

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

Passing the leadership torch

Change can be challenging and intimidating, particularly when that change involves a transition of leadership. This is amplified when a new individual steps in to manage a highly successful program such as Leadership Blair County.

Nineteen years ago, Maureen Dodson accepted the position as facilitator of the Chamber's LBC Adult program. This additional role in her life aligned perfectly with a successful career focused on leadership development. Through her dedication and leadership, the LBC Adult program continued to thrive.

When Dodson announced her retirement this year as facilitator, discussions began on finding a successor, knowing that selecting the right person to fill that role would be paramount to its continued success. Throughout the process one name came up with a regularity that made it obvious of who that person should be—Megan Rossman.

"While I am sad that Maureen is stepping down as our facilitator for the Leadership Blair County adult program, I am very excited that Megan Rossman has been asked to step up into that role! Megan is very organized and has been working with us for the past two years getting familiar with the program. I am certain that the program advisory group will give her their full support," said Donna Gority, LBC Advisory Group member.

Rossman has served as the Chamber's Program Manager for three years, managing the Young Professionals, WE-LEaD, Non-Profit, LBC Adult, and Sustainability programs. While continuing this role, she now adds LBC Adult facilitator to her duties, resolved to honor the program's legacy while building trust to guide its future.

"Both Maureen and the Advisory Group have reminded me that I don't need to be Maureen. I have my own experiences, perspectives, and stories to share, and those will help me connect with participants in my own way. That advice has given me a lot of confidence as I step into this role," Rossman said.

Dodson has worked closely with Rossman to ensure a smooth transition, creating a detailed plan that clearly outlines goals for the incoming class.

"Having worked on the program management side of LBC I've had the opportunity to see the program from a unique perspective. I've worked closely with the Advisory Group, facilitator, and participants, so I have a strong understanding of what makes the program successful and the impact it has on people," Rossman said.

Rossman looks forward to the start of the new class year with excitement.

"Following someone like Maureen certainly comes with big shoes to fill, and that can feel daunting at times. But having her support, along with the support of the LBC Advisory Group, gives me confidence. The trust they've placed in me to carry this program forward means a great deal," she said.

Commenting on her personal goals for the incoming class, Rossman added, "I would love to see participants discover causes that resonate with them and feel inspired to become servant leaders in our community. Perhaps most importantly, I want the experience to foster a sense of pride in the place they live and work and help them recognize the many incredible things happening throughout Blair County."



Megan Rossman



Announcing PA Trout Tank- OBA PA's Inaugural Grant Program

You've heard of Shark Tank. Now meet Pennsylvania Trout Tank, the kinder, friendlier version of a grant program and pitch session recently announced by the Outdoor Business Alliance of Pennsylvania. Instead of getting torn apart by blood thirsty sharks, businesses can swim away happily with grants of \$500 to \$2,500 to support their growth.

During this inaugural round of grants, OBA PA is making \$45,000 available across Pennsylvania to help outdoor businesses grow. Need better signage? Enhanced marketing? New equipment? Expanded inventory? A new website? PA Trout Tank might be for you. You tell us what your business needs to succeed.

Not sure if you qualify as an "outdoor business?" You just might! Check out the eligibility requirements in the guidelines.

Applications are open now through August 7 at 5 p.m.

For more information and to apply, visit [OBA's Grant Opportunities landing page](#). For questions, email capital@obapa.org.

Young Professionals partnering with United Way to Stuff the Bus

By Marcus Edwards, Young Professionals Committee

The Blair County Chamber Young Professionals are proud to partner with the United Way of the Southern Alleghenies on the Stuff the Bus program. This annual initiative collects school supplies for local students in need, ensuring they start the school year equipped with the necessary supplies to excel. Every donated notebook, pencil, and backpack helps ease financial burdens for families and empowers children to succeed in the classroom. This partnership not only benefits students - it also fosters a spirit of community service among young professionals in our community.

The Blair County Chamber is serving as a donation site for the school supplies with a United Way labeled box in



the lobby of the Devorris Center for Business Development located at 3900 Industrial Park Drive, Altoona.

Feel free to stop by between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., until August 7th, to drop-off school supplies for this wonderful program run by the United Way of Southern Alleghenies. Together, we're helping to fuel futures.

Chamber's Young Entrepreneurs Academy recruiting class of 2027

The Blair County Chamber's Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is a groundbreaking and exciting program that transforms local students in grades 6 - 12 into confident entrepreneurs. As part of a national initiative, YEA! offers an experience-based curriculum that includes guided sessions with guest speakers, instructors, field trips, and mentorship from professionals within the business community. Classes meet weekly during the school day.

"The Young Entrepreneurs Academy empowers students to launch real businesses by teaching essential skills like innovation, financial literacy, marketing, and business planning, while connecting them with mentors and business leaders," said Carol Gensimore, chair of the YEA! Steering Committee.

The application process is easy. Click



here for an online application which is on the Chamber's website at www.blairchamber.com.

"Whether your interest is in construction, banking, insurance, finance, technology repair, or welding, the Young Entrepreneurs program will teach you how to price your work, market your services and pitch to investors," Gensimore added.

BREAKFAST CLUB



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PREVIEW

AUGUST 13

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Congratulations

...to [The Giant Company](#), known locally as Martin's, in partnership with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, presented a total of \$100,000 as part of its 2026 Healing the Planet grant program. Since 2021, Giant has partnered with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful to offer more than \$1.4 million in Healing the Planet grants.

...to [East Freedom Surgical Associates](#) which has achieved accreditation from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, a nationally recognized organization dedicated to advancing excellence in outpatient health care.

...to the [Spring Cove School District](#) boys' and girls' varsity basketball teams, who raised more than \$5,000 to benefit Cove Cause for Cancer, the Tana Byler Memorial Foundation, and the Monte Smith Memorial Foundation.

...to [First National Bank](#), the largest subsidiary of F.N.B. Corporation, which was named one of America's Greatest Workplaces for 2026 by Newsweek.

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blairchamber.com



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Blair County Chamber of Commerce