVIC Civil - Montoursville

Soggie Doggie, LLC

Aspire Wealth Group

Meadowbrook Christian School

LandPro Equipment - Watsontown

Milton Harvest Festival Inc

Journey Bank - Avis

Journey Bank - Benton

Journey Bank - Bloomsburg Main Office

Journey Bank - Buckhorn

Journey Bank - Catawissa

Journey Bank - Clarkstown

Journey Bank - Danville

Journey Bank - Dewart

Journey Bank - Elysburg

Journey Bank - Front Street Berwick

Journey Bank - Hughesville

Journey Bank - Light Street Bloomsburg

Journey Bank - Linden

Journey Bank - Main Street Muncy

Journey Bank - Market Street Berwick

Journey Bank - Market Street Bloomsburg

Journey Bank - Millville

Journey Bank - Montgomery

Journey Bank - Montoursville

Journey Bank - Muncy

Journey Bank - Scott Township Bloomsburg

Journey Bank - South Williamsport

Susquehanna Community Bank - Beaver Springs

Susquehanna Community Bank - Lewisburg

Susquehanna Community Bank - Mifflinburg

Susquehanna Community Bank - Northumberland

Susquehanna Community Bank - Watsontown

Susquehanna Community Bank - West Milton

State Representative Stephanie Borowicz - 76th District

WellSpan Evangelical Community Hospital

**Rockey Auctions** 

Ryder Supply Chain Solutions

Mericle Commercial Real Estate Group - Wilkes-Barre

Karen Baker

JSC Advisers

Shaw Funeral Home, Inc.

We want to hear your good news!

To appear in It's Your Business, e-mail:

rworkman@centralpachamber.com

## Time with Tea Jay

#### Help US, Help YOU!

The new year is here, and January is already behind us. Your Chamber sent a 2025 Member Wants and Needs survey last month to inquire about what you as members would like to see available in 2025.



The current membership contact list is 1741 people. The survey was sent to all, and it is very disheartening to know that only 25 member contacts felt the desire to complete and submit the survey.

I understand that the Central PA Chamber does a lot and has been fondly deemed "the Chamber that does stuff or gets stuff done" and we

appreciate that; but that doesn't mean there isn't room for changes, improvements and most importantly your voice.

As a membership organization our goal is to serve YOU, our members. We want to know what your wants and needs are. If a simple multiple-choice survey isn't the way to get your feedback, what do you suggest. I'd love to hear from the 1716 member contacts that were not able to complete and submit the survey. What is the best method for us to hear your voice? Give me a call or email and let me know as we really want to get your feedback.

One thing that is clear is that you the members know where the events calendar is. During mid-January we were able to announce that the January Breakfast Briefing and Inside Jobs Tour were SOLD-OUT well before the event dates. Then yet in January we announced the Breakfast Briefing and Inside Jobs Tours for February were SOLD-OUT with the Legislative Event in February almost SOLD-OUT.

This is incredibly exciting just as is the Legislative Event lineup for 2025. All first-time guest speakers for the event and some newly elected too. The Inside Jobs Tours lineup is equally impressive too.

Soon we will begin to announce the 2025 Seminar and Training Series along with new online courses offered by a local educational institution. The headshot event dates are soon to be released along with the popular Elevator Pitch seminars that are going to be on the road this year and the very education What is the Central PA Chamber seminar.

Where do you get all this information and how do you sign up. Visit the Central PA Chamber website (www.centralpachamber.com) and click on events. It is NEVER too early to register as you don't want to find a SOLD-OUT notice when you register.

Looking to get the word out to future clients and want to try something new for better results than what you typically do? Call Ryan for the remaining list of 2025 Marketing and Advertising opportunities. Some as low as \$50 a month. The audience is there you just need to tap in.

With the new year your team outgrown your onsite meeting room capacity. Give Jessica a call and book the Central PA Chamber facility for all your meeting needs. Rutter's just did for their employee training of the new store coming to Milton PA this year.

I must agree with those that say this is the Chamber that gets things done. I just want to be sure we are getting done what you want. So please consider completing that survey.

,

Tea Jay

Tea Jay Aikey
President & CEO
tiaikey@centralpachamber.com

# New Members ctd.

B&P Commercial Cleaning Sunbury, PA 17801 Phone: 570-217-6155 Rodney Barclay, Owner 570-217-6155

#### bandpcommercialcleaning@gmail.com

B&P Commercial Cleaning LLC is a provider of reliable, detail-oriented commercial cleaning services, proudly serving Sunbury, Selinsgrove, Lewisburg, Danville, Williamsport. We are committed to exceeding client expectations through punctuality, meticulous attention to detail, and a personalized approach to every job. Our team prides itself on consistency—if we're not 15 minutes early, we're late. From office spaces to retail locations, we ensure every environment is spotless, hygienic, and welcoming. Many of our clients come to us after feeling let down by other services, and we aim to restore trust by delivering quality you can rely on. Discover the difference that commitment and pride in our work can make for your space.

Christ United Methodist Church 101 King Street Northumberland, PA 17857 Phone: 570-473-8543 Megan Millard, Pastoral Leader

Megan Millard, Pastoral Leade mmillard@susumc.org

"Here at Christ UMC we believe in showing the love of God daily through acceptance of each & service to all. We desire to make Christ known within our church, community, nation & world. Led by the Holy Spirit, we will serve the Lord through worship, evangelism, education, mission & social action."

State Senator Gene Yaw 175 Pine Street, Ste. 105 Williamsport, PA 17701 Phone: 570-322-6457 Fax: 570-327-3703

Matt Wise. District Director

570-322-6457

#### mwise@pasen.gov

Senator Gene Yaw was elected to represent the 23rd Senatorial District in Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union Counties in November 2008. Prior to running for the Senate, Yaw served as Lycoming County solicitor for 17 years and was named County Solicitor of the Year in 2004. He has also served as general counsel to the Pennsylvania College of Technology for more than 20 years. In 2013, he was elected Chairman of the Pennsylvania College of Technology Board of Directors. Senator Yaw serves as Chairman of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. He is also Vice Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and a member of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs, Banking & Insurance, Community, Economic & Recreational Development, Rules & Executive Nominations, and the Majority Policy Committees. Senator Yaw serves on a number of Boards and Commissions including as Chairman of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, a member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a member of the Environmental Quality Board, a member of the Pennsylvania Aggregate Advisory Board, and a member of the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority.

# How 'green' are you?

MILTON – Once again in commemoration of Earth Day, the Central PA Chamber staff will award a member with the Green Business of the Year Award.

How has your business been good to the environment? Do you reduce, reuse and recycle whenever possible? Do you make eco-friendly choices when purchasing supplies? The ways businesses can shrink their footprints are seemingly endless!

Applications for the Green Business of the Year Award will be accepted until noon on Friday, April 14. A member will be visited and announced as the winner the following Friday, April 21. Earth Day falls on Saturday, April 22, this year. If you have filled out the application in the past, we strongly encourage you to do it again, especially if your "green" efforts have "grown."



T. Ross Brothers Construction was the 2024 recipient of the Green Business of the year Award on Earth Day. Could your business be the winner this year?

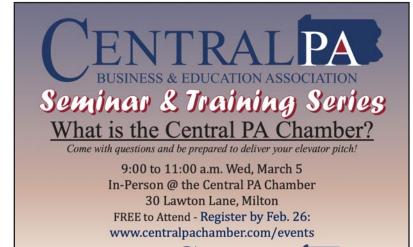
Find the form at www.centralpachamber.com. Click "Green Business Recognition" under the "Membership" tab on the homepage.

The Central PA Chamber of Commerce's Green Business Recognition Program has been created to showcase the environmental efforts of businesses and individuals. The hope is to encourage green business practices throughout the region. Green Business is good business! In addition to helping the environment, it can save your business money and your customers and employees will value your efforts.

To be considered for recognition, you must be: a member of the Central PA Chamber; Doing business in the region; and Demonstrate green business practices in each of several major areas. For questions, call 570-742-7341.

This is the 14th year of the award being presented. The past Green Business of Year Award recipients are: T. Ross Brothers Construction, 2024; Java Mamma, 2023; The Laundry Room of Lewisburg, 2022; United Plate Glass, Sunbury, 2021; Bear Rental, Northumberland, 2020; Columbia County Bread & Granola, Bloomsburg, 2019; Pompeii Street Soap Co., Mifflinburg, 2018; Arrowhead Drive-In Restaurant, Milton, 2017; Lawrence J. Winans, DMD, Lewisburg, 2016; Hometown Disposal, Sunbury, 2015; Central Susquehanna Community Foundation, Berwick, 2014; Warrior Run Petcare Center, Watsontown, 2013.

The Green Business of the Year Award is proudly presented with the assistance of HandyCrafts LLC and Phoenix Filtration & Plumbing



Presented by:



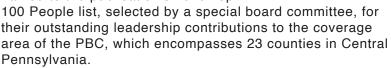
Presented by:

# Members Recognized

First Commonwealth Executives Mike Price and Jane Grebenc Receive Top 100 Recognition

INDIANA, PA - First Commonwealth's top two leaders were recognized for their leadership and community service by the Pennsylvania Business Central.

CEO Mike Price and President/Chief Revenue Officer Jane Grebenc were named to the publication's 2025 Top



"First, I want to congratulate Jane on her recognition," said Price. "It is an honor to receive this recognition from a respected publication in the heart of our Pennsylvania regions. Jane is a well-deserving leader, and our bank is better because of her contributions."

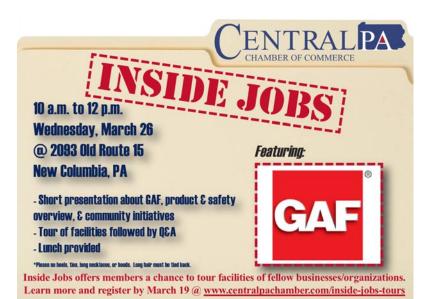
"This recognition is a reflection of the hard work our employees do every day to make us a better bank and fulfill

our mission of improving the financial lives of our neighbors and their businesses." said Grebenc. "Mike and I are honored to accept on behalf of the entire First Commonwealth team."

PBC's Top 100 People is a prestigious list of professionals and community leaders the publication has been compiling since 1995. Nominations were received from subscribers throughout the publication's coverage area.

n

The final honorees are featured and profiled in a special edition that was published Jan. 31.



Aspire Wealth Group Named to Forbes' 2025 List of Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams



MONTOURSVILLE -Aspire Wealth Group, located at 190 Choate

Circle, Suite B, Montoursville, PA was among the Raymond James-affiliated advisor teams named to the Forbes list of Best-In-State Wealth Management Teams. The list, which recognizes teams from national, regional and independent firms, was released online January 9, 2025.

Jason Dugan, President of Aspire Wealth Group, joined Raymond James in 2011 and has over 18 years of experience in the financial services industry. Aspire Wealth Group offers a wide range of comprehensive financial services including Investment Management, Financial Planning, Retirement Planning, Estate Planning Implementation, and Education Planning.

The 2025 Forbes ranking of America's Best-In-State Wealth Management Teams, developed by SHOOK Research, is based on an algorithm of qualitative criteria, mostly gained through telephone and in-person due diligence interviews and quantitative data. This ranking is based upon the period from 3/31/2023 to 3/31/2024.

Advisor teams that are considered must have: at least five team members, one advisor with a minimum of seven years of experience, been in existence as a team for at least one year and been nominated by their firm. The algorithm weights factors like revenue trends, assets under management, compliance records, industry experience and those that encompass best practices in their practices and approach to working with clients.

Portfolio performance is not a criteria due to varying client objectives and lack of audited data. Out of approximately 11,674 team nominations, 5,331 advisor teams received the award based on thresholds. This ranking is not indicative of an advisor's future performance, is not an endorsement, and may not be representative of individual clients' experience. Compensation provided for using the rating.

Neither Raymond James nor any of its financial advisors or RIA firms pay a fee in exchange for this award/rating. Raymond James is not affiliated with Forbes or SHOOK Research, LLC.

Please see https://www.forbes.com/lists/wealth-management-teams-best-in-state for more info.

Find the latest member news and events on our Facebook and Instagram pages!









## **Blood Drive**

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday, April 1 @
Central PA Chamber of Commerce,
30 Lawton Lane, Milton

To make an appointment, call 1-800-Red-Cross or visit redcrossblood.org. Use code "PAchamber".

Please schedule an appointment at our American Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, April 1—the first for 2025! Together, we'll save as many as 40 lives! There are blood drives scheduled at our location throughout the year, and you are welcome to join us for any or all of them as you're able to give.



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E-mail: rworkman@centralpachamber.com



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\*Industrial Portable Gas Detection

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\*Beverage Co2 Recharge

\*Confined Space

\*Fixed Gas Detection System

\*Industrial Safety Equipment

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# Members Recognized ctd.

# Sam Good named Group Benefits Manager at the Wealth Factory.



Muncy, PA – A longtime Central PA Chamber member, the Wealth Factory is growing. In early 2024, they welcomed a new team member, Samantha Good, to specialize in employee benefits. Effective January 1, 2025, she was promoted to The Wealth Factory's **Group Benefits Manager**. She will handle all aspects of employee benefits including health, vision, dental, disability and life insurance. Sam is also Pennie certified which allows her to guide individuals through the Pennsylvania Health Insurance Marketplace.

For over a decade, Sam has worked with a myriad of businesses throughout Pennsylvania. Working onsite with companies of various sizes and industries, Sam gained first-hand experience in customer service satisfaction, meeting and exceeding the needs of customers. Her work focused on automation with employers, human resource departments and individual employees, solving problems on a day-to-day basis.

"We are thrilled to have Sam leading our group benefits division. Since joining the Wealth Factory last year, Sam has continually gone above and beyond for our clients. Her attention to detail, work ethic and genuine empathy while speaking and interacting with employer groups and their employees has added tremendous value to our firm," stated Lauren McDonald, Co-founder of the Wealth Factory. "As the Wealth Factory continues to grow, Sam is already playing a key role. Her work with group benefits allows Lauren and I to focus on other areas of business," said John Machak, Co-founder.



The Wealth Factory is a team dedicated to simplifying the complexities of the financial world. As your advocate, we strive to learn about your most-valued goals and dreams. From individual investors to entrepreneurs, our services are designed for your success. We have built our practice on the foundation of close relationships and personalized recommendations combined with our years of experience. We proudly serve Muncy, Central PA, and beyond.

As independent financial advisors, our team at The Wealth Factory is committed to putting your best interests first—no matter what. We have no proprietary products, which means we're not trying to upsell you on something you don't need. You can trust that every recommendation is made with only your needs in mind. We proudly serve Muncy, Central PA, and beyond with comprehensive financial services.

Our team-centered approach allows you to take advantage of every advisor's skills, knowledge, and experience, and gives you the confidence that our whole team has your back. We believe in forming long-term, trusted relationships with our clients, becoming partners you can rely on throughout your financial journey. Your goals are our goals; let's work toward reaching them together!

Call our office at 888-347-2080 or visit us at www.twfplan.com to get started!

# 2025 Legislative Events Announced

MILTON – The Central PA Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce four "Legislative Events" have been scheduled for 2025 and will feature four, first-time speakers for these programs.

The first Legislative Event is scheduled for Friday, February 21 and will feature State Senator Gene Yaw (R-23) who will discuss energy policy, the Atlantic power grid, permitting reform, the new Rural Population Revitalization Commission, and more.

Next, on Friday, April 25, the Central PA Chamber is happy to welcome Pennsylvania's newly-elected Attorney General, Dave Sunday to address our region. General Sunday's discussion topics will be announced soon.

On Friday, September 26, we will hear from State Representative Clint Owlett (R-68). Rep. Owlett is the House Republican Caucus Secretary and will give remarks entitled, "Defining Success."

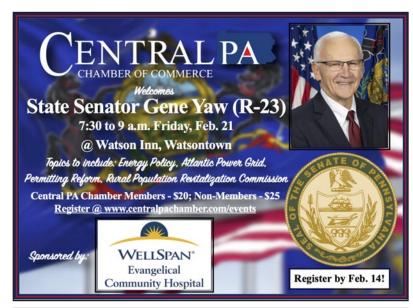
Finally, on Friday, November 7, the House Appropriations Committee Chairman, State Representative Jim Struzzi (R-62) will have his debut at a Legislative Event. Rep. Struzzi's discussion topics are to be announced.

Chamber members and the general public are welcome to attend any Legislative Event, which occur from 7:30 to 9 a.m., in the Moon Room of the Watson Inn, Watsontown. All are welcome to attend these unique opportunities to hear from and ask questions of your elected officials.

Pre-registration and payment is required to attend. The cost to attend is \$20 for members of the Central PA Chamber and \$25 for non-members. It includes a breakfast buffet as well as informational material from the event sponsors: WellSpan Evangelical Community Hospital, Luzerne County Community College, The Wealth Factory, and Service 1st Federal Credit Union, respectively.

Legislative Events typically reach capacity well in advance, so please register at any time by visiting: www.centralpachamber.com/events It is common that several additional elected officials at the local, state, and even federal level, attend these popular events, providing a great opportunity to meet them and have your questions answered.

Learn more about the Central PA Chamber of Commerce at: www.centralpachamber.com









# What's Happening ctd.





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#### Celebrate Winter at the 21st Annual Heart of Lewisburg Ice Festival

Get ready to embrace the wonders of winter as the 21st Annual Heart of Lewisburg Ice Festival returns to town on Friday, February 7th, through Sunday, February 9th 2025. This multi-day celebration promises a flurry of exciting events and activities for the whole family.

The Heart of Lewisburg Ice Festival is an annual celebration that brings together the community to enjoy winter-themed activities, ice carving displays, and family-friendly entertainment. The festival aims to foster a sense of unity and showcase the vibrant spirit of Lewisburg. Join us for a weekend of frosty fun!

Please take note that the Campus Theatre will be playing A Complete Unknown and Frozen 2 during the Ice Festival. For those festival goers that prefer an inside seat, the Campus Theatre has one for you!! Please visit their website at campustheatre.org for more information and to purchase tickets in advance.

#### Friday, February 7th:

9am: The ice trucks arrive and the Bucknell Men's Crew Team helps to unload the one block statues and deliver them up and down Market Street. Also working with an amazing volunteer forklift driver from Custom Containers we begin stacking the ice blocks for larger carvings to happen later in the day.

#### Late Morning Ice Carving Begins

Witness the artistry of ice carving as talented sculptors from First Night State College Ice Sculptors, showcase their skills in front of the Post Office as they carve the Bucknell Bison, sponsored by Bucknell University. The spectacle continues in front of Hufnagle Park, as the sculptors work on the feature sculpture sponsored by WellSpan Evangelical Community Hospital. Also keep your eyes out for Weis Markets' wishing well!

Friday starting at 5pm join the Lewisburg Downtown Partnership and the Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau for the 3rd Annual Heart of Lewisburg Ice Festival Sip and Shop from 5-8pm

While getting your Sip and Shop tickets...

get your Chocolate Flight prepared by the Donald Heiter Community Center to pair chocolates with your favorite drinks... or just eat lots of chocolate!!

Both Sip and Shop Tickets as well as Chocolate Flight and Chocolate Tour tickets are available online or at the door.

Saturday, February 8th:

- 8am Registration starts for the Frosty 5K sponsored by Weis Markets and presented by Sunset Rotary. At the Campus Theatre, 413 Market Street.
- 9:30am Frosty 5K begins in front of the Campus Theatre.
- 10:30am Ice carving in Hufnagle Park sponsored by UPMC.
- 11am-3pm Children's Activities in Hufnagle Park. Provided by the River Valley Nature School, Transitions of PA, the Bloomsburg Children's Museum, the Getting Ahead Foundation, and the Lewisburg Children's Museum.
- 11am-1pm OR 2pm-4pm Chocolate Tours presented by Donald Heiter Community

Center offers families the opportunity to stroll through downtown Lewisburg businesses, on a self paced, self guided chocolate sampling tour. Tours will start at The Gallery located at 15 N. Water Street.

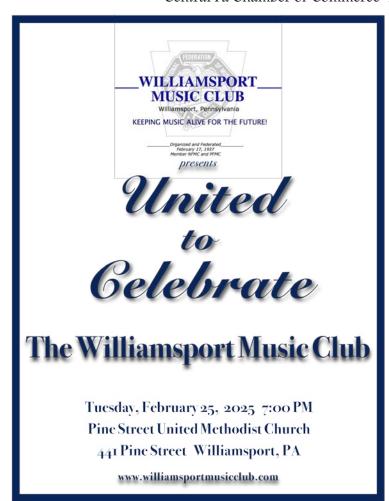
- 12:30pm Frozen 2 at the Campus Theatre
- 12-2pm PrePlunge Party at the Brasserie Louis located at 101 Market Street brought to you by Lewisburg Neighborhoods.
- 2pm The HAND MADE PARADE! Featured Artist Rachel Martine along with the Lewisburg Arts Council will gather at the corner of Market and Front streets and this creative parade will make its way down to the St. George Street landing for the Polar Bear Plunge!
- 2:30pm The Polar Bear Plunge, brought to you by Lewisburg Neighborhoods and graciously sponsored by: The Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau, The Bucknell Community Engagement Fund, Pennsylvania American Water, UPMC, PlayWorld Systems, Vargo Outdoors, Seven Mountains Media, the Brasserie Louis, Dunkin' Donuts, and West Branch Rental!
- 3:30pm the Chili Cook Off at the Bull Run Tap House (605 Market St.) brought to you by Sunrise Rotary.

Sunday morning wrap up the weekend with a scrumptious brunch and check out the ice sculptures without all the crowds! Enjoy brunch at one of Lewisburg's many fabulous restaurants! The Brasserie Louis, Grams Eatery, All Star Bagels, Amami Cafe, Trevina, Paris Bakery & Cafe, and Culture Coffee. Check our Website for more options becoming available.

Lewisburg Neighborhoods and UpCycle roll at 1pm for the 2nd annual Ice Festival slow roll. Grab your bike, some warm gear, and your friends and head out on an adventure.

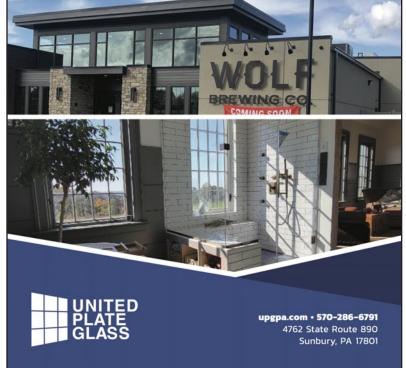
Don't miss out on the Heart of Lewisburg Ice Festival—a celebration of winter's beauty and community spirit. For more information, visit lewisburgpa.com or contact Lynne Sobel Ragusea, Main Street Coordinator, Lewisburg Downtown Partnership.





# Good People Installing Trust On Time

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL GLASS EXPERTS



### Jessica's Jottings

#### **Our Building is Your Building**

Do you need space for your trainings, meetings, or other events? Did you know the Central PA Chamber of Commerce has a facility for you to use? If not, keep reading to find out more about the space that is available to you.



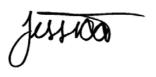
The Central PA Chamber of Commerce is located in Milton, PA. We have parking for over 30 vehicles, outside lawn space, a kitchen, restrooms, and 3 rooms inside. The Ross Room is our typical Board room set-up with a coffee bar, tv, white board, and hook ups. The Smith Room is our training center with 2 TVs, 2 whiteboards, space for drinks and food, and hook ups. The Breakfast room is a smaller room that can be used for one-on-one meetings, a place to set-up food for your bigger meetings, or even as a waiting area. These rooms can be booked all at once or separately.

Chamber members can book these rooms throughout the year. The facility is available Sunday through Saturday, 24 hours a day. As a Chamber member, your first usage in a calendar year is free. After that the rates are \$15 for daytime usage and \$30 for nights and weekend usages. When you book the facility, I will schedule a time for you to learn how to lock and unlock the door, turn the lights on and off, and how to use the technology in the rooms.

Facility usage can be scheduled as early as you would like for your monthly meetings, trainings, parties, or any other occasion where you just need some space.

Don't worry, if you are not a member of the Central PA Chamber of Commerce you can also book the facility for a one-time use for the price of \$75. After the one-time use we do ask that you become a member to use the facility again. Or you can become a member of the Chamber and get the discounted rates for your usages.

If you would like to see the facility, be sure to contact the Chamber staff and we would be happy to show you around and make sure the space is just right for your business needs. Have a fantastic February and I hope to hear from you soon to use our facility as your own!



Jessica Beaver Finance & Membership Director jbeaver@centralpachamber.com

Join us at an upcoming event! Visit: centralpachamber.com/events

## CENTRAL PA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Did You Know? FACILITY USAGES:

- MEMBERS may reserve spaces at our offices, such as our board room & training center, on a first-come, first-served basis. Available 24/7.
- Additional reservations = \$15/week day / \$30/eve or weekend.
  - Non-members may make a one-time reservation for \$75.
- Rooms equipped w/ white boards, TVs, speakers, wifi, HDMI, coffee bar, flexible layout options, handicapped accessible & other amenities.
- Bring your own refreshments or book one of our members to cater your event!

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# Pennsylvania Tax Differentiators.

Pennsylvania is continuing to take bold steps to accelerate business attraction and increase its tax competitiveness. Cutting the corporate net income tax rate in half is just the tip of the iceberg.

	Pennsylvania	Other states	
Corporate Net Income Tax Rate Phasing down to 4.99%	<ul> <li>Decreasing 0.5% annually from 7.99% in 2025 to 4.99% in 2031</li> <li>Places Pennsylvania in an extremely competitive position regionally and nationally</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Lower than all neighboring states' corporate net income tax rates, which range from 6.5% (WV) all the way up to 11.5% (NJ)</li> <li>Only 7 states (AZ, CO, IN, MO, ND, OK and UT) will impose corporate net income tax at lower rates in 2031, ranging from 4.0% to 4.9%</li> </ul>	
Personal Income Tax Rate <b>3.07%</b>	<ul> <li>Applies to businesses operating as partnerships, limited liability companies, and S corporations</li> <li>Places Pennsylvania among the lowest in the nation</li> <li>Very attractive for small and medium-sized businesses operating as pass-through entities</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Neighboring states have rates ranging from 3.99% (OH) all the way up to 10.75% (DC and NJ)</li> <li>Only 2 states — AZ (2.5%) and ND (2.9%) — impose personal income tax at lower rates</li> </ul>	
Personal Property Tax <b>0%</b>	<ul> <li>No tax on machinery and equipment or inventories</li> <li>Pennsylvania does not tax or penalize capital investment</li> </ul>	27 states tax business personal property, including CT, DC, MD, VA and WV	
Allowable Net Operating Loss Deductions Increasing to	<ul> <li>Pennsylvania legislation will be increasing 10% annually from 40% in 2025 up to the federal limit of 80% in 2029</li> <li>Aligns Pennsylvania with other states and supports investments in start-up, technology, and life sciences businesses</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Neighboring states generally follow the 80% federal limitation</li> </ul>	
Broad Sales and Use Tax Exemptions for Manufacturing and R&D Purchases	<ul> <li>Exemption reduces acquisition costs for business upgrades and expansions</li> <li>Supports investments in new businesses and production lines</li> </ul>	✓ Some differences in exemptions and application to R&D	

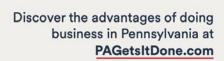














Y THE NUMBERS.

Since January 1st 2024...

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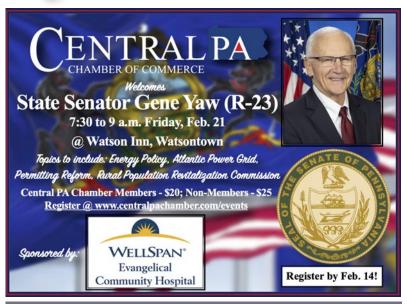
Email campaign open rate near

which is nearly

better than the industry average!

less often than the industry average!

Join us at these upcon





Come with questions and be prepared to deliver your elevator pitch.

9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Wed, March 5 In-Person @ the Central PA Chamber 30 Lawton Lane, Milton FREE to Attend - Register by Feb. 26: www.centralpachamber.com/events

Presented by:







Register by March 17: www.centralpachamber.com/events

Presented by:





overview, & community initiatives

- Tour of facilities followed by Q&A
- Lunch provided

Inside Jobs offers members a chance to tour facilities of fellow businesses/organizations. Learn more and register by March 19 @ www.centralpachamber.com/inside-jobs-tours



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