

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

Celebrating Twenty Years of leadership, education and development

By Laura Green, Chair, WE-LEaD Committee

This year, WE-LEaD celebrates 20 years of connecting, empowering, and inspiring women throughout Blair County. What began as a vision shared by a group of community leaders has grown into a committee that has helped hundreds of women build careers, gain confidence, expand their networks, and form lasting friendships.

As one of WE-LEaD's founders, Andrea Cohen reflects on the committee's lasting impact. While educational programs and events have provided valuable growth opportunities, she is especially proud of the relationships and friendships that have grown through WE-LEaD over the past two decades. She has watched women support one another, step into leadership roles, and create meaningful personal and professional connections that continue to strengthen our community.

For fellow founding member Becky Stevens, WE-LEaD's impact became very personal. After a WE-LEaD feature appeared in the Blair Business Journal, a congratulatory note from someone she had only heard about through mutual friends sparked a conversation that eventually led to marriage. This year, they celebrate 13 years together.

As WE-LEaD honors its milestone anniversary, the committee is also investing in the future by establishing a scholarship through the Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation. The scholarship will support future generations of women leaders and continue WE-LEaD's mission of creating opportunities for women to learn, grow, and succeed.

Everyone is invited to celebrate on September 17 at 5:00 p.m. at the Blairmont Club. There is no membership requirement to participate in WE-LEaD. Guests are encouraged to wear business casual attire and enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres while celebrating 20 years of connection, leadership, opportunity, and community together. Click [HERE](#) to register!



Heading to Happy Valley



Sherri Stayer of the Lung Disease Foundation of Central PA, pictured on the right, was the lucky recipient of a two-ticket giveaway to the Penn State football season opener against Marshall on September 5. The giveaway was one of the highlights at the recent Chamber Breakfast Club program featuring a Nittany Lion Preview. Presenting the prize package is Carolyn Donaldson, left, of [Kish Bank](#), which was the Breakfast Club speaker and ticket giveaway sponsor.

Congratulations

...to Chamber members [Sheetz, Inc.](#), [Leonard S. Fiore, Inc.](#), [S&T Bank](#), and [Giant Company](#) upon receiving the 2026 Greatest Places to Intern in PA award from the Pennsylvania Chamber Foundation. The award recognizes organizations across the Commonwealth that provide exceptional internship experiences.

Stay connected.



Blair County Chamber of Commerce

Welcome New Chamber Members



The Blair County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to welcome its newest members. Pictured, seated, from left: Samuel Haines, Individual Member; Robert Latoche, Individual Member; Councilman Craig Curfman, **Roaring Spring Borough**; Rob and Tammy Harmon, **Tam's Treasures**; standing, from left: Megan Rossman, Blair County Chamber of Commerce; Valerie Straub, Mike Romeo and Trevor Johnson, **SAC Energy**; Melanie Gresko and Yvonne Lender, **Adelphoi Foster Care & Adoption Services**.

Building a board that elevates your non-profit mission

Strong boards are the foundation of successful nonprofit organizations. Join the Blair County Chamber's Non-Profit Committee on Friday, September 18, from 8:15–10:00 a.m. at the Devorris Center for Business Development for Board Leadership Unlocked: A Panel Discussion.

This Best Practices Event, sponsored by **Contact Altoona**, will feature a panel of experienced nonprofit leaders sharing practical strategies for recruiting, developing, and engaging board members to maximize mission impact. Recognizing that every organization faces unique opportunities and challenges, the program will also include an interactive discussion where attendees are encouraged to ask questions, exchange ideas, and learn from one another's experiences. This collaborative format



provides valuable peer-to-peer learning and real-world solutions that participants can take back to their own organizations.

Whether you're looking to strengthen an existing board or build one from the ground up, this session offers practical tools, fresh perspectives, and meaningful networking opportunities.

Cost to attend is \$15 for Chamber Members and \$20 for non-members. Register today by clicking [HERE](#).

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BUSINESS EXCELLENCE DINNER
SEPTEMBER 22
Register HERE

YEA! Academy accepting applications

The Chamber's Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is more than a business program. It's a hands-on experience that helps students in grades 6 through 12 develop leadership skills and build lasting connections in a supportive environment. Throughout the 25-week program students transform their talents, passions, and ideas into actual businesses. Students can [apply online](#) for the YEA! class of 2027. For more information email Tami Chadick at YEAblairCounty@gmail.com.