

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

Fifty years of volunteering

What does fifty years of volunteer service look like?

Nancy McClelland and Carol Stern have dedicated twenty-five years, each, to the Chamber Ambassador program. Nancy and Carol were recognized on January 9th at this year's Ambassador Orientation for their years of dedication and service as Ambassadors. Both Nancy and Carol are also graduates of the Leadership Blair County Adult Program.

Nancy shared that, "It has been my joy and privilege to be a Chamber Ambassador for 25 years. I loved meeting new business owners and encouraging others to go visit these new businesses. I am blessed with new friends."

Volunteering has a way of revealing what is important to those who volunteer. It is more than donating time; it is an act of connection and shared purpose. When someone chooses to volunteer, they step into a role that strengthens their community while also expanding their own sense of identity.

Carol noted that, "Being a Chamber Ambassador helped me both professionally and personally. Promoting the Chamber gave me an opportunity to connect and build relationships with new and existing business owners. It also grew my confidence in networking and helped me become more active in the community."

What makes volunteering powerful is the ripple effect. One person's willingness to help often inspires others. It also offers volunteers a chance to develop new skills, meet people from diverse backgrounds, and gain perspectives they might never encounter otherwise. Many discover that giving back enriches their own lives just as much as it supports others.

The Chamber Ambassador program accepts applications from those interested in participating during the month of December each year, followed by an Orientation for the new Ambassadors in January. Chamber Ambassadors have a crucial role in assisting the Chamber with Recruitment, Recognition and Retention of Chamber Members.

"There are many opportunities to volunteer within the Chamber, including the Ambassador program, and I encourage all those interested to participate. It is an extremely rewarding experience!" noted Sherri Stayer, Chair of the Chamber Ambassadors.

For more information about the Chamber's Ambassador program, contact Jessie Covert at jcovert@blairchamber.com.



Nancy McClelland and Carol Stern were recently recognized for their years of service as Chamber Ambassadors.



Booths selling fast, reserve yours now

For 54 years, the Blair County Chamber and Blair-Bedford Builders Association have partnered to present the Blair County Home, Garden & Healthy Living Showcase. Each year, a familiar lament is heard from businesses—we waited too long to reserve our booth and the show is sold out.

The annual showcase continues to attract thousands of visitors and potential customers from throughout the state. Many exhibitors comment that they receive almost more solid leads than they can handle. The exposure can't be beat. Attendees at the showcase are often motivated homeowners looking for ideas, inspiration, and direct access to suppliers for renovation, landscaping or healthy living options.

An additional vendor option that is popular with visitors is the independent sales with cash and carry items. Vendors offer products such as home decor, food, jewelry, giftware, and more. Many of these vendors have had great success which brings them back year after year.

The 2026 Showcase will be held February 27, 28, and March 1, at the Blair County Convention Center. To reserve your booth, go to: www.blairchamber.com/homeshow.

**Register for events online
blairchamber.com**

NON-PROFIT BEST PRACTICES

Smarter technology for stronger missions

Running a nonprofit or small business often means wearing many hats, and technology should be a solution, not a setback. Join the Chamber's Non-Profit Committee for Technology 101 – Tools to Power Your Mission, a Best Practices event designed to help professionals work smarter and more efficiently. The event will be held on Friday, February 13, from 8:15–10:00 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development.

The session will be led by Bill Sell of United Datacom Networks, Inc. (UDNI), who will share practical, easy-to-use technology tools and apps that can streamline operations, boost productivity, and support your organization's goals. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions and receive



guidance on troubleshooting common, everyday technology challenges.

Whether you are looking to improve efficiency, reduce frustration, or better leverage technology to support your mission, this Best Practices event offers valuable, actionable insights. Registration is required. Click [HERE](#).

2026 membership directory is coming soon, ad options available

The Blair County Chamber annual Membership Directory is a great marketing and recruitment tool, which makes it a top business-to-business resource.

The directory features a full-color, up-to-date editorial section featuring the benefits of living and working in Blair County as well as information on Chamber events and programs, and the benefits of Chamber membership. A complete listing of all Chamber members is one of the publication's most popular features.

The distribution of 2,000 copies makes the directory a valuable advertising option. Copies are distributed to

all Chamber members, visitors, relocation packets, professional executives, hotels, businesses, and more.

Now is the time to take advantage of the advertising options available in the 2026 publication. It's a great way to increase your exposure. For more information contact Jera Harter at Barash Media at 814-880-9601 or jharter@barashmedia.com.



Stay up-to-date on great progress in Blair County!

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Congratulations!

...to UPMC Magee-Womens at UPMC Altoona for achieving the highest distinction as a 2026 High Performing Hospital for Maternity Care from U.S. News & World Report.

...to Robert Pennington, broker/owner of Coldwell Banker Town & Country Real Estate, on becoming the first realtor in Blair County history to be awarded the Distinguished Career Award from the Allegheny Highland Association of Realtors.

In partnership with Epic Journeys

ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME

Antarctica

Feb. 3-14, 2027

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Feb. 5 • 11 a.m.

Devorris Center for Business Development



See you tomorrow!

The Casino at Lakemont Park

Jan. 27 • 5-7 p.m.

\$5 per person

[Register HERE](#)

