

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

www.centralpachamber.com

Volume 11, Issue 5 - May 2026

Green Business

2026 Green Business Award Winner, pg. 3

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, pg. 14

**Touring Camp Susque,
Skin Care Health,
& more!**





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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

May: The Green Month!

This month, the Central PA Chamber celebrates several events that are associated with the color green:

Firstly, May is Mental Health Awareness Month. It's too late to register for the Seminar & Training scheduled for May first, but please do for May 27th. Experts from Geisinger will be leading a discussion, I'm certain you'll want to join.

Our Green Business of the Year has been announced. Did you know you can plan an environmentally friendly funeral? Kaufman Funeral Home & Cremation Services does!

Our April Inside Jobs Tour had Chamber members heading into the green hills of Camp Susque. You'd be green with envy if you missed it!

Unrelated to the color green, our friends at Dermatology Partners have provided you with some skin care tips for Skin Cancer Awareness Month.

Finally, get your teams registered and your golf ball drop tickets purchased for next month's B&E Golf Tournament. We'll see you on the greens!

Happy reading,

Ryan Workman, Editor
Communications Director
rworkman@centralpachamber.com

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.*

Spring Print Issue*
(released June 2026)
Ads & Flyers
due by May 22

June Digital Issue
News & Ads
due by May 22

July Digital Issue
News & Ads
due by June 19

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

The President's Club

Thank you, 2026 Members! (Committed as of publishing.)

Asbury Riverwoods	Intrada Technologies	Service 1st Federal Credit Union
C&N Bank	Keystone Advertising	Service Electric Cablevision
Central Penn Bank & Trust	Lawton Insurance Agency	The Standard Journal
CSIU	MC Federal Credit Union	Sunbury Broadcasting Corp.
Community Giving Foundation	Members 1st Federal Credit Union	Susquehanna Fire Protection Co.
The Coup Agency	Milton Savings Bank	Susquehanna Valley Auto Glass
Decal Dynasty	North Central Sight Services	Susquehanna Valley Limousine
Edward Jones - Sheri Marshall	North Shore Railroad Company	Swift Kennedy & Associates
Equity Roofing	Northwest Bank	T-Ross Brothers Construction
First Commonwealth Bank	Pennsylvania American Water	United Plate Glass
Fulton Bank	PenTele Data	UPMC
Heritage Springs Memory Care	PNK Group	The UPS Store
Hosterman Creative	Purdy Insurance Agency	The Wealth Factory
Hot Frog Media	Real IT Care	WellSpan Evangelical
iHeart Media		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.

Contact Tea Jay to learn more and join: 570-742-7341



2026 Award Winner

Kaufman Funeral Home Named Green Business of the Year

WILLIAMSPORT - Congratulations to Kaufman Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Inc., named the 2026 Green Business of the Year by the Central PA Chamber of Commerce.

Each year, on Earth Day, the Chamber names a recipient of the award, based on the green business recognition applications received through its web site over the prior 12 months. All Central PA Chamber members that complete the form are eligible to win.

Applicants are given a score based on their “green” efforts. Kaufman Funeral Home & Cremation Services scored high in many of the program’s categories, including: Solid Waste Prevention, Recycling, Purchasing, Transportation, and Energy & Water Conservation. These scores are then combined with an essay section that provides more details about “green” efforts.

Specifically, Kaufman’s has instituted the use of formaldehyde-free embalming chemicals, creating both a less hazardous workplace and environmentally friendly service options. Kaufman’s has taken the lead in offering 100% organic burial services to our region. According to their essay submission, a traditional burial produces approximately 250 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO2) while a green burial has

an estimated negative carbon footprint.

The Central PA Chamber was able to surprise Scott Kaufman, Funeral Director, Owner & Supervisor, his wife, Leanne and daughter Ann, also a Funeral Director, with a custom, hand-made Tree of Life from fellow Chamber member, Thomas Beall-Ellersieck of HandyCrafts, LLC. Each year, Beall-Ellersieck creates a personalized award for the winner. We were also glad to be joined by Jason Welliver of Phoenix Filtration and Plumbing, the sponsor for this year’s Green Business Award.



Learn more about this year’s winner at www.kaufmanfuneralhomes.com and follow them on Facebook.

The Central PA Chamber thanks all members who completed the Green Business Recognition Application. The Chamber staff’s decision is never easy because of the extensive conservation measures being taken by so many applicants.

For those who haven’t completed the form, visit www.centralpachamber.com, click the “Membership” tab and open the Green Business Recognition page. Who knows, you may be next year’s winner!

(“Green Business” continues on page 4)



2026 Award Winner

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.

**Please note: Central PA Chamber of Commerce Communications Director, Ryan Workman, who coordinates the Green Business Recognition Program, is married to Ann Kaufman, and abstained from the selection process for this year's Green Business Award winner.*



From Left: Ann Kaufman-Workman, Funeral Director; Leanne Kaufman (seated), Funeral Assistant; Scott Kaufman, Funeral Director, Owner & Supervisor; Tea Jay Aikey, Central PA Chamber of Commerce CEO & President; and Jason Welliver, Phoenix Filtration & Plumbing Marketing & Sales Manager.



Go Green!





Philip Baum,
 Owner
 717-476-5019
 kinetickreations21@gmail.com

kinetickreations.com
 201 York Street
 Hanover, PA 17331

Words to live by?
Nobody leaves unhappy.

What makes your business/organization unique?

Kinetic Kreations is a family-owned entertainment and event business that transforms the traditional shaved ice experience into a highly interactive, human-powered spectacle. By utilizing a human-sized hamster wheel to operate their snow cone machines, the company gamifies the treat-making process through a participatory and kinetic activity that appeals to guests of all ages. Their versatile service model caters to a wide range of events, including school fundraisers, corporate gatherings, and private parties. Rooted in family ownership and community engagement, Kinetic Kreations focuses on delivering a unique, hands-on experience that ensures every participant leaves with a smile.

How do you market your business?

Word of mouth and our pamphlets do most of the work. We sometimes use Facebook and occasionally do direct mailers.

What is your Mission Statement?

To move people through play—creating kinetic experiences where nobody leaves without a smile.

How many people does your business employ? (full time and part time)

Everyone is part time. Up to 6 in a season (for now).

Advice to those who own a business?

Prepare for the unexpected - from broken equipment to no show staff.

Finish this sentence – “On a day off I...”

What is a day off? From April through November we are nonstop.

What are the top 3 company priorities you focus on?

- Nobody leaves unhappy.
- It’s all about the smiles.
- Happy employees.

What are the characteristics you look for in employees?

The number one attribute is they must be fun! Our business is all about fun. They also need to have some common sense when things go awry.

What philanthropic causes does your business support?

Make A Wish gets most of our donations but we also support several others through fundraisers. We are featured as a preferred partner for local community organizations — noted for generosity with time and service at events and being beloved by community partners.



*To Appear in a Future Member Spotlight:
 Contact Ryan: rworkman@centralpachamber.com*

What's Happening



Pre-Order Now!

CHICKEN BBQ

MAY 15 • 11AM - 1PM

There will be extra for walk-ins, but it goes quickly. We suggest you pre-order.

CHICKEN DINNER

- 1/2 Chicken
- Baked Potato
- Apple Sauce
- Dinner Roll & Brownie

\$13

CHICKEN HALF ONLY \$6

Proceeds benefit foster children in PA




Please call 570-522-9790 to pre-order
 Located at 25 Belford Blvd, Milton 17847 (Montandon)

Proceeds benefit foster children in PA

The Williamsport Music Club

Club presents

American Musical Theatre



WILLIAMSPORT MUSIC CLUB
 Williamsport, Pennsylvania
 KEEPING MUSIC ALIVE FOR THE FUTURE!

Organized and Federated February 17, 1937
 Member NFMC and PFMC

Tuesday, May 26, 2026 7:00 PM
 Pine Street United Methodist Church
 441 Pine Street Williamsport, PA
www.williamsportmusicclub.com

MAY 2026						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
CAMPUS THEATRE <small>EST. 1941</small>			ADMISSION MEMBERS: \$6 STUDENTS & VETERANS: \$5 ADULTS: \$9 "MEET YOU UNDER THE MARQUEE!"		BUCHNELL INTERCOLLEGIATE FILM FESTIVAL 7PM	CAMPUS Cabaret AUDITIONS 2:30PM
3 Bucknell Screening 4PM Free to Public SPRING FILM SHOWCASE Filmmakers in Person! Directed by Bucknell Students!	4 MAY THE 4 th BE WITH YOU DOUBLE FEATURE STAR WARS AND EMPIRE STRIKES BACK ONLY \$10! 6PM	5 CLOSED	6 1PM MAY THE 4 th BE WITH YOU MATTINEE (OPEN CAP) POSSESSED CHAMPIONS OF GOLDEN VALLEY WITH SPECIAL GUEST, PRODUCER, Bakdash Alhadi Emmy & Peabody Award filmmaker 7PM	7 Geisinger Pediatric Complex Core Clinic presents UNSEEN How We're Failing Parent Caregivers & Why It Matters 5:30PM	8 <i>Mommie Dearest</i> 7PM BYOB	9 THE AI DOC 5PM (OPEN CAP) DELIVITA SERIES: THE COMEDY OF TERRORS 8PM (BYOB)
10 THE AI DOC 5PM	11 CLOSED	12 DELVITA DIALYSIS EVENT	13 1PM MAY THE 4 th BE WITH YOU MATTINEE (OPEN CAP) THE AI DOC MEMBERS' ONLY MOVIE NIGHT! WAIT UNTIL DARK 7PM	14 THE AI DOC 7PM	15 7PM BYOB DRAMA	16 THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE 2PM DRAMA 5PM (OPEN CAP)
17 THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE 2PM DRAMA 5PM	18 CLOSED	19 CLOSED	20 1PM MAY THE 4 th BE WITH YOU MATTINEE (OPEN CAP) DRAMA The Truffle Hunters 7PM	21 DRAMA 7PM	22 PROJECT HAIL MARY 7PM BYOB	23 THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE 1PM PROJECT HAIL MARY 4PM (OPEN CAP) 8PM BYOB
24 THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE 2PM PROJECT HAIL MARY 5PM	25 CLOSED	26 CLOSED	27 1PM MAY THE 4 th BE WITH YOU MATTINEE (OPEN CAP) PROJECT HAIL MARY	28 PROJECT HAIL MARY 7PM	29 THE CHRISTOPHERS 7PM BYOB	30 THE CHRISTOPHERS 4PM (OPEN CAP) 40th ANNIVERSARY STAND BY ME 7PM BYOB
31 THE CHRISTOPHERS 5PM						

QUESTIONS? Contact Kellie Bates, Membership Director at kbates@gsvymca.org



BE READY TO SAVE A LIFE

HANDS ONLY CPR

Proudly partnered with:



FREE COURSE WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Note: This is a skills-based training and does not provide CPR certification.

For a better us.®

MILTON YMCA | 12 Bound Ave | Milton PA 17847 | 570.742.7321

You're invited to Senator Culver's

Non-Profit Grant Seminar



Thursday, May 14, 9-11AM
Doors open for registration at 8:30AM

The Barn at Frosty Valley
1301 Bloom Rd, Danville, PA 17821

Please note this seminar is primarily intended for registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Organizations without 501(c)(3) status may still attend but should note most grant opportunities discussed do require this designation.

This seminar will cover:

- Researching grant programs
- Application tips & best practices
- Available government, foundation, corporate, and institutional resources
- Q&A with the PA Senate's Funding & Resource Specialist

Please register by Friday, May 1, online at SenatorCulver.com or by calling the Shamokin Dam office at 570-743-1918.



Senator Lynda Schlegel Culver
27th Senate District

Senate Box 203027
Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3027
717-787-8928

160 W. 6th St.
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
570-784-3464
Fax: 570-784-9379

10934 State Route 61
Mount Carmel, PA 17851
570-339-5937
Fax: 570-339-5938

48 Orchard Drive, Suite 1
Shamokin Dam, PA 17876
570-743-1918
Fax: 570-743-7714

Luzerne County
570-387-4267
senatorculver.com
[Facebook.com/SenatorCulver](https://www.facebook.com/SenatorCulver)



2026 Spring Career Fair Lycoming County

Thinking about a career change or your next big move? Meet with a wide range of local employers actively hiring. Bring your resume, dress for success, and make connections that could open the door to your next opportunity.

Wednesday, May 13th
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Genetti Hotel - Grand Ballroom and Garden Terrace Room

**200 West 4th Street
Williamsport, PA 17701**

Scan the QR code to see registered employers!

Free parking available at the Genetti Hotel and the West 3rd Street parking garage (Retain parking garage entry ticket. PA CareerLink® staff will provide an exit ticket).




Pennsylvania CareerLink®
PA CareerLink® Lycoming County

329 Pine Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
570-601-5465 | TTY: 570-601-1754

PA CareerLink® is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Program funded with federal dollars. For more information, visit: <https://advancecentralpa.org/about-us/public-notices/>



NJBIA presents the **Business Growth Roundtable:**

From Vision to Results: How to Plan and Execute for Sustainable Growth

May 12th
Noon ET
Virtual Event (Zoom)


Hosts & Presenters:
Kelly Louro
Donna Miller
Michelle Hagan



Powered By:   

Sponsored By:   

Hosted By: 



May 2026

441 Broadway
Milton, PA 17847
(570) 742-7111
miltonpubliclibrary.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Summer Reading is almost here! Stay tuned for more information about this year's program, "Unearth a Story!"	Curbside Activity What's Blooming at the Library? May 21 st to 30 th	Mini Yard Sale May 1 st and 2 nd during library hours. Fill a bag with books for just \$5 and browse our sale table!	Take and Creates New activities available every Wednesday in the Kids Korner!	Mahjong Every Thursday 1:00 PM-3:00 PM in the Garden Room	1 Mini Yard Sale 9:00 AM-6:00 PM Baby Playdate 9:30 AM (Ages 0-24 months) Book Donations accepted 9:00 AM-6:00 PM	2 Mini Yard Sale 9:00 AM-3:00 PM STEAM Party 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Book Donations accepted 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
3 Library Closed	4	5 Mobile Maker Camp: Laser Cutting: Engraved Art* 4:00 PM	6 ESL Class* 4:30-6:00 PM	7 Paws for a Purpose with Quinn the Therapy Dog 3:00 PM Board Meeting (Open to the public) 6:00 PM	8 Baby Playdate 9:30 AM (Ages 0-24 months) The Link 9:30 AM-2:00 PM	9 Women's Day Craft 9:00 AM-3:00 PM (All ages) SUN UCS Presentation: Immigration History, Information and Resources 1:00 PM
10 Library Closed	11 Zoom Citizenship Class* 4:00 PM	12 STEAM Party 4:00-6:00 PM	13 Ather's Bunny Class 3:00 PM ESL Class* 4:30-6:00 PM	14 Adult Coloring Take and Creates Available all day	15 Baby Playdate 9:30 AM (Ages 0-24 months) Host's Community Night Fundraiser (Don't forget your Cash Cow!)	16 Featured Author: G.S. Cook Q&A and Book Signing 11:00 AM
17 Library Closed	18 Mindful Moonshine Monday Teen Club 4:00 PM (Ages 12-18) Zoom Citizenship Class* 4:00 PM	19 Trivia Night 6:30 PM (Ages 10 and up)	20 Spice Club begins: Paprika ESL Class* 4:30-6:00 PM	21	22 Baby Playdate 9:30 AM (Ages 0-24 months)	23 Library Closed Memorial Day Weekend
24 Library Closed	25 Library Closed Memorial Day	26 Unearth a Story Sneak Peek 4:30-5:30 PM (Ages 5 and up)	27 Dino Storytime 11:30 AM ESL Class* 4:30-6:00 PM	28 Learn to Crochet 4:00 PM (Recommended for ages 10+)	29 Baby Playdate 9:30 AM (Ages 0-24 months)	30 Learn to Crochet 12:00 PM (Recommended for ages 10+)

*Event requires registration

[Dates subject to change]

Date	Event	Location	Time	Cost
5/13/2026	How to Give Effective Performance Reviews	Williamsport	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	\$189.00
5/20-21/2026	OSHA 10-Hour Training	Altoona	8:00 am - 1:30 pm	\$269.00
5/21/2026	Cut Costs, Not Corners: 10 Practical Steps to CMMC Compliance	Webinar	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Free



INNOVATIVE MANUFACTURERS' CENTER

Lauri Moon
Manager, Outreach & Special Projects
570-329-3200

www.imcpa.com/events

New Members

Merle Norman Cosmetics & M2 Color Studio
528 Washington Boulevard
Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-323-8777

*"Natural Nail manicures, pedicures, facials, waxing, hair, massage, fur-infrared sauna, make-up *we do not use gel polish or take it off*"*

Mindy Price, Co-owner
570-337-3869
mindy@padayspa.com

Cooper Electric
1000 N High Street
Selinsgrove, PA 17870-1776
Phone: 570-374-6116

"Cooper Electric delivers supplies, services, and solutions to the commercial and contractor market."

Bryan Walter, Manager
570-884-5110
bryan.walter@cooper-electric.com

Harvis, Inc. Human Resources and Recruiting Services
75 Rockview Avenue
Shickshinny, PA 18655
Phone: 570-542-5330

*"HARVIS OFFERS EMPLOYERS HUMAN RESOURCE SUPPORT, CONSULTING and WORKPLACE SERVICES * Serving employers of any size on an "as-needed" or part time basis. * We're your contact for handling functional or strategic HR tasks. * Offering a full range of onsite or offsite services. * Common services include: Employee Manuals, Screening and interviewing, Recruiting, HR Audits, Federal and State Compliance assistance and worksite consulting. * Experienced professionals help protect your business & employees. Serving multi-state clients since 2006. "We make workplaces better!"*

Brian Phillips, President & CEO
570-542-5330
Brian@HarvisInc.com

Mid Penn Realty
128 W Main Street Suite 101
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
Phone: 570-387-8300

"At Mid Penn Realty, we pride ourselves on providing exceptional service to buyers and sellers in Central Pennsylvania. Whether you're looking for a new home, investment property, commercial real estate, or land, our team of experienced agents is here to guide you every step of the way."

Janeen Fisk, Owner/Realtor
570-204-0475
janeen@midpennrealty.com

Tom Somers, Community Member
Phone: 703-424-1156

"Associate Member - No Business Affiliation"

Tom Somers
703-424-1156
thomasmsomers@gmail.com

1905 - 2025
CENTRAL PA
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Helping Our Region Grow for 120 Years

membership is
\$150.00

for the 1st year when you are a member of an organization in our partnership program!

Participating Organizations:
 Berwick Industrial Development Association; Bucknell University SBDC; Corvaton Center; Danville Business Alliance; Innovative Manufacturers' Center; Lewisburg Downtown Partnership; Miltonburg Heritage & Revitalization; Sunbury Revitalization, Inc.; Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau; TIME (The Improved Milton Experience); Welcome Wagon; Williamsport Business Association

Multiple Chamber Membership Discount
 First-year members of similar organizations are eligible

To learn more, visit www.centralpachamber.com or call 570-742-7341

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

Membership Renewals

RENEWALS (As of April 30, 2026)

- Greg Katherman
- TCC Verizon Wireless - Lewisburg
- Roupp Funeral Home, Inc.
- Spruce Run Tax & Accounting Service
- M&T Bank - Milton
- M&T Bank - Lewisburg
- M&T Bank - Montoursville
- Unico Sealing Inc.
- Milton Historical Society
- Community Giving Foundation
- Unbound Physical Therapy LLC
- Danville Area Community Center
- Moore Power Sales
- John Shipman Insurance
- Northwest - Lewisburg
- Northwest - Danville
- HandUp Foundation
- Members 1st Federal Credit Union
- Nesco Resource
- W&W Residential Services Inc.



Central PA
BUSINESS & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Seminar & Training Series

How to Deliver a Great Elevator Pitch

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 12
In-Person @ The Wealth Factory
21 Kristi Rd. Suite No. 1, Muncy

Members - \$10; Non-members - \$20

Register by May 11 @ centralpachamber.com/events


Presented by: **CENTRAL PA**
1905 - 2025
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Helping Our Region Grow for 120 Years

Register for Central PA Chamber Events
@ www.centralpachamber.com/events

Submit News

*Share YOUR member news and events,
here and on our social media pages!*

Send to Ryan:
rworkman@centralpachamber.com



Central PA
BUSINESS & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Seminar & Training Series

What is the Central PA Chamber?

9 to 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 6
Online Via Zoom

Members - FREE; Non-members - \$10

Register by May 4 @ centralpachamber.com/events

Presented by: **CENTRAL PA**
1905 - 2025
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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Time with Tea Jay



Why the Central PA Chamber Encourages Mental Health Awareness in the Workplace...

"There is no health without mental health; mental health is too important to be left to the professionals alone, and mental health is everyone's business." — Vikram Patel

Mental health significantly impacts employment, with 15% of working-age adults experiencing mental disorders, causing 12 billion lost workdays annually to depression/anxiety. This is exactly why the Central PA Chamber of Commerce recognizes Mental Health Awareness Month each May.

Key Employment & Mental Health Statistics

- **Workforce Impact:** Nearly 45% of US workers report experiencing mental illness in their lifetime, and 76% report emotional distress due to work pressure.
 - **Productivity Losses:** Mental health issues result in significant productivity losses, costing an estimated \$1 trillion annually globally.
 - **Workplace Support:** While 92% of workers believe it is important for companies to support mental health, 55% of employees believe their employer thinks the workplace is healthier than it is.
 - **Turnover Rates:** Roughly 34% of employees aged 18–29 considered quitting due to the impact of work on their mental health.
- *World Health Organization (WHO)

The workplace—where many spend most of their waking hours each week—is often the most structured and controlled environment in workers' lives, and often their primary means of social and emotional support. The workplace is a critical setting for understanding and supporting mental health. Basic care for employees' psychological well-being is the fundamental expectation—aka table stakes—for today's competitive and successful businesses.

*American Psychological Association

Join us on May 27, 2026, for a seminar "Supporting Mental Health Needs in Our Community" being presented by Geisinger. Click here to register today: <https://centralpachamber.com/events/seminar-training-supporting-mental-health-awareness/>

Presenters Nancy Lawton-Kluck, MBA – Geisinger Chief Philanthropy Officer & Dawn Zieger, MPH – Geisinger Vice President, Operations Psychiatry & Behavioral Health Institute will open the conversation with observations and encouragement for attendees. Then, share some personal thoughts on baggage that we all carry and ways to work through difficult times and challenging situations.

You will leave with ideas for how to manage your own mental well-being – and ways to identify and support someone in a mental health crisis.

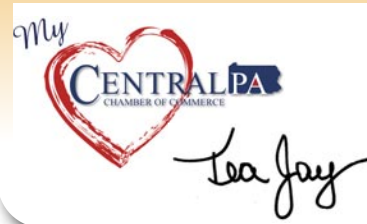
Learning Objectives

- Identify the warning signs of mental health challenges
- Understand how to access services
- Learn to have conversation about suicide risk

Having mental health issues myself I certainly recognize the need for sharing my personal journey and the promotion of education on mental health in the workplace. It is crucial to continue to work to remove the stigmas and encourage individuals to seek help and know they are not alone.

Please consider registering to attend this very important event on May 27, 2026, and feel free to share to your circle of beyond: <https://centralpachamber.com/events/seminar-training-supporting-mental-health-awareness/>

"What mental health needs is more sunlight, more candor, and more unashamed conversation" by Glenn Close



Tea Jay Aikey
President & CEO
tjaikey@centralpachamber.com

WHY US?

WHY YOU?

Why record a **WHY US?** video testimonial?

It's... **FREE!**

It's... **FAST!**

Be **FEATURED** on... **facebook. YouTube**

Get **NOTICED!**

Be **HEARD!**

So, **WHY NOT** record a **WHY US?** video today?

Details: centralpachamber.com/why-us

CENTRAL PA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

RAISING the Board
Practitioners. Academics. Apply. Connect.

Testimonial:

I believe that the "Raising the Board" seminar gave me a better understanding of legal aspects regarding business' elected board policies and Robert's Rules of Order. Having a better understanding of these policies and procedures helps me to navigate contracts, financial documents, and board adopted policies.

I would recommend this seminar to any individual.

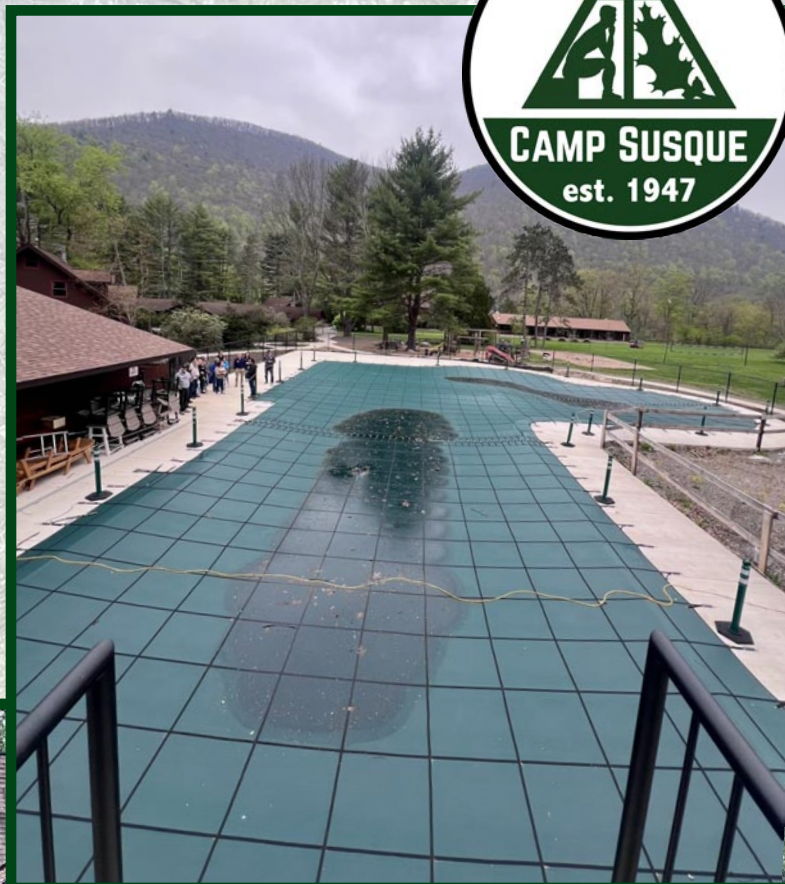
Eric Turofski, CO Op Coordinator
SUN Area Technical Institute

Inside Jobs Tour

An Afternoon at Camp Susque

TROUT RUN - Central PA Chamber members spent an afternoon at Camp Susque for an “Inside Jobs Tour.” Attendees gathered by the fireside in the dining hall as Executive Director Peter Swift introduced the Camp, its history, accolades, and mission to the group.

We then proceeded to on a walking tour of the grounds and facilities including the soon to be completed pool area. Along the way, we stumbled across tadpole eggs, fish, ducks, beavers, and were taught about tick prevention methods. The tour concluded back at the dining hall for a delicious, family-style luncheon with other members of the camp staff.



The weather cooperated long enough for one last stop—at the newly renovated, and fully stocked gift shop—before heading back to civilization. Getting in touch with nature was an invigorating way to start spring!

Be sure to visit www.centralpachamber.com/inside-jobs-tours/ to learn about and register for upcoming tours throughout the region.

Members Recognized

Jason Dugan Named to Forbes' 2026 List of Best-in-State Wealth Advisors



MONTOURSVILLE - Jason Dugan, Private Wealth Advisor, RJFS and President of Aspire Wealth Group located at 190 Choate Circle, Suite B, Montoursville, Pennsylvania was among the Raymond James-affiliated advisors named to the Forbes list of Best-in-State Wealth Advisors. The list, which recognizes advisors from national, regional, and independent firms, was released online April 7, 2026 and marks the 6th consecutive year that Dugan has qualified for this prestigious recognition.

Dugan, who joined Raymond James in 2011, has more than 20 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.

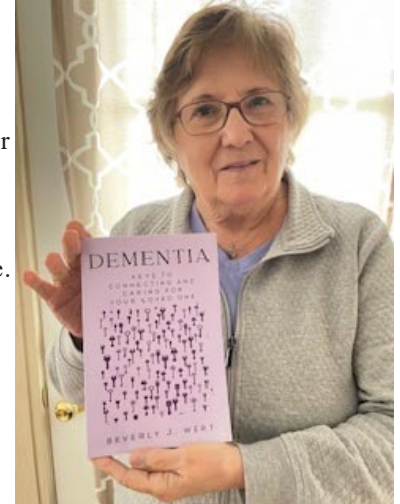
To contact Jason Dugan and learn more about Aspire Wealth Group, visit AspireWealthGrp.com or call 570-505-1289.

DEMENTIA: Keys To Connecting And Caring For Your Loved One by Local Author, Beverly Wert

LEWISBURG - Make plans to attend Union County Library on May 9, 2026 at 1:00 PM to hear the featured author, Beverly Wert, present a book reading and Q&A of her book, 'DEMENTIA: Keys to Connecting and Caring for Your Loved One'. Her presentation will provide insight into caring for a loved one living with dementia. She will share keys to understanding how to meaningfully connect in moments of difficult situations. In the pages of her book, she shares stories with honesty, compassion, and clarity. She invites you into the lives of those she has cared for and provides practical tips that help you navigate the daily challenges with dignity and love. She reminds us that caregiving is not just about tasks - it's about connection, empathy, and preserving the person behind the disease. She will have books available for purchase - \$15.00.

A new chapter in her life is titled retirement, but that doesn't mean she has slowed down. While she enjoys the star-filled night skies and the rustling of the creek at her local home 'up the White Deer Pike', she continues her passion for serving others by providing presentations about dementia care.

You may contact her for your upcoming event at: bevwert68@gmail.com.



Kingdom Kidz Announces May Activities



WATSONTOWN - Kingdom Kidz Inc. announces their May FAMILY FUN NIGHTS/ SafeKIDZ

activities which will take place at the Puppet HOME, 11 E Third St., Watsontown on May 8 and 22, 5:30-8pm featuring free pizza, snacks, drinks, crafts, games and a puppet presentation celebrating America's 250th birthday. At each event 4 challenge coins and other memorabilia will be given through a drawing of those in attendance.

On May 14 they will be at the Emergency Preparedness Day at the Federal Correctional Institution (Allenwood). This event is open to the public.

During the month of May, they will hold a Krispy Kreme fundraiser to assist in the purchase of a Handicapped LIFT for their building. Orders are due May 19 with delivery on May 28.

Each Tuesday evening from 6pm-8pm there will be a puppet team training. Any child 10 years or older is invited to participate in puppetry, prop presentation and dowel rod movement.

Follow these activities and more on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/kingdomkidzinc.

For more information concerning Kingdom Kidz Inc. call: 570-838-3133.

"B&E" Golf Ball Drop!

Supporting the **CENTRAL PA** BUSINESS & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Friday, June 26, 2026
Immediately before
"B&E" Golf Tournament
@ Bucknell Golf Club

Programs building a "Knowledge-ABLE" workforce!

- Seminar & Training Series
- Raising the Board
- Career Fairs
- Job Shadowing
- Legislative Events

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See full details & purchase tickets:

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

THURSDAY MAY 7 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

at the historic
CAMPUS THEATRE
413 Market Street, Lewisburg

Doors open at 10:00am | Formal Program begins at 10:45am

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ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

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Watsonstown & Milton Night at the Crosscutters

WILLIAMSPORT - July 10th | Gates Open at 5:30 PM

Join us for a special night celebrating our local community at the ballpark during Watsonstown & Milton Night with the Williamsport Crosscutters.

This evening is all about supporting and highlighting the small businesses that make our towns so special—including Blooming Meadows Farm. I'm incredibly honored to be throwing out the first pitch... and it gets even better—Boomer the mascot will be catching it with his giant glove, so you won't want to miss that moment.

Be sure to stop by and see me at the entrance—we'll be giving away 2,000 FREE sunflowers to celebrate (while supplies last 🌻).



Chamber Blood Drive



American Red Cross

Blood Drive

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, May 26 @

**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, May 26. 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.

We want to hear your good news!

To appear in It's Your Business,

e-mail:

rworkman@centralpachamber.com

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Business & Education

2026 Seminars & Trainings

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www.centralpachamber.com/events

CENTRAL PA
 BUSINESS & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Seminar & Training Series
Mental Health Awareness

Supporting Mental Health Needs in Our Community

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 27
 In-Person @ the Central PA Chamber
 30 Lawton Lane, Milton
Members - \$5; Non-Members - \$10
 Register by May 20 @ centralpachamber.com/events

Presented by:


Presenters Nancy Lawton-Kluck, MBA – Geisinger Chief Philanthropy Officer & Dawn Zieger, MPH – Geisinger Vice President, Operations Psychiatry & Behavioral Health Institute will open the conversation with observations and encouragement for attendees. Then, share some personal thoughts on baggage that we all carry and ways to work through difficult times and challenging situations.

You will leave with ideas for how to manage your own mental well-being – and ways to identify and support someone in a mental health crisis.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the warning signs of mental health challenges
- Understand how to access services
- Learn to have the conversation about suicide risk



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Online Trainings Available
www.centralpachamber.com under the “Business & Education” tab!



CENTRAL PA
 BUSINESS & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Seminar & Training Series
How to Deliver a Great Elevator Pitch

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 12
 In-Person @ The Wealth Factory
 21 Kristi Rd. Suite No. 1, Muncy
Members - \$10; Non-members - \$20
 Register by May 11 @ centralpachamber.com/events

Presented by: 

CENTRAL PA
 BUSINESS & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Seminar & Training Series
Youth Employment

Hiring Youth & Teen Workers for Your Business

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 3
 In-Person @ the Central PA Chamber
 30 Lawton Lane, Milton
Members - \$5; Non-Members - \$10
 Register by May 25 @ centralpachamber.com/events

Presented by:


CENTRAL PA
 BUSINESS & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Seminar & Training Series
Marketing 2 Members & Beyond!

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11
 In-Person @ the Central PA Chamber
 30 Lawton Lane, Milton
Members - \$10; Non-members - \$20
 Register by Aug. 10 @ centralpachamber.com/events

Presented by: 

Skin Cancer Awareness Month

May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month

Protecting Your Skin as Summer Begins

As the days grow longer and the temperatures rise, many people eagerly anticipate outdoor activities and summer vacations. However, it is important to be mindful of sun exposure and the risks associated with skin cancer. May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month, a time for reminders on the importance of sun protection.

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States. Current estimates suggest that one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime with approximately 9,500 people diagnosed each day in the U.S., according to the American Academy of Dermatology Association.

Lewisburg area residents need to especially take note. A November 2025 Penn State study identified a 15-county melanoma "hotspot" in Central Pennsylvania, where adults over 50 have a 57% higher risk of skin cancer. Union County is one of the 15 counties identified.

The Penn State study further reinforces the critical need for yearly skin cancer checks. This simple, thorough exam provides patients with peace of mind.

Summer Sun Protection Tips

With Memorial Day serving as the unofficial start of summer, it's worth reviewing sun-safe habits that can help minimize the risk of skin cancer.

1. **Apply Broad-Spectrum Sunscreen:** Use a sunscreen with at least SPF 30 that offers broad-spectrum protection against both UVA and UVB rays. Apply 15–30 minutes before going outside. One quick tip: check if the sunscreen is water resistant. Otherwise, it is typically advisable to reapply every two hours.

2. **Seek Shade:** The sun's rays are most intense between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Whenever possible, stay in shaded areas during these peak hours to minimize direct sun exposure. That said, shade doesn't mean complete protection. Believe it or not, UV radiation scatters. For example, fresh snow can reflect 80% of UV radiation, dry beach sand 15%, and seafoam 25%.

3. **Wear Protective Clothing:** Lightweight, long-sleeved shirts, wide-brimmed hats, and UV-blocking sunglasses can provide additional defense against harmful rays. Wide-brimmed hats are preferable to baseball caps, since they only protect a portion of the head and face. Also, consider investing in clothing with a UPF (Ultraviolet Protection Factor) rating for added protection. Keep in mind, natural fibers, such as cotton or linen, are too loosely woven to be good protection from UV radiation.

4. **Be Mindful of Reflective Surfaces:** Sand, water, and even concrete can reflect UV rays, increasing exposure. Take extra precautions when at the beach, pool, or other reflective environments.

5. **Check Your Skin Regularly:** Perform monthly self-examinations to look for new or changing moles, spots, or growths. Use the ABCDE rule—Asymmetry, Border irregularity, Color variation, Diameter larger than a pencil eraser, and Evolving shape or size—to identify potential warning signs. If anything appears suspicious, consult a dermatologist promptly.

6. **Stay Hydrated and Maintain Skin Health:** Keeping skin hydrated by drinking plenty of water and using moisturizers can help maintain overall skin health while providing an extra layer of protection.

With simple yet effective protective measures, individuals can significantly lower their risk of developing skin cancer, reducing the prevalence of this largely preventable disease.



Dr. Adel Haque is a board-certified dermatologist and Mohs surgeon with Dermatology Partners, a leading privately-owned patient-centered dermatology practice. Appointments with Dr. Haque at the Lewisburg location can be scheduled by visiting www.dermpartners.com or calling: (570) 523-1109.



Members Recognized ctd.

Middleburg Notary Title & Tag Service to Host 5 Year Business Anniversary



MIDDLEBURG — In celebration of their 5 Year Anniversary, Middleburg Notary Title & Tag Service is holding Customer Appreciation Days on May 1 & 2. Stop by and help them to celebrate. Meet their staff including “Lucy Lue”, the Doggie Greeter. Check out their services including their “Shipping Services”. Enjoy some refreshments and sign up for door prizes.

Middleburg Notary Title & Tag Service is hosting their 5th Anniversary and Customer Appreciation Days on May 1 & 2. “Customer Appreciation Day is our way to thank our clients and local community for their continued support of our small business!” said Lori. Stop by and help them celebrate.

Located at 13 N. Charles Street, Middleburg Notary Title & Tag Service is conveniently located one block behind the Middleburg Post Office. Open Monday-Friday from 9 am-8 pm, and Saturday from 9 am- 6 pm. Closed on Sunday. Stop in or call 570-765-0465 for more information.



Pinpoint Federal Credit Union Celebrates 70 Years of Community Commitment



MILTON — Pinpoint Federal Credit Union is proud to celebrate its 70th anniversary, marking seven decades of service rooted in community and cooperation. Established in 1956 in a Milton living room by a small group of local teachers, the credit union was built on a simple yet powerful idea: people helping people.

Over the years, Pinpoint FCU has grown alongside the community it serves—weathering economic challenges, embracing new opportunities, and remaining grounded in its member-owned mission. What began in a small downtown location expanded in 2000 to a facility on Center Street in Milton, and most recently, in 2021, the credit union opened its current location at 37 Ferry Lane to accommodate continued growth.

That growth has been significant. Since 2010, Pinpoint FCU has doubled in asset size, now exceeding \$32 million, reflecting the continued trust and confidence of its members. Along the way, the credit union has expanded its services to meet evolving needs, including the addition of a mobile app, financial advisory services, business services, and a wide range of mortgage options through its partnership with Rocket Mortgage.

“As we celebrate this milestone, we honor the members, volunteers, and staff who have shaped our legacy,” said Brenda Raker, President & CEO. “Our commitment remains the same -supporting our community and empowering our members to move forward with confidence.”

As it looks to the future, Pinpoint Federal Credit Union remains focused on strengthening financial well-being and continuing its tradition of service for generations to come—supporting individuals and families throughout the region, including local businesses, educators, and community organizations.



Breakfast Briefing

7:30 to 9 a.m. Friday, June 12
 @ Central PA Chamber of Commerce
 30 Lawton Lane, Milton

Members - FREE; Non-members - \$7
 Register by June 5 @ centralpachamber.com/events



*Know someone recently hired, retired,
 honored or awarded?*

E-mail: rworkman@centralpachamber.com

Members Recognized ctd.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2026 | State College, PA

Stahl Sheaffer Engineering, Inc. Celebrates 20 Years of Engineering Solutions

Stahl Sheaffer Engineering, Inc. proudly marks its 20th anniversary in 2026, celebrating two decades of growth, innovation, and dedication to delivering high-quality engineering solutions.

Founded in 2006 by Rod Stahl, Jeff Sheaffer and Aaron Fayish (1980-2020), the firm was built on a shared vision of providing client-focused practical engineering services. What began as a small partnership has grown into a respected civil and structural engineering firm offering comprehensive civil and structural engineering, surveying, geotechnical, GIS, construction inspection, and other infrastructure-related services to public and private clients throughout the eastern US.

"Reaching this milestone is both humbling and rewarding," said Rod Stahl, Co-Founder and President. "What started as an idea between friends in the engineering profession has grown into a company well beyond our original plans. Our success is a direct result of the trust our clients place in us and the dedication of our outstanding team."

Jeff Sheaffer, Co-Founder and President, added, "Over the past 20 years, we've been fortunate to work on projects that make a lasting impact on the communities we serve. From small projects to large transportation improvements, facility construction and renovations and municipal infrastructure, our work reflects our commitment to quality, collaboration, and integrity."

Throughout its history, Stahl Sheaffer has delivered thousands of successful projects, earning a reputation for responsiveness, technical expertise, and strong business relationships. Our clients include diverse organizations from large state agencies and institutions to private landowners, as well as teaming partners in all aspects of architecture, engineering, and construction. The firm's continued growth is fueled by a talented staff of engineers, designers, surveyors, and support professionals who share a commitment to excellence and are now shareholders in this 100% employee-owned firm. The firm's commitment to the communities where it operates is evident in the continued philanthropic support it provides to a myriad of organizations and causes.

Founded in 2006, Stahl Sheaffer Engineering, Inc. is a 100% employee-owned civil and structural engineering firm providing professional services in building structural engineering, bridge design and inspection, transportation engineering, land development, agricultural, survey/LiDAR, environmental/regulatory, and construction management and inspection. Headquartered in State College, PA, the firm has nine offices across Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio.

For more information, visit www.stahlsheaffer.com

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Director of Marketing
Stahl Sheaffer Engineering, Inc.
814.880.5732
croth@stahlsheaffer.com

814.689.1562
info@stahlsheaffer.com
www.stahlsheaffer.com

301 Science Park Road, Suite 333
State College, PA 16803 (Headquarters)



Phone:
(570) 577-1249



Email:
sbdc@bucknell.edu

Date	Event	Location	Time	Cost
5/4/2026	Email Marketing 101	Webinar	12:00-1:00pm	No cost
5/4/2026	Digital Marketing Tools for Small Businesses	StartUp Milton	6:00-7:30pm	No cost
5/6/2026	The First Step: A Big Picture Look at Starting a Business	StartUp Lewisburg	12:00-1:30pm	No cost
5/7/2026	National Small Business Week Celebration	Campus Theatre, Lewisburg	10:00am-12:00pm	No cost
5/13/2026	Business Innovation Lunch & Learn	StartUp Lewisburg	12:00-1:00pm	No cost
5/18/2026	GrowForward: Agricultural Innovation Series - Intellectual Property, Funding, and Commercialization	Webinar	12:00-1:00pm	No cost
5/27/2026	Business, Bytes, and Brews	Cup O Code, Northumberland	1:30-3:00pm	No cost

Register for Events Here: www.pasbdc.org/bucknell

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Helping Our Region Grow for 120 Years

2026
Annual Meeting
You Are Invited!

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. / Thursday, Oct. 22
Farrington Place, Williamsport
[Visit: centralpachamber.com/events](http://centralpachamber.com/events)

photo coming soon

Keynote Speaker
TBA

Must register by October 7!

The Annual Meeting will host up to 300 attendees. Become a sponsor by calling 570-742-7341.

1905 - 2025
CENTRAL PA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Helping Our Region Grow for 120 Years

2026 Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting, at Farrington Place, will host up to 300 business & community leaders from across central Pennsylvania.
Contact Jessica to become a sponsor: 570-742-7341

Program Sponsors: \$200	Favor Sponsors: \$400	Award Sponsors: \$500	Centerpiece Sponsors: \$800	Meal / Venue Sponsors: \$1500
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11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. / Thursday, Oct. 22
Farrington Place, Williamsport
[Visit: centralpachamber.com/events](http://centralpachamber.com/events)

Commit by: October 1

Jessica's Jottings

See You On the Green!



We have had a taste of summer weather this spring and that gets me in full gear for the Business & Education Golf Tournament!

For those that might not know what this fundraiser is for, let me help clarify a few things. The Business & Education Association is a 501c3 organization within the Chamber. This Golf Tournament helps us raise money for the programs we offer throughout the year. These include seminars and trainings to inform our communities on topics such as workforce development, leadership, mental health, and more! Raising the Board is another program we offer that assists in training future and current non-profit Board members across the region by teaching them what it means to successfully sit on a Board and all the fundamentals that go with that seat. The B&E organization also pays for students at the high school and college level to attend the Legislative Events held each quarter. This gives students the opportunity to meet elected officials at the federal, state, and local levels as well as business leaders in the regions we serve.

Now comes the part where you can help us raise the funds, we need to keep all these programs going!

First way to get involved is a sponsorship for the tournament. We currently have Hole and Lunch Sponsorships available that come with a list of benefits for you. Hole Sponsorships are \$250. Lunch Sponsorships are \$400 and include two golfers! If you sponsor the tournament, you also get the chance to give marketing/promotional materials to our golfers in their Swag Bag! There are over 100 golfers that attend.

Volunteers for the day of the tournament help the Chamber staff out immensely! If you are available to lend a hand with part of the day or the entire day, contact us and we will happily put you to work! You can volunteer at registration, at a specific hole, or simply set up.

The last and easiest way to get involved and support the Business & Education Association is to buy a Golf Ball Drop Ticket. Each ticket gives you a golf ball that we number and drop from a crane! The ball that lands closest to the designated hole wins the grand prize! There are three chances to win a cash prize and tickets are only \$10! Go to the Central PA Chamber website and get your tickets today!

Thank you in advance for supporting the Business & Education Association and I look forward to seeing you get involved with our Golf Tournament this year!

Jessica Beaver
Finance & Membership Director
jbeaver@centralpachamber.com

**Contact Jessica to sponsor
an upcoming event!
Call 570-742-7341**

Did You Know?



- Raising the Board (RtB) is a one-of-a-kind training program to build the skills & confidence of current & prospective non-profit board members.
- The curriculum was written by subject matter experts (SMEs) covering several topics, which all board members need to understand to fulfill their fiduciary responsibilities.
- Sign-up to attend one of the day-long sessions: www.centralpachamber.com/events
- Learn more: www.centralpachamber.com/rtb



<p>Training for Non-Profit Board Members & Prospects</p>	<p>Practice. Act. Apply. Connect.</p>	<p>4 Focus Areas: Practice, Apply, Act, Connect</p>
<p>8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 13 @ Central PA Chamber of Commerce 30 Lawton Lane, Milton Members - \$100; Non-members - \$125 Register by May 6: www.centralpachamber.com/events</p>		
<p>Practice Vision & Mission, Culture, & Strategic Planning Apply Financial Essentials, Fundraising, Bylaws, & Meeting Protocols</p>	<p>Presented by: CENTRAL PA BUSINESS & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION</p>	<p>Act Ethics, Servant Leadership, Personal Why?, & Committees Connect Communication Protocols, Social Media, Advocacy, & Marketing</p>

Legislative Event

Senator Culver Discusses Education & Data Centers

The following article originally appeared in *The Standard Journal*

By Vincent DiFonzo

WATSONTOWN — Sen. Lynda Schlegel Culver (R-27) spoke on the booming artificial intelligence (AI) and data center industries during the Central PA Chamber of Commerce’s legislative breakfast at the Watson Inn on Friday, encouraging constituents to educate themselves on the potential impacts of both industries.

“I don’t know whether a data center in your neighborhood is good or bad. I’m still trying to understand data centers,” Culver said. “I do know that it’s a matter of national security and people in the U.S. don’t want their data stored outside the U.S. I do know we all use it, so it’s not like we can stop it. I want us to understand it and make good decisions based on that.” Culver encouraged locals near proposed data center sites to ask questions about how their communities could be impacted.

“I think you should be concerned, and you should be asking questions,” Culver said. “It is important that we pay attention. This will impact us one way or another.”

She described the rise of AI, and data centers to support AI, as inevitable and unavoidable because AI has been integrated into so many aspects of society.

“Every single one of you is using AI, whether you want to be or not,” Culver said. “(AI) will impact every part of our lives, and there’s no stopping it.”

She shared concerns about people using AI improperly, especially in schools, arguing AI should be used as a tool to expand your knowledge, not to complete work for you.

“A lot of people are using AI to think for them, instead of using it for what it was intended for — thinking better and expanding your mind, using it as a tool,” Culver said.

She also described a moment during a recent Senate hearing when she learned just how prominent AI is becoming.

“The head of (Pennsylvania Western University’s AI program) said in this very calm way, which alarmed me beyond words, that AI could be as big as the Industrial Revolution,” Culver said. “Then she said, ‘I’m sorry, I need to correct myself. It’s going to be bigger than the Industrial Revolution.’”

Culver said part of the problem with data centers is that the technology is “always changing,” so it’s hard to find reliable information about the centers. To address this, her office is planning to host quarterly online educational sessions for constituents on data centers.

During the event, Culver also spoke on creating education policy that promotes career-readiness and encourages students to find work in the communities they grew up in. Culver currently serves as the chair of the



Senate Education Committee.

“I hear (from businesses) that we need to train more workers. We need more workers with soft skills,” Culver said.

She argued that state education policy should guide students to career-readiness, adding that “education, business and workforce policy completely go hand-in-hand.”

“Workforce development does not begin when someone graduates from high school or starts looking for a job. It begins much earlier. It begins in the classroom, with reading and math proficiency, and with career exposure, technical training, dual-enrollments, and whether students see a future for themselves in the community they grew up in,” Culver said.

Reading skills are the single most important foundation for a child’s success, Culver added.

“During my first two weeks (as Education Committee chair) I got a report that third graders were reading at about 33% proficiency... Eighth graders were a little bit better, but not over 40%. Talk about alarming,” Culver said. “If a child is not reading well early, it will become more difficult later in their lives. Strong reading skills are absolutely the foundation for success in every subject, and ultimately, success after graduation.”

She emphasized the importance of developing reading skills between pre-school and third grade.

“From kindergarten or earlier to third grade is when we learn to read. From fourth grade on, you read to learn,” she said. “If you can’t read, you’re not learning, and that’s the scariest thing I think of when I see these scores.”

Culver praised career-specific education and career and technical education programs because they “give students real skills, real direction, and real opportunities.”

She also highlighted the Grow PA grant program, which provides up to \$5,000 per year to in-state students to assist with the cost of education in high-demand fields.

“(The grant) helps students plan and it helps them finish degrees,” Culver said. “How many students don’t finish their degrees... because they can’t afford it anymore?”

Pennsylvania Auditor General Timothy DeFoor is scheduled to speak at the chamber’s next legislative breakfast on Sept. 25.

Mental Health By the #'s...

*According to data from nonprofit Mental Health America

In 2025, over **60** million Americans or **23%** of US adults experience mental illness.

40% of Americans live in areas lacking adequate mental health providers.

40% of employed adults reported being worried about job security, contributing to increased anxiety.

Join us at these upcoming events!

Training for Non-Profit Board Members & Prospects

RAISING the Board
Practice. Act. Apply. Connect.

4 Focus Areas:
Practice, Apply, Act, Connect

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 13
@ Central PA Chamber of Commerce
30 Lawton Lane, Milton

Members - \$100; Non-members - \$125
Register by May 6: www.centralpachamber.com/events

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Vision & Mission, Culture, & Strategic Planning
Apply
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Act
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1905 - 2025 **CENTRALPA**
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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INSIDE **JOBS TOUR**

11 a.m. Wednesday, May 20
@ **Open Discourse Coalition**
239 Market St.
Lewisburg, PA

FEATURING:
OPEN DISCOURSE COALITION

Members - FREE; Non-Members - \$10.00

*Inside Jobs offers members a chance to tour facilities of fellow businesses & organizations.
Find tour details and register by May 13, 2026 @ www.centralpachamber.com/events.*

CENTRALPA
BUSINESS & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Seminar & Training Series
Mental Health Awareness
Supporting Mental Health Needs in Our Community

Presented by:
Geisinger

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25th Annual "B&E" Golf Tournament

Friday, June 26, 2026
@ **Bucknell Golf Club**

For full details & to register, Visit: www.centralpachamber.com/events

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