# It's Your Business

www.centralpachamber.com

Volume 11, Issue 11 - November 2026




# Growing Impact

2026 President's Club Luncheon, pg. 3
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2026 Annual Meeting & Impact Awards Ceremony, pg. 12
Raising the Board Graduates & More!

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

## Board of Directors


**Genie Bausinger - Chair**
Milton Regional Sewer Authority

**Alison Hall - 1st Vice Chair**
Re/Max Bridges

**Steven Beattie**
SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority

**Terry Burke**
Bucknell University

**Rachael Herb**
Service 1st Federal Credit Union

**Ron Mackley**
Community Member

**Michael Medley**
Taylored Legacy

**Sheri Marshall - 2nd Vice Chair**
Edward Jones

**Ashley Parrish - Treasurer**
First Commonwealth Bank

**Michael Porter**
Pennsylvania College of Technology

**Peter Swift**
Camp Susque

**Eric Turoiski**
SUN Area Technical Institute

**Tina Welch**
Welch Performance Consulting

**James White**
VNA Health Services

**James Baldwin - Solicitor**
Baldwin & Baldwin

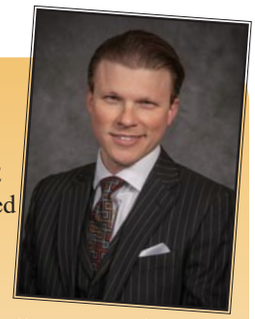

## Staff


**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



**An October to Remember!**

October ain't Chamber month for nothin'! Since the last edition of IYB, your Chamber has had 12 new graduates complete Raising the Board, hosted our President's Club members for their Annual Luncheon, been highlighted in Spotlight PA, and undertook our first Annual Meeting & Impact Awards Ceremony in Williamsport in addition to all our normal, monthly programming. It's been a blast!

In fact, so much happened over the past month that you'll have to stay tuned for more highlights in next month's IYB. As the editor of IYB, I am blessed to never lack content to fill these pages! That's because just like the theme of this year's Annual Meeting suggests, the Central PA Chamber is growing and continuing to make an impact in our community—thanks to you, our members! Our success is your success.

As we wind down 2026 and look forward to 2027, please be on the lookout for updates from Tea Jay, Jessica, and me to help you plan your new year with exciting Chamber events and useful Chamber benefits.

If I don't see you, have a happy Thanksgiving!

Happy reading,




Ryan Workman, Editor
Communications Director
rworkman@centralpachamber.com


# The President's Club

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

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

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

## *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.***

**December Issue**
**News & Ads**
**due by November 13**

**January Issue**
**News & Ads**
**due by December 11**

**February Issue**
**News & Ads**
**due by January 22**

# The President's Club

## President's Club Attends Annual Luncheon



NEW BERLIN — The Central PA Chamber's annual President's Club Luncheon took place at The Cherry Street Bistro, part of the SUN Area Technical Institute, in New Berlin, on Wednesday, October 7.

Attendees from this elite group of Central PA Chamber members go above and beyond to assist the Chamber's mission to "help our region grow" through monetary, product, and service donations. This helps the Central PA Chamber keep benefits affordable and plentiful for the nearly 700 strong, and growing, membership at large.

After the meal, attendees were given a Chamber update by President & CEO, Tea Jay Aikey, offered some statistics on the Central PA Chamber's digital impact by Communications Director, Ryan Workman, learned about the host venue, and had time to network and pose for a professional, group photo by Hosterman Creative, used for Chamber publicity throughout the upcoming year.

The President's Club is an exclusive sponsorship program created to prominently recognize members who contribute over and above their annual membership investment. Club members are eligible for exclusive discounts and events, as well as priority reservations and seating for select events.



# 2026 Board of Directors Election

**The following individuals have been nominated to serve a three-year term on the Central PA Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors starting January 2027. One ballot will be e-mailed to each member organization's voting member (via Election Buddy) on Nov. 14, 2026. Ballots will be accepted until the end of the day on Nov. 21, 2026.**

**Karla Alexander**
*Executive Director*
**AGAPE**

**Terry Burke**
**(appointee– seeking 1st term)**
*Coordinator of Experiential & Community Engagement*
**Bucknell University - Freeman College of Management**

**Dr. Alan Hack**
*Assistant Executive Director*
**Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit**

**Kevin Herr**
*National Sales Manager*
**Sunbury Broadcasting Corp.**

**Lisa Leighton**
*Marketing & Outreach Director*
**Weis Center for the Performing Arts**

**Sharon Leon**
*Executive Director*
**Union County Housing & Redevelopment Authorities**

**Thomas "Tom" Marshall**
*Attorney / Managing Partner*
**McNerney, Page, Vanderlin & Hall**

**Michael Medley**
**(appointee– seeking 1st term)**
*Hiring Manager / Sales Agent*
**Taylored Legacy**

**Julie Reedy**
*Management*
**The Coup Agency**

**Amanda Smith**
*Cooperative Education Coordinator*
**Milton Area High School**

**Amanda Steinbacher**
*Sales Manager / Client Success Manager*
**Real IT Care**

**Joshua Troup**
*Principal, Agency Operations*
**Sholley Insurance Agency**

**James White**
**(appointee– seeking 1st term)**
*Business Development Director / Community Liaison*
**VNA Health System**

**This year's election is supported by:**

ElectionBuddy

## Learn More About the Candidates

# Member Spotlight

Amanda Steinbacher, Sales Manager
570-323-2650
amandas@realitcare.com

www.realitcare.com
136 Catawissa Ave
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Real IT Care: Technology You Can Trust. Relationships You Can Count On.**
Technology should help your organization succeed, not create more uncertainty.

Real IT Care helps businesses and nonprofit organizations make confident technology decisions. Whether a company is concerned about cybersecurity, struggling with recurring IT problems, planning for growth, or wondering how artificial intelligence may fit into its future, our team provides practical guidance grounded in each organization's real needs.

Cybersecurity remains a concern for organizations of every size. Protection is no longer limited to antivirus software. It requires secure systems, informed employees, reliable backups, ongoing monitoring, and a plan for responding when something goes wrong. We help clients understand their risks and build sensible layers of protection without making technology feel overwhelming.

AI is creating exciting possibilities, but it also raises questions about privacy, data security, appropriate use, and where it can provide genuine value. Real IT Care helps organizations approach AI thoughtfully, with the right technology foundation and safeguards in place.

As a member of the Central PA Chamber of Commerce, we value the power of relationship and are seeking connections with businesses in our community that could benefit from our services. We strive to lift up and protect the organizations in central PA that make our region great.



Real IT Care Business Partners Kenny Steinbacher & Zane Patalive

If technology is slowing your organization down, keeping you awake at night, or leaving you unsure of the next step, let's have a conversation. You do not need to have all the answers. That is where we can help.

Real IT Care guides clients to proven and secure solutions so they can focus on serving their customers, supporting their teams, and moving their organizations forward.

Real IT Care team participates in Central PA Business & Education Association Golf Tournament



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

# What's Happening

## 2026 hometown HOLIDAY EVENTS

**november**

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

**december**

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

FOR MORE INFO: WWW.VISITDANVILLEPA.ORG

**FRI., NOVEMBER 20 • COOKIE CRAWL (TICKETED EVENT)**
*10AM-8PM. YOUR TICKET LETS YOU CRAWL FROM PLACE TO PLACE COLLECTING FESTIVE TREATS. $8 (PURCHASED IN ADVANCE), $10 (PURCHASED NIGHT-OF).*

**SAT., NOVEMBER 21 • HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**
*AN ANNUAL TRADITION AT BEITER'S, D'S CLOTHIER, AND SCOTT'S FLORAL. CHECK WITH EACH STORE FOR THEIR OPEN HOUSE HOURS.*

**FRI., NOVEMBER 27 • BLACK FRIDAY**
*FIRST DAY OF PEPPERMINT TRAIL PROMOTION.*

**SAT., NOVEMBER 28 • SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY**

**FRI., DECEMBER 4 • WELCOME SANTA PARADE & TREE LIGHTING**
*PARADE BEGINS AT 6PM. FESTIVITIES IN CANAL PARK BEGIN SHORTLY BEFORE THE PARADE AND CONTINUE THROUGH SANTA'S ARRIVAL TO HIS COTTAGE. VISIT THE DBA WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK FOR SANTA'S COTTAGE HOURS THROUGHOUT THE SEASON.*

**SAT., DECEMBER 5 • HOMETOWN HOLIDAY MARKET**
*11AM-4PM ON MILL STREET. CRAFTS, FOOD, & HOLIDAY CHEER. MEET THE HOLIDAY HIGHLAND COWS FOR A PHOTO OP DURING THE MARKET.*

**FRI., DECEMBER 11 • LATE NIGHT SHOPPING**
*5PM - 8PM. SHOP LOCAL FOR YOUR HOLIDAY GIFTS WITH LOCAL STORES OPEN LATE. CHECK PARTICIPATING STORES FOR HOURS. LAST DAY OF PEPPERMINT TRAIL PROMOTION.*

DANVILLE BUSINESS ALLIANCE

HOLIDAY EVENTS ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY:
Geisinger · service1st Friends you can bank on. · MC Federal Credit Union · Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau · Danville Borough Montour County PA · Villager Realty, Inc. · Montour County via the Travel & Tourism Fund

## NOVEMBER 2026

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 PRACTICAL MAGIC 5PM; DELIRIUM SERIES: Horror of Dracula IN 4K! 8PM ($6) | 2 Bucknell Screening 7PM FREE to Public; GIGI | 3 Bucknell Screening 7PM FREE to Public; THE STRANGER | 4 1pm Mid-day MATINEE (OPEN CAP) PRACTICAL MAGIC; Bucknell Screening Free to Public NOSFERATU THE VAMPIRE 7PM | 5 Bucknell Screening 1:15PM FREE to Public KRISTINA TALKING PICTURES; PRACTICAL MAGIC 7PM | 6 PRIMETIME 7PM BYOB | 7 Shaun the Sheep THE BEAST OF MUCKY BOTTOM 2PM; PRIMETIME 5PM BYOB (OPEN CAPTION) |
| 8 Shaun the Sheep THE BEAST OF MUCKY BOTTOM 2PM; PRIMETIME 5PM | 9 CLOSED | 10 Apex-Writers Alliance CELEBRATION LAUNCH 2PM; Bucknell Screening 7PM FREE to Public; MARY OLIVER Saved a Few Beauty of the World Director in Person! | 11 1pm Mid-day MATINEE (OPEN CAP) "FROM HERE TO ETERNITY"; DEAD POETS SOCIETY Presented by Mondragon Books 7PM | 12 Bucknell Screening 1:15PM FREE to Public CHUMLUM & LATE SUPERIMPOSITIONS ON 16MM; PRIMETIME 7PM | 13 HEART OF THE BEAST 7PM BYOB | 14 Shaun the Sheep THE BEAST OF MUCKY BOTTOM 2PM; HEART OF THE BEAST 5PM BYOB (OPEN CAPTION) |
| 15 Shaun the Sheep THE BEAST OF MUCKY BOTTOM 2PM; HEART OF THE BEAST 5PM | 16 Bucknell Screening 7PM FREE to Public; APUR SANSAR | 17 Bucknell Screening 7PM FREE to Public; The Hole | 18 1pm Mid-day MATINEE (OPEN CAP) HEART OF THE BEAST; THE TESTAMENT OF Dr MABUSE 7PM | 19 LEWISBURG RAIL BRIDGE DESIGN WORKSHOP Presented by Lewisburg Neighborhoods 5PM; HEART OF THE BEAST 7:30PM | 20 YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING 7PM BYOB | 21 CENTENNIAL FILM SCREENING 12:30PM; YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING 3PM (OPEN CAPTION); YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING 7PM BYOB |
| 22 Sensory Friendly Geisinger DEVMED RATATOUILLE 1PM; YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING 5PM | 23 CLOSED | 24 CLOSED | 25 CLOSED | 26 GIVEN THANKS CLOSED Happy Thanksgiving | 27 THE SHIRE SOCIAL AT 6PM LORD OF THE RINGS THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING ($6) 7PM BYOB | 28 LORD OF THE RINGS THE TWO TOWERS ($6) 5PM BYOB |
| 29 LORD OF THE RINGS Return of the King ($6) 5PM | 30 Bucknell Screening 7PM FREE to Public TRUST and A MILLION MILES AWAY Riot in the River Film Festival Early Bird Submission Deadline | CAMPUS THEATRE EST. 1941 | | | ADMISSION Members $6 · Students Seniors & Veterans $8 · Adults $9 | |

## WILLIAMSPORT MUSIC CLUB

Williamsport, Pennsylvania

KEEPING MUSIC ALIVE FOR THE FUTURE!

Organized and Federated February 17, 1937 Member NFMC and PFMC

PRESENTS

# LIFTING OUR SPIRITS WITH AMERICAN MUSIC

Tuesday, November 24, 2026 7:00 PM

Pine Street United Methodist Church

441 Pine Street Williamsport, PA

www.williamsportmusicclub.com



# VETERANS COMMUNITY DAY

Join us for our **Annual Veterans Community Day**! This special gathering honors our veterans, connects them and their families with valuable resources, and celebrates the strength of our community.

**Dr. Patricia Segee**, a clinical psychologist with the Williamsport Vet Center, will discuss mental health, support, and thriving after military service.

**Tim Egan**, a leader at Danville's VFW and American Legion, will highlight the lasting value of veterans and how they continue to serve their communities beyond the military.

## Veterans Community Day

**Friday, November 6, 2026**
**10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**
Danville Area Community Center

**VETERANS APPRECIATION**
Recognizing and celebrating the men and women who have served our country.
*Pledge of Allegiance at 10 a.m.*

**INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**
Learning about programs, services, and opportunities available to veterans and their families.

**COFFEE, CONVERSATION, AND CAMARADERIE**
Reconnecting with friends, meeting new people, and strengthening our veterans community.

**LUNCH PROVIDED!**










| Date | Event | Location | Time | Cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11/10/2026 | Problem Solving with Root Cause Analysis | Williamsport | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm | $189.00 |
| 11/12/2026 | Supply Chain Strategies for Immediate Impact | Webinar | 9:00 am - 10:00 am | Free |
| 11/19/2026 | Choosing the Right CMMC Strategy for Your Business Size, Contracts, and Risk Tolerance | Webinar | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Free |

IMC INNOVATIVE MANUFACTURERS' CENTER
**Lauri Moon**
**Manager, Outreach & Special Projects**
**570-329-3200**
**www.imcpa.com/events**

# New Members

**Peaches Pit**
**410 Main Street**
**Milton, PA 17847**
**Phone: 570-989-2061**

*"Café"*

**Monica Lain, Owner**
**peachespit410@gmail.com**

**The Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy**
**589 Fairground Road Suite 2**
**Lewisburg, PA 17837-8832**
**Phone: 570-524-2959**

*"The mission of the Merrill Linn Conservancy is to preserve and protect significant ecological sites in Union, upper Northumberland, and neighboring counties and to engage the public on conservation issues critical to the health of our environment."*

**Kathi Venios, Administrative Assistant**
**570-524-2959**
**admin@linnconservancy.org**




# Go Green!

CENTRAL PA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE green BUSINESS

**Greater Hope Care Center**
**224 South Broad Street**
**Jersey Shore, PA 17740**
**Phone: 570-772-0337**

*"At Greater Hope Care Center, you'll find compassionate, confidential care and practical support—at no cost. We offer free pregnancy tests, peer counseling, parenting and educational classes, post-abortion support, and essential resources such as formula, maternity and baby clothes, and community baby weight checks. Proudly serving Jersey Shore, PA, and surrounding communities, we're here to walk alongside you with care, encouragement, and hope."*

**Dilonna Coran, Executive Director**
**greaterhopejs@gmail.com**

**Apex-Writers Alliance**
**525 Carpenter Road**
**Milton , PA 17847**
**Phone: 570-556-6083**

*"Apex-Writers Alliance (AWA) is a professional writing community helping writers strengthen their craft, build sustainable careers, and connect with peers and industry professionals. Founded by renowned author and writing instructor David Farland, AWA continues his legacy through live workshops, recorded educational resources, critique and accountability opportunities, networking, and professional development for writers at all stages."*

**Tammy Burke, Owner and CEO**
**570-556-6083**
**tammy@apexwritersalliance.com**


**Breakfast Briefing**

7:30 to 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 18
@ Central PA Chamber of Commerce
30 Lawton Lane, Milton

**Members - FREE; Non-members - $7**
*Register by Dec.11 @ centralpachamber.com/events*

*Sponsored by:* The Graphic Hive
WEB · DESIGN · PRINT

# New Members

**Drug Guard**
**167 South Ironstone Drive**
**Boyertown, PA 19512**
**Phone: 610-285-4100**

*"Drug Guard is a premier concierge-style Third-Party Administrator specializing in DOT and Non-DOT drug and alcohol testing and compliance. With 50+ years of combined experience, we understand the challenges that employers face. Drug Guard specializes in on-site collections and nationwide access to collection sites with geo-location scheduling. We offer a TPA reseller program that includes software, lab accounts, collection sites, and MRO services. Our team delivers personalized support from experts who know DOT regulations inside and out. We don't just manage compliance, we simplify it."*

**Matt Danner, Owner**
**610-285-4100**
**matt@drug-guard.com**

**Novak Strategic Advisors**
**500 North Third Street 9th Floor**
**Harrisburg, PA 17101**
**Phone: 570-573-3710**

*"For more than 20 years, Novak Strategic Advisors has offered comprehensive, strategic government relations and public affairs solutions to real-world business needs. Our unique, client-centered approach is based on personalized and targeted strategies that incorporate our vast statewide networks, consensus and relationship building, and creating cohesive coalitions."*

**Michele Rudloff, Senior Associate**
**717-235-9909**
**michele@nsallc.com**




**Lycoming Vault & Precast LLC**
**350 Spruce Street**
**Montoursville, PA 17754**
**Phone: 570-368-8642**
**Fax: 570-368-2299**

*"Precast Concrete Facility manufacturing products since 1939. Specializing in Verti Block retaining wall blocks, light pole bases, catch basins, septic tanks, burial vaults, etc."*

**Paul McCoy, Owner**
**570-368-8642**
**pmccoy@lycomingprecast.com**

## RENEWALS

(As of October 28, 2026)

Kingdom Kidz Inc.
Decal Dynasty Wraps and Graphics
Dorothy Zimmerman
Willow Playworks
Rusty Rail Brewing Company, LLC
KAM Strategies
First Commonwealth Advisors - Scott M Frost
Muirfield Energy Inc
Caz Russell LLC
SUN Area Technical Institute
Eulistic Health
The UPS Store - Lewisburg
Spotlight PA
Delaware Run Wesleyan Church
Vest Accounting Solutions d/b/a MV Payroll Bookkeeping & Tax Services
Buttonwood Truck Center
Vendetta Cyber Defense
Central Penn Bank & Trust - Lewisburg
Central Penn Bank & Trust - Downtown Lewisburg
Central Penn Bank & Trust - Milton
Central Penn Bank & Trust - Northumberland
DIG Furniture Bank
Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary Club
Lewis Township
Kaufman Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Inc.
Community Options
Wayne Township Landfill
Horizon Federal Credit Union
Arena Sports & Fanatic Graphix
American Rescue Workers - Williamsport
Haven-to-Home Canine Rescue
AdOne Advertising and Design
W&S Distributors
Xtego Creative

# Time with Tea Jay



**Annual Meeting & Impact Awards Ceremony**

*The following exerpt is adapted from Aikey's remarks at the 2026 Annual Meeting:*

*"Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to celebrate with us.*

*At your place setting you will find a wooden planter box to grow "Forget Me Nots" right at your desk. Do not forget how much the Central PA Chamber celebrates <u>your</u> growth!*

*Today's gift was thoughtfully selected to reflect the impact each of you has had on the growth and continued success of the Central PA Chamber. The gift represents something truly remarkable: the Central PA Chamber has experienced membership growth for 15 consecutive years, from 2011 through today!*

*Today, we proudly represent nearly 700 members across 9 states and 37 counties. Our three most represented counties are Northumberland, Union, and Lycoming, respectively.*

*These numbers are more than statistics. They represent businesses, relationships, partnerships, and people who believe in the value of the Central PA Chamber and the role we play in helping our region grow. Each of you has contributed to that story in your own way, and we are grateful for the impact you continue to make.*

*As we look back on everything we have accomplished over the past year, it is vital to recognize the driving force behind our success. Our achievements simply would not be possible without the extraordinary dedication of our board of directors and committee members.*

*To our board: thank you for providing visionary governance and steady stewardship that keeps our organization strong and forward-looking. And to our committee members: thank you for bringing your specialized expertise to the table and rolling up your sleeves to turn our strategic goals into real, tangible impact.*

*Your willingness to generously give your time, your wisdom, and your resources is what allows us to thrive. On behalf of everyone who benefits from our mission.*

*They say that greatness is not in where you stand, but in what direction you are moving. Today, I want to honor two individuals who are constantly moving us forward.*

*Jessica and Ryan define what it means to be a dedicated team. Over the past year, they have shown us the true meaning of outstanding service. No matter the challenge, they meet it head-on, working in perfect sync to ensure you, our members and our community are completely supported. Their energy is contagious, and their work ethic is unmatched."*

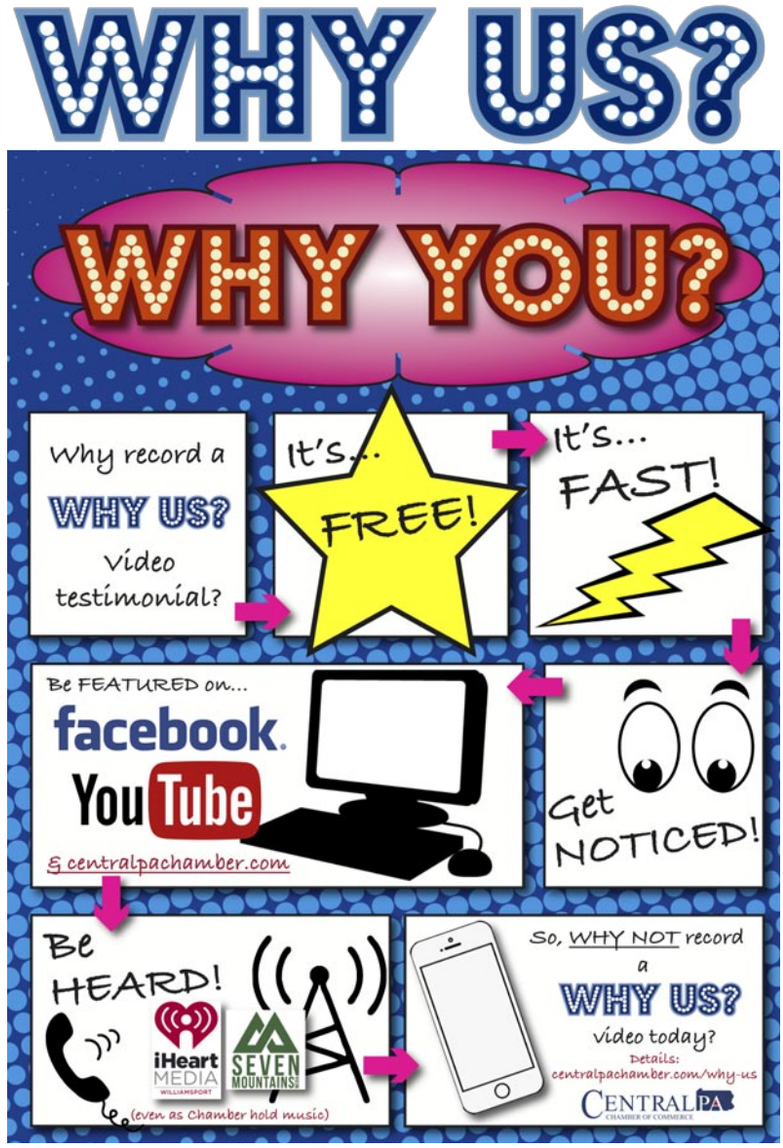
Tea Jay

Tea Jay Aikey, President & CEO
tjaikey@centralpachamber.com

**Contact Tea Jay to join The President's Club! Call 570-742-7341**

# Submit News

*Share YOUR member news and events, here and on our social media pages! Send to Ryan: rworkman@centralpachamber.com*






# Making sense of 'central Pa.,' the region we love to debate and claim

*By Asha Prihar*

***Article Originally Published by Spotlight PA, Oct. 2, 2026***

When someone claims to live in "central Pennsylvania," what do they mean?

It could be the area around the state capital, the forests of the Pennsylvania Wilds, a small Rust Belt city, or the rolling fields of Dutch Country. Or maybe they live near Penn State University, in the county that's got "center" right in the name (just spelled a little differently).

Central Pennsylvania's nebulous definition can make efforts to talk about the region confusing — and occasionally contentious. While the descriptor sounds straightforward, it often doesn't really tell you where someone is from, or what it's like to live there.

To explore why central Pennsylvania is so hard to pin down and why it stokes such strong feelings, PA Local spoke with residents and researchers, read through hundreds of comments from readers, and consulted news archives, government websites, nonprofit filings, books, and maps.

Central Pennsylvania, the reporting found, is a vernacular region that's long meant different things to different people. People across the commonwealth rely on the term — whether or not they feel it accurately reflects their community's location and identity.

Sharon Nelson of Lancaster County grew up hearing the towns she'd lived in, East Petersburg and Mount Joy, referred to as part of "central Pennsylvania." But when she left for Juniata College in Huntingdon — about 30 miles south of State College — the terminology began to feel odd.

At Juniata, Nelson was much closer to the middle of Pennsylvania on a map, and the area (which she now calls the "the real central Pa.") felt markedly different from her hometown. There wasn't a "bigger city" with tens of thousands of residents like Lancaster anchoring the area, she said, but rather smaller boroughs of a few thousand.

"We had to drive like two and a half hours to get there," Nelson said of the trek from the Mount Joy area to Juniata. "And then I just thought it was such a misnomer, saying we were central Pennsylvania."

SPOTLIGHT PA

A recent PA Local survey about Pennsylvania's regions asked an open-ended question: "What region of Pennsylvania would you say you currently live in?" At least one respondent from each of 23 counties — ranging from Potter to Armstrong to Bedford to, yes, Lancaster — wrote "Central Pennsylvania" or "Central PA." Six of those counties are classified as urban, per the Center for Rural Pennsylvania's definition, and the other 17 are rural.

Responses from some of those counties, plus 13 others, included variations on the region, like north-central, south-central, eastern central, and west-central. That makes for a grand total of 36 counties — out of the state's 67 — where at least some residents incorporate "central" into their labels.

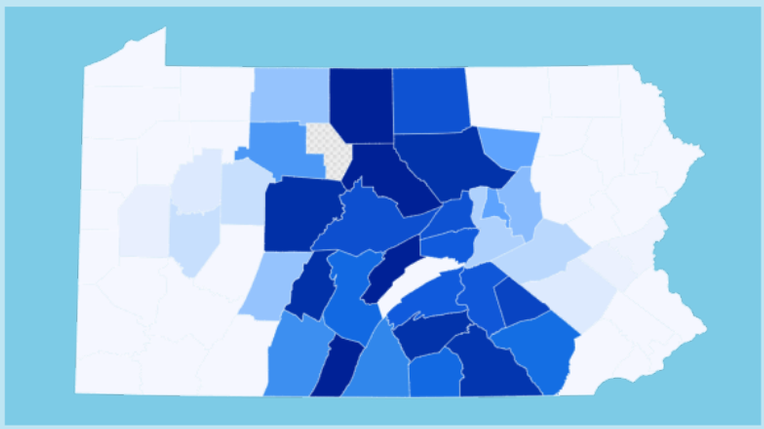
Many comments on the survey — even from people who didn't self-identify as central Pennsylvanians — singled out the region as tough to define, or offered strong thoughts about which areas truly are part of it.

"I feel like there are two separate Central PAs (one around Adams/York/Cumberland, one north of Harrisburg) that are distinct regions in my head but I would call both Central PA," a respondent from Adams County wrote.

"Central PA does not extend to the northern and southern borders," said an Allegheny County resident.

"Anyone who says Central Pa doesn't include Cumberland County is just wrong," wrote someone who just moved from the area to Montgomery County. "Looks weird geographically, but we all say we're from Central Pa."

***Read more, including Central PA Chamber of Commerce President & CEO, Tea Jay Aikey's contributed quatations by visiting spotlightpa.org***



# 2026 Annual Meeting & Impact Awards

## Celebrating Growth

WILLIAMSPORT – The Central PA Chamber of Commerce held its 2026 Annual Meeting and Impact Awards Ceremony at Farrington Place on Thursday, October 22. The event was attended by over 200 business, nonprofit, and community leaders from across the region to celebrate the past year of growth and accomplishments by both the Central PA Chamber and its members.

After some introductory remarks by Central PA Chamber of Commerce President & CEO, Tea Jay Aikey, the official program began with the playing of the National Anthem by violinist, Jason Hurwitz, representing the Williamsport Music Club. Pastor Dilonna Coran, Executive Director of Greater Hope Care Center and the Susquehanna Valley Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life, gave an invocation.

After the luncheon, attendees participated in an interactive keynote address with Dan Manetta. Manetta, a Williamsport native, professional educator, serial entrepreneur, and published author, brought his impressive resume and experience to bear in a humorous presentation he called "Life, Leadership, and the Dragonfly." Manetta explained how most of the life of a dragonfly is spent underwater in egg and nymph form before completing metamorphosis and taking flight. In his concluding remarks, Manetta urged the audience, "It doesn't matter if you have more years behind you, than ahead of you. You can still have more life ahead of you than behind you."

The theme for this year's Annual Meeting was "Growth." Aikey discussed how Farrington Place, a new venue for the Chamber's Annual Meeting, was selected. "Lycoming County now represents the third largest number of Central PA Chamber members after Northumberland and Union Counties, respectively." She also revealed how for each of the past 15 years, the Central PA Chamber of Commerce has experienced growth in membership and impact. From humble beginnings in 1905 as "The Milton Board of Trade" with just a handful of original members to nearly 700 members in multiple states and over 100 zip codes. The theme was also reflected in Forget-Me-Not planters gifted to each of the attendees to grow at their home or office.

The program concluded with the 2026 Impact Awards presentations. Impact Awards are given to Central PA Chamber Members who have made a positive impact on not just the Chamber, but the community at large. They make a positive influence by their everyday actions, not just a one-time gesture.

***Read more & enoy more photos courtesy of Hosterman Creative.***

















# Sponsors

**Meal/Venue Sponsors:**
Central Penn Bank & Trust
Service 1st Federal Credit Union

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Luzerne County Community College
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# Business & Education

## Congratulations Graduates!

CENTRAL PA
BUSINESS & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

MILTON - Congratulations to the most recent class of Raising The Board graduates! Since 2018, there have been over 100 individuals who dedicated the time to attend RTB and receive training to become the best possible board members for nonprofit organizations across Central Pennsylvania.

Thank you also to our dedicated Subject Matter Expert Mentors and The Watson Inn for providing a delicious luncheon for the class.

***Save the Date!***
***2027 Raising the Board Class Dates:***
***Tuesday, May 18, 2027***
***Wednesday, October 13, 2027***






RAISING the Board
Practice.Act.Apply.Connect.



# FEDERAL RESERVE SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT SURVEY



## YOUR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE MATTERS

**OPEN SEPTEMBER 9–NOVEMBER 13, 2026**

### WHAT IS IT?

The Federal Reserve's flagship annual survey capturing the real experiences of small businesses nationwide—covering business performance, growth expectations, financing needs, and credit access. It generates the largest national dataset of its kind on small business experiences and financing.

- **Commitment: 10–12 minutes**
- **No personal information required**
- **Confidential: Individual responses are never shared**

### WHY PARTICIPATE?

**Amplify your voice | Benchmark your business | Respond confidentially**

- Compare your experience against thousands of peers.
- See how others are responding to challenges.
- Help ensure federal and state policies reflect the reality of businesses like yours, not assumptions.
- Last year's findings were cited in Congressional testimony and shaped lending regulations.
- Influence how lenders develop products and set terms.
- Help lenders, chambers, SBDCs, and other service providers understand what businesses like yours need.
- Ensure your community's experiences are understood.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

**QUESTIONS?** Contact **sysfedsmallbusiness@clev.frb.org**

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS *of*

Atlanta • Boston • Chicago • Cleveland • Dallas • Kansas City • Minneapolis
New York • Philadelphia • Richmond • St. Louis • San Francisco

# What's Happening ctd.

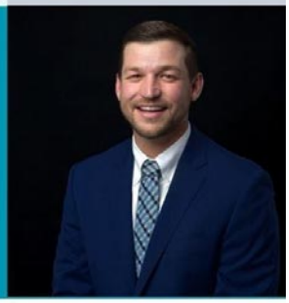
## NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

**BENEFITS IN FOCUS: MARKET TRENDS, INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS, AND BENCHMARKING INSIGHTS**



FREE FOR SHRMA MEMBERS
& GUEST PASS HOLDERS
$35.00 - GUESTS

RYAN PIRRONE
& PAVLE BADOVINAC
MARSH MCLENNAN
AGENCY



CSIU
90 LAWTON LN.
MILTON, PA 17847

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 19

TIME
7:45 - 10:00 AM

SPONSORED BY:

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Susquehanna SHRMA Human Resource Management Association

www.shrma.org

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TRB
T-ROSS BROTHERS
CONSTRUCTION INC.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

# HOLIDAY *Open House*

DECEMBER
THURSDAY 10 4 – 7 PM
2026

T-ROSS BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION
Corporate Offices · 2733 State Route 45, Milton, PA
*Join us for a few hours of holiday cheer with friends, old and new.*

BEVERAGES
from The Rusty Rail

LIVE MUSIC
by Family Ties

LIGHT BITES
by Hillside Catering

Scan to RSVP by Tuesday, December 1st
570-524-6411 ext. 148 · robertt@trossbrothers.com

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the YMCA

All proceeds benefit the Milton YMCA Annual Campaign

3rd Annual
TAKEOUT

# SPAGHETTI DINNER



$10 Per Dinner
November 19, 2026
Pick up between 4:30pm–7:30pm

ORDER IN ADVANCE
- Call the Y at 570.742.7321
- Visit the front desk of the Milton YMCA
- Scan the QR Code to order online

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

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LEWISBURG
570-523-6216
441 N. 10th street
570-523-6216

WEST BRANCH RENTAL

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
7:00AM - 5:00PM
SATURDAY
7:00AM - 1:00PM
SUNDAY - CLOSED




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DELIVERY AVAILABLE

# What's Happening ctd.

PENNSYLVANIA SBDC
Small Business Development Center
Bucknell University
Helping businesses start, grow, and prosper.

Phone: (570) 577-1249

Email: sbdc@bucknell.edu

| Date | Event | Location | Time | Cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11/2/2026 | How to Win the Holidays & Marketing Q&A | Webinar | 12:00-1:00 PM | No Cost |
| 11/11/2026 | Innovation Lunch & Learn | StartUp Lewisburg | 12:00-1:00 PM | No Cost |
| 11/17/2026 | Retirement for Entrepreneurs: Financial Q&A | Webinar | 9:00-10:00 AM | No Cost |
| 11/18/2026 | The Brand Alignment Workshop | StartUp Danville | 9:00-10:30 AM | No Cost |

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

***Know someone recently hired, retired, honored or awarded?***
***E-mail:***
***rworkman@centralpachamber.com***




# Chamber Blood Drive



**Thank you to everyone who participated in the most recent American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Central PA Chamber of Commerce on Friday, August 28th.**

**There were 16 registered donors, but with walk-ins. 22 individuals helped donate the gift of life!**

**Donating blood has never been easier, but also never more needed. Please consider making your first time donation at the next drive!**

American Red Cross

## Blood Drive

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
**Friday, December 11 @**
**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 next American Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, December 11.**
**Together, we'll save more lives!**

**There are blood drives scheduled at the Central PA Chamber of Commerce throughout the year, and you are welcome to join us for any or all of them as you're able to give.**

# Jessica's Jottings



## Put Your Brand On the Table in 2027

Every successful business in Central Pennsylvania shares one thing: strong relationships. In 2027, the Central PA Chamber of Commerce is offering three signature ways to build them—by sponsoring a Breakfast Briefing, a Legislative Event, or an Inside Jobs Tour. Each one puts your name in front of an engaged audience and shows the community that you are invested in the region's success.

**Breakfast Briefing: Start the Day in the Spotlight**
Breakfast Briefings gather business and community leaders for timely conversation on the issues shaping our regional economy. As a sponsor, you align your brand with the Chamber's trusted programming and the expert voices on stage.
• Visibility with leaders: Your company is recognized before an audience of owners, executives, and professionals who influence purchasing and partnership decisions.
• Thought-leadership positioning: Association with relevant, high-quality content signals that your organization is informed and engaged.
• Meaningful networking: A morning setting makes it easy to start conversations that lead to lasting business relationships.

**Legislative Event: A Seat Near the Policy Conversation**
Policy decisions made in Harrisburg and Washington affect every employer in our region. The Chamber's Legislative Events bring members face to face with elected officials and policymakers, and sponsors help make that access possible.
• Advocacy alignment: Show your commitment to a business climate that supports growth, jobs, and investment.
• Access to officials: Be recognized at an event where members and lawmakers engage directly on the issues that matter.
• Community credibility: Sponsorship demonstrates that your organization stands up for local business.

**Inside Jobs Tour: Showcase Careers, Build the Pipeline**
The Inside Jobs Tour opens the doors of local employers to students, educators, and community partners, giving them a firsthand look at the career opportunities available right here at home.
• Workforce development: Help introduce the next generation to local careers and strengthen your future talent pipeline.
• Employer brand: Highlight your company as a great place to work in front of educators, students, and families.
• Community impact: Investing in career awareness builds goodwill and supports the long-term health of our regional economy.

**Why Sponsor in 2027?**
Together, these three programs reach business leaders, policymakers, and emerging talents that matter most to a growing company. Sponsorship is more than a logo on a screen; it is a visible commitment to Central Pennsylvania and a direct path to the relationships that move your business forward.

Ready to get started? Contact Jessica Beaver at the Central PA Chamber of Commerce to learn about 2027 sponsorship levels and availability, and reserve your place before opportunities fill.

Jessica

Jessica Beaver
Finance & Membership Director
jbeaver@centralpachamber.com

CENTRAL PA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Did You Know?

## Sponsorships:

- The Central PA Chamber of Commerce offers a wide range of events throughout the year, attended by hundred of business & community leaders.
- Sponsorship opportunities provide a platform for Chamber members to address and be seen by event participants.
- There are sponsorships for every every budget.
- Why not use the platform of a Chamber event to promote your own business or organization?
- Contact Jessica Beaver for full details:
jbeaver@centralpachamber.com
570-742-7341




# Women in Business

WB

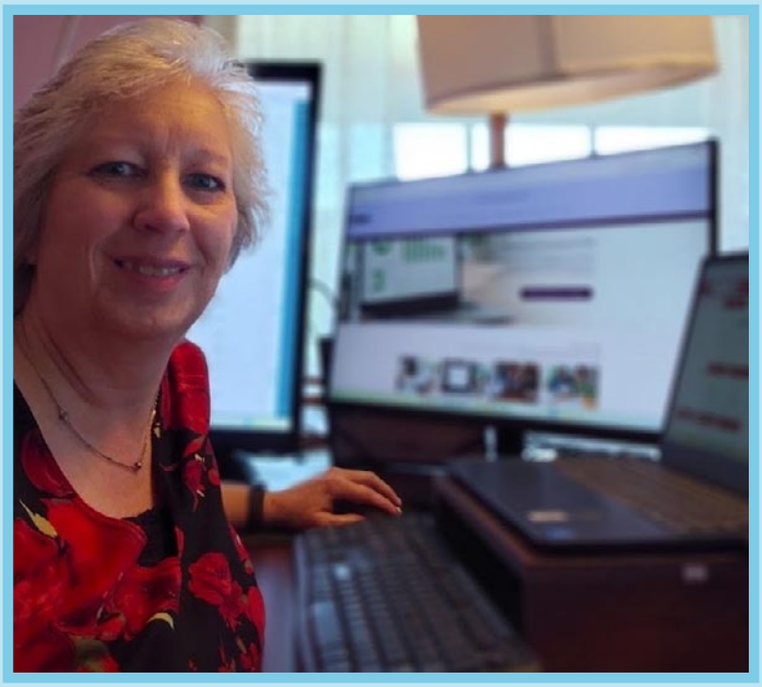
# 2026 Women MAKING A Difference

IN COLLABORATION WITH SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY

# Guest Column

## Are Your Accounting Records Slowing Down Your Tax Preparer?

*By Wendy E. Clements, CPA*



*Wendy E. Clements, CPA*
*Principal | Firm Foundations CPA LLC*

Every year, as tax deadlines approach, small business owners gather their financial records and pass them to their tax preparers, expecting a smooth filing process. However, many owners learn that disorganized books—whether kept on spreadsheets or in accounting software—can delay their tax returns and increase professional costs.

A tax preparer focuses on placing historical financial numbers onto state and federal forms. When a general ledger contains unlinked transactions, duplicate entries, or unreconciled bank accounts, tax professionals must spend extra time untangling the underlying records before filing.

Here are three common recordkeeping issues that create delays across any system:

1. **Unreconciled Bank and Credit Card Accounts:** Simply importing transactions into software or logging them on a spreadsheet is not enough. If bank accounts and credit cards are not reconciled against official statements through the last day of the fiscal year, income and expenses may be duplicated or missing entirely.

2. **Improper Expense Categorization:** Lumping business purchases into general accounts or misclassifying loan payments as standard expenses distorts financial statements. Tax preparers must trace these entries back to primary source documents before determining correct tax positions.

3. **Historical Equity Errors:** Owner contributions, draws, and opening balance accounts frequently hold errors from previous years. When these balances do not match prior-year tax filings, tax preparers cannot proceed until the equity structure is corrected.

**Closing the Gap Before Tax Season**
To avoid year-end filing delays, small business owners can take proactive steps to organize their records before peak tax season arrives. Establishing a clear chart of accounts, checking bank feeds monthly, and resolving historical discrepancies ensures that your financial system is structured correctly.

When financial records are kept organized and balanced year-round, your tax preparer can focus on what they do best: applying tax strategies and filing your returns on time.

FIRM FOUNDATIONS CPA LLC

**Wendy E. Clements, CPA** | Principal
www.firmfoundations.cpa

**Is Your Accounting System Tax-Ready?**

A Quick Check for Business Owners

**Bank & Credit Card Accounts**
All bank and credit card statements checked and reconciled through the end of the fiscal year.

**Expense & Asset Categorization**
Daily expenses and multi-year purchases sorted sorted to ensure clear, accurate records.

**Prior-Year Balances**
Retained earnings and equity accounts verified to match previous tax filings.

I focus entirely on accounting management to get your records tax-ready for your chosen tax preparer. I do not file income taxes or provide attest services.

Schedule a Free 15-Minute Consultation

# The President's Club By the #'s...

*As of publication time.

**2026** marks the **10th** anniversary of The President's Club.

The President's Club has grown from **28** members to today's **44** members.

President's Club members appear **1st** on the Chamber's Membership Directory and listed in every IYB!

# Join us at these upcoming events!

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, Nov. 10
In-Person @ the Central PA Chamber
30 Lawton Lane, Milton
**Members - $10; Non-members - $20**
*Register by Nov. 9 @ centralpachamber.com/events*

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

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

## INSIDE JOBS TOUR

**11 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**
**Wednesday, November 18**
**@ The Young Industries**
**16 Painter St.**
**Muncy, PA**

***FEATURING:***

THE YOUNG INDUSTRIES, INC.

**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 Nov. 11, 2026 @ www.centralpachamber.com/events.*

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## Breakfast Briefing

Off-site! Off-site!

7:30 to 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 20
@ Dwell Orphan Care
1157 Market St., Williamsport

**Free to Attend**
*Register by Nov. 13 @ centralpachamber.com/events*

Sponsored by: dwell ORPHAN CARE

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American Red Cross

## Blood Drive

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
**Friday, December 11 @**
**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"*

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