Board of Directors Attend Retreat, Hold Election of Officers

The LaGrange County Chamber Board of Directors held their Annual Retreat at the Highfield Manor Bed & Breakfast in LaGrange. The day began with the regular bi-weekly meeting with an ice breaker so that newly elected directors, Ben Stuckey, Keith James and Sabrina Penick could get to know the other board members. During the meeting an election of officers was held. Re-elected as President of the board was Jody Holsinger, Mike Thomas Associates. Elected Vice President of the board was Sandy Sturtz Ringler, Heartland Insurance Partners. Re-elected Treasurer was Kerry Sprunger, Farmers State Bank, board of directors and Re-elected as Secretary was Ervin Miller*, E&S Wood Creations.

After the regular meeting the board and staff enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Christine Lehman, proprietor of Highfield Manor Bed & Breakfast. After the meal the retreat continued with work being done on a strategic plan. Facilitating the strategic plan was Sara Patrick a previous employee of the Chamber. After much discussion the board decided to meet another day and “tweek” the plan.

Before adjourning the retreat the board split into teams to play Jeopardy. Beth Sherman, director of the Chamber came up with a game board that would help familiarize the board with events, people, names of businesses and other information. The board learned some new facts and everyone had a great time.

The LaGrange County Chamber board meets bi-monthly at the Chamber office unless otherwise noted and are open to Chamber Members.

*Ervin Miller was unavailable for pictures.

March Luncheon to be held at Topeka Pizza

Sponsored by Trading Post Outfitters

The monthly luncheon of the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce, sponsored by Trading Post Outfitters will take place on March 12th at Topeka Pizza.

The Center of Hospice Care will be giving the presentation on Hospice 101. Hospice 101 is really a general presentation. What is Hospice? Is it only used at the end of life? How much does it cost? Who is eligible? What is the process? Find out the answers to these questions and many more.

Topeka Pizza, located at 118 S. Babcock Street in Topeka, guests will enjoy the delicious salad bar, pizza buffet and drinks.

For reservations, phone the Chamber at 260-463-2443 or email info@lagrangechamber.org.

Cost of the luncheon is $12.00 for members and their guests, $17.00 for non-members.

Reservation deadline is March 9th.
Chamber Directors & Staff

Jody Holsinger
Mike Thomas Realtors

Kerry Sprunger
Farmers State Bank

Ervin Miller
E&S Wood Creations

Andy Linder
Trading Post Outfitters

Sandy Sturtz Ringler
Heartland Insurance Partners

Jennifer Hartke
Serenity Salon

Mike Patka
Grogg-Martin Auctioneering

Dan Byler
LaGwana

Sabrina Penick
Horizon Bank

Ben Stucky
LaGrange First Church of God

Keith James
Indigo Web Services

Staff:

Beth Sherman
Executive Director
director@lagrangechamber.org

Karen Kistner
Executive Assistant
info@lagrangechamber.org

March
EVENTS

The Guess Who
March 6th
Blue Gate Performing Arts Center
Shipshewana, IN

Mutts Gone Nuts
March 13th
Blue Gate Performing Arts Center-
Shipshewana, IN

Paul Conrad
March 19th
The Garage Community Center
LaGrange, Indiana

Bellamy Brothers
March 27th
Blue Gate Performing Arts Center
Shipshewana, Indiana

Maple Syrup Days
March 21st & 22nd
Maple Wood Nature Center
LaGrange, Indiana

Standardbred Horse Sale
March 28th
Shipshewana Auction
Shipshewana, IN

Postmodern Jukebox
March 28th
Blue Gate Performing Arts Center
Shipshewana, IN

Renewing Members

Dutchman Log Furniture
Reason 4 Hope, Inc.
Farm Credit Mid-America
The Barn Door
D & S Builders
NIPSCO
Ole Tin Rooster
Twin Mills Resort
Woodbury Financial Group
Blue Gate Restaurant
E & S Wood Creations
Heartland Mattress
LaGrange Publishing Co
Lake City Bank - Shipshewana
United Way of Elkhart and
LaGrange Counties
Woodside Diner, LLC
Foltz Bakery
Shipshes Casuals
Our Front Porch
Back Home Again
Options
Shipshes Casuals
Apple Creek Alley
Shipshes General Store
Scott Custom Routing
Stutzman Power Equipment
Tire Star of Wolcottville
Super Fight Motel/Howe
S&H Metals
Lund International
Hite Uniform
Lakeland School Corporation
Yoder Farm Service
Lake Area Designs

Thank you!

"You will get
all you want in life,
if you help
enough other people
get what they want"

Zig Ziglar
New Members

Brighton Chapel Brethren Church
5415 N. SR 3
Howe, Indiana 46746
(734) 266-0887
Brightonchapel.com

Avail Portable Toilets
7670 W 200 S
Topeka, Indiana 46571
(260) 350-0851
availportabletoilets@gmail.com

Bona Vita Architecture
110 W Main St
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
(260) 471-9449
www.bonavitaarchitecture.com

Welcome to the Chamber

Karen Kistner Named Chamber’s Executive Assistant

Karen Kistner was recently hired as the Executive Assistant at the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce. Originally from Fort Wayne, Kistner moved to LaGrange permanently eighteen months ago. LaGrange has always been a part of her life as she grew up on the local lakes. Karen is married and has a daughter. In her spare time she enjoys fitness and water sports as well as spending time with family, friends. Business and helping others has always been an interest of Karen’s and she is glad to be apart of the Chamber and looks forward to meeting everyone.

Business Spotlights

The Chamber staff paid a visit to LaGrange’s Carney Decorating Center, Floral & Gifts this past week to find out what changes have been made since the passing of Estelle Carney. We found that not only does Carney’s still carry furniture, flooring, is still a full service floral shop with adorable gifts and but now is also a Ladies Boutique. The boutique offers, dresses, tops, coats, shoes, jewelry, etc.

Carney Decorating Center, Floral & Gifts is now managed by Reneé Betcke and Jeff DuZan. Stop in, say hello and check it out all the beautiful items they have to offer.

Carney Decorating Center, Floral & Gifts is located at 201 N Detroit St. Downtown LaGrange. Phone them at 260-463-2539.

Glen Oaks Community College

16 Associate Degrees/18 Certificate Degrees
On-Campus Housing
Online/Evening Programs
Open-Entry/Open-Exit Program
Dual Enrollment/Early Middle College/CTE

Glen Oaks Community College is a quality provider of education programs serving the needs of residents and businesses of St. Joseph County and beyond. The College, established in 1965, sits on 320 acres of land in rural Centreville, Michigan. GOCC offers 16 associate degree programs and 18 certificate programs. The student-to-faculty ratio of 20:1 affords students personal attention and provides opportunities for them to accomplish their goals and grow and succeed in a supportive, ethical and academic environment.

Noble County Disposal
Residential & Commercial
3, 4, & 6 yard
Clean Up Containers
Electronic & Fluorescent
Drop off location

www.NCDisposal.com
800-292-9098
More Value in the Long Run

Your Dollars Go Further with PHP

As the only not-for-profit health insurance company in Northern Indiana, PHP knows Indiana’s business environment. Our 1,500+ business clients include various industries such as restaurants, law firms, family businesses, and construction companies; large to small—across the state. We understand local economics and can work in partnership with you to bring value to your bottom line. And, through the PHP Foundation, we invest any profit back into the communities we serve.

More value in the long run—consider PHP. Learn more at phpni.com/considerPHP
Sarah Youngs Named New Community Relations & Engagement Liaison

Center for Hospice Care is proud to announce Sarah Youngs as the organization’s Community Relations & Engagement Liaison. Sarah will be responsible for developing, cultivating and enhancing relationships within area community organizations, with an emphasis on veteran organizations, chambers of commerce and faith community outreach.

Sarah joins Center for Hospice Care’s Marketing Department by transition from the Admission Department where she served previously for more than 6 years between 2011-2017. It was then that Sarah gained knowledge and extensive experience of educating the public regarding Center for Hospice Care’s mission, values and services provided.

Sarah also comes to Center for Hospice Care’s Marketing Department with 10+ years marketing and operations experience. Sarah has previously operated and/or marketed a start-up home health agency 2007-2011, adult day care 2017-2019 and assisted living 2019. While at each company, Sarah was instrumental in their growth by increasing referrals, community outreach and awareness as well as overall success of the companies. Sarah studied Language Arts at Purdue University North Central in Westville, Indiana.

Congratulations to the LaGrange County Community Foundation!

Read the announcement from LCCF:

WE DID IT!

National Standards Accreditation Affirms Our Commitment to Excellence

We’ve always worked hard to do good, right here in LaGrange County. And we’ll continue to work with you to achieve your charitable goals. National Standards ensures that we have policies in place for financial stability and longevity, affirming our continued commitment to our donors, grantees, and community.

In short: We are a proven place to give.

This is a significant accomplishment. When people trust LaGrange County Community Foundation with a charitable bequest, to establish a fund, or set up an annuity, they do it knowing that we have met rigorous standards for donor services, investment management, grantmaking and administration. ~ Octavia Yoder, Executive Director

To read more Visit: https://www.lccf.net/blog/we-did-it/
Ambassadors Welcome Bender Automotive To Chamber

The LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors welcomed Bender Automotive recently to the Chamber.

Ryan Bender shared with the Ambassadors that he has had many years experience as a mechanic at other repair shops and had always wanted to own his own business. The opportunity arose to purchase Wickey’s Garage last fall. He and his wife, Mary Ellen are now the owners of Bender Automotive.

Bender Automotive is located at 1960 S 600 W, Topeka. Bender Automotive is a full service repair shop that can meet all of your automotive needs. They are open Monday through Friday 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. To schedule an appointment or for more information phone them at 260 593 2471

Pictured front row left to right: Deb Sills, Miller’s Merry Manor; John Mory, J.O. Mory; Kerry Sprunger, Farmers State Bank; Jordan Younce, Farmers State Bank; Beth Sherman, LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce; Mark Thompson, Farmers State Bank; Ryan Bender, Bender Automotive; Mike Patka, Gregg Martin Auctioneers & Real Estate; Mary Ellen Bender, Bender Automotive; Amber Titus, TrineOnline; Sabrina Penick, Horizon Bank; Mareen Barton, Lake City Bank; Joy Sharp, Lewis & Lambright and Keith James, Indigo Web Services.

Shetler Roofing & Construction Joins Chamber Membership

Shetler Roofing & Construction was recently welcomed to the Chamber Membership by the Chamber staff. With over 25 years in the business, their professional staff specializes in commercial roofing and are ready to provide you an excellent job without breaking the bank.

Shetler Roofing & Construction uses only the top of the line precision techniques that set them apart from their competitors. Their innovative, energy-saving roofing systems perform and protect your building from the rugged elements.

Striving for excellence & great customer service, Shetlers dedicate themselves to serving the community and surrounding two hour radius area. Roofing restoration projects the construction crew have completed include the: LaGrange County Jail, LaGrange County Annex Building, Council of Aging, Howe Post Office, Cruiser RV, Elkhart Courthouse, Portage Police Department and the City of Sturgis Building.

Shetler’s Precise Roofing Systems have a unique formula that makes it the ideal choice for both new commercial roof and restoration applications.

Contact Shetler Roofing & Construction for a FREE commercial quote at 260-336-0735.

Quotes from satisfied customers include:

*James Shetler and Shetler Construction are professional, knowledgeable and dedicated. James Shetler and Shetler Construction employees take pride in their work and the finished product.*

Jeffrey Campos, LaGrange County Sheriff

*Shetler Construction put a new roof on one of buildings that was damaged by a storm. The quality of work was great and the cleanup after the work was good. I would recommend them to anyone.*

Jeffrey Brill, LaGrange County Highway Department

*Shetler Construction made the entire process painless and easy to deal with. Your attention to detail and making sure every aspect of the job was completed to my satisfaction in a timely fashion was greatly appreciated.*

Max Weber, Noble Properties, Inc.
LaGrange County Chamber to Host Meet & Greet for U.S. Congressman Jim Banks

The LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce will host a Meet & Greet for U.S. Congressman Jim Banks on March 19th from 4:00 to 5:00 pm at Romer’s Restaurant and Spirits.

Jim Banks is a native Hoosier, born and raised in Columbia City. He earned an undergraduate degree from Indiana University and a Master of Business Administration from Grace College. While serving in the Indiana State Senate from 2010 to 2016, he chaired the Senate Veteran Affairs and the Military Committee where he led the charge on many significant pro-growth, pro-family, and pro-veteran reforms.

In addition to his service in the State Senate, Congressman Banks is also a past president of the Columbia City Rotary Club, former chairman of the Whitley County Republican Party, and has served on the Whitley County Council and Northeast Indiana Workforce Development Board.

Congressman Banks currently serves in the U.S. Navy Reserve as a Supply Corps officer. In 2014 and 2015, he took a leave of absence from the Indiana State Senate to deploy to Afghanistan during Operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom’s Sentinel. Due to a unique state law regarding leaves of absence, his wife, Amanda, was elected to serve in his place during the deployment. Banks is often told she made a better State Senator than he did.

On January 3, 2017, Banks was elected to represent Indiana’s Third Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Reelected to his second term in 2018, Banks serves on the House Armed Services Committee as well as the House Committees on Education and Labor, and Veterans’ Affairs. Additionally, he chairs the Republican Study Committee’s Budget & Spending Task Force, co-chairs the House Armed Services Committee’s Future of Defense Task Force and sits on the Naval Academy’s Board of Visitors.

Amid Congressman Banks’ work as a public servant, he has been recognized for outstanding service and leadership. In 2018 and 2019, Congressman Banks received the Family Research Council’s “True Blue” award for his 100% pro-life, pro-family voting record. He has also received NFIB’s “Guardian of Small Business” award and the FreedomFighter Award from FreedomWorks in recognition of his dedication to economic freedom and personal liberty.

Congressman Banks, alongside his wife Amanda, are the parents to three daughters, Lillian, Elizabeth, and Joann. They are honored to call northeast Indiana home.
Paul Conrad’s “Crossing Generation Gaps”
Understanding the Different Generations in the Workplace

By request, the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce is bringing back Paul Conrad’s “Crossing Generational Gaps” seminar. The Garage Community Center located at 111 W Lafayette Street in LaGrange on March 19th beginning 1:30 p.m.

Paul Conrad graduated from Central Michigan University in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree with dual Majors in History and Political Science. Paul completed the Teacher Certification Program at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids Michigan in 1993 with a Secondary Education Major; he has held teaching licenses in Michigan and Indiana.

Join us for this EYE-OPENING informative presentation as you will learn how to work side by side with older or younger (whatever the case may be) co-workers!

This Seminar is FREE for LaGrange County Chamber members! Non-members cost is $25.00.

Please phone 260-463-2443 or by email at info@lagrangechamber.org

Reservations are a must as space is limited!

MARCH 19TH ~ 1:30 p.m
The Garage Community Center

Are you an Active Member of the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce?

Members & Non-Members receive this newsletter.

Current Resident of

LaGrange, IN 46761
901 S. Depot St.
LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce