

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

A legacy of leadership and service

The concept of servant leadership was formally introduced in 1970 by Robert Greenleaf in his essay *The Servant as Leader*. Greenleaf proposed that the most effective leaders begin with a desire to serve others first. This philosophy has since influenced leadership programs around the world, including in Blair County, where the Chamber launched its Leadership Blair County adult program in 1994. From the start, the Chamber recognized that the program's success depended heavily on having the right facilitator to guide each class.



For the past 19 years, the Leadership Blair County adult program has been led by Maureen Dodson who has embraced her role as facilitator with dedication and vision. Unfortunately, even good things come to an end. Dodson, who will continue in this role through May, has announced her retirement as facilitator.

"I'm so grateful to have been the facilitator for LBC all these years, but it's time to pass the torch. I'm confident that new ideas and perspectives will make the program better than ever," Dodson said.

An overwhelming number of LBC graduates describe the program as impactful and even life-changing. As the program's facilitator, Dodson says the experience has been equally meaningful for her.

"It's amazing to see how each class begins the program as individuals and then quickly becomes a cohesive unit of servant leaders who make a meaningful difference in our community and beyond. I'm so proud of all of them!" Dodson said.

Adding to those who have been impacted by Dodson's leadership is Megan Rossman, the Chamber's program manager who oversees the LBC adult program.

"Maureen has been an extraordinary mentor. She has a rare gift for making everyone feel welcomed and valued, nurturing personal growth while fostering a strong, connected class. I've learned so much from her, and her impact has been immeasurable," Rossman said.

Donna Gority, an LBC Adult Advisory Group member who worked with the initial committee to develop the program, reflects on the impact of Dodson's leadership.

"When Chuck Kormanski announced that he was stepping away from being the facilitator for LBC after many years, the feeling was 'this is going to be a tough act to follow!' Maureen has done a magnificent job over the years and has now become the tough one to follow. Maureen has a wonderful manner of storytelling, sharing from her family life to demonstrate the lessons she is teaching," Gority said.

So, what's next for Dodson? With an impressive career in business, leadership and development, that has spanned the world stage, she is looking forward to having a moment to catch her breath and enjoy travel and time with family.

"I will always treasure LBC and I am indebted to Judy Juda, Megan Rossman, and the LBC Adult Committee, who do all of the 'heavy lifting'. They made my job easy and fun!," she said.



Make your reservations!

Time is running out to make your reservations for the Chamber's Gala & Annual Celebration, April 28, at the Blair County Convention Center. This special evening is dedicated to honoring the remarkable individuals and businesses whose leadership, innovation, and service make a lasting impact across Blair County. This is your chance to walk the red carpet with our stars, enjoy a champagne toast and a fabulous banquet, followed by live entertainment. It will be a night to remember. Make your [reservations](#) now!



Last chance to apply for LBCY class of 2027

Applications are being accepted for the Chamber's Leadership Blair County Youth program. This is an exciting program for motivated high school sophomores. If you know a student who is eager to make a difference, encourage them to apply. Applications for the 2026–2027 class are available [online](#) and are due April 24.

Presenters needed for Chamber/Rotary Career Fair

Every year the Blair County Chamber of Commerce along with all of the county's Rotary Clubs hosts the 10th Grade Career Fair for over 1,000 students. This year's event is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, at the Blair County Convention Center and we need your help to fill career field presenter spaces!

The following is a list of the Career Fields that we still need assistance with. If you can help us with becoming a presenter please complete the online form [here](#).

Broadcasting/Communication
Building Trades/Construction/Mason
Caregiver/Elder Care/Nurse Aide or Assistant
Diesel Mechanic
Dietician/Health Coach
Engineer – Industrial
Engineer – Mechanical
Environmental Science/Microbiologist
Event Planner
Financial Advisor/Banking
Heavy Equipment Operator
Journalist/Writer (Only Morning still needed)
Lawyer/Paralegal
Forensics
Logistics/Supply Chain Management/Warehouse



Military/AIR FORCE
Military/MARINES
Military/NATIONAL GUARD
Occupational Therapist/Assistant
Pharmacist/Pharmacy Tech
Physical Therapist/Assistant
Physician Assistant
Physician/Doctor
Politics/Government
Psychologist/Psychiatrist
Realtor/Realty Sales
Social Media Marketing
Sports Team Management
Teacher, Elementary
Travel/Tourism/Hospitality
Truck Driver/CDL
Veterinarian/Assistant

Chamber/Rotary Career Fair Event Details

- 2 Sessions – Morning is 9:00 am to 11:00 am & Afternoon is noon to 2:00 pm.
- An hour for a lunch provided to our presenters in between sessions
- Each session is divided into four 20-minute presentation sessions
- Students will pre-select four career fields that they are interested in and follow a schedule to meet with representatives from each of those career fields
- Each career field representative will have a small group of students (10 students on average) rotate to their table to listen and learn about the career field.

Leaders Unite: Blair County hosts Regional Leadership session

Blair County proudly hosted this year's Regional Leadership Session at the Sheetz Corporate Support Center in Claysburg. This annual event rotates among participating Chambers, bringing together leadership programs from Blair, Bedford, Cambria, and Somerset Counties for a day of learning, collaboration, and community connection.

Attendees had the opportunity to hear from local leaders who shared their expertise and highlighted the role of servant leadership in their organizations and the positive impact it has on the community. Sheetz representatives James Colino, Jen Blough, and Matt Riley spoke about the company's Culture, Brand, and Innovation, while Bill Ward, Jr. from Ward Transport and Logistics, and Michael Fiore and Greg Drew from Operation Our Town shared insights from their fields. The day's keynote speaker, Dano Burkhart, inspired participants with his perspective on leadership and community engagement.



In addition to the presentations, attendees engaged in table discussions on building collaborative communities, leading across county lines, and addressing regional workforce challenges. Participants also had the chance to showcase their Class Projects, sharing the tangible impact their programs are making locally.

The session offered valuable connections, ideas, and inspiration for leaders across the region. Blair County looks forward to continuing this tradition and collaborating with neighboring counties to strengthen leadership and community impact for years to come.

BREAKFAST CLUB

SAVE *the* DATE
May 21

Blair County Judges

Blair County Convention Center
7:45 a.m.

-2026 SERIES SPONSOR-
Altoona-Blair County Airport
& Contour Airlines

Register [HERE](#)