Area Chambers Announce Local Leaders To Be Featured At Leadercast Women

Chamber offers scholarships to attend event

The DeKalb Chamber Partnership is partnering with LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce, Kendallville Area Chamber of Commerce, and Angola Area Chamber of Commerce to bring a one-day leadership conference to Northeast Indiana.

Thanks to the LaGrange County Chamber endowment fund at the LaGrange County Community Foundation, the Chamber is able to offer ten scholarships which will pay for the fee to those wishing to attend Leadercast Women.

The day will feature an all-female cast of speakers including names such as Glennon Doyle, Laura Ling, and Susan Packard. In addition to these world-renowned names, Leadercast Women will also feature the Country Heritage Winery Local Leaders Panel with women leaders from each of the participating communities.

Tanya Young, Executive Director of the Community Foundation DeKalb County, will represent DeKalb County.

Rose Fritzinger, the director of Parkview LaGrange Foundation will represent LaGrange County.

Amy Ballard, a Regional Manager for 3Rivers Federal Credit Union will represent Kendallville.

Jodi Porter, Owner of In Balance Accounting, will represent Angola.

Leadercast Women will provide attendees with a transformative leadership experience. Leaders from all walks of life attend this on Friday, December 6 from 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum to hone their leadership skills and styles.

Continued on page 6
Chamber Directors & Staff

Jody Holsinger  
Mike T. Thomas Realtors

Jordi Disler  
Parkview LaGrange Hospital

Kerry Sprunger  
Farmers State Bank

Ervin Miller  
E & S Wood Creations

Andy Linder  
Trading Post Outfitters

Anu Sahni  
All That Jazz

Sandy Sturtz Ringler  
Heartland Insurance Partners

Jennifer Harker  
Serenity Salon

Sheldon Shrock  
Edward Jones - Shipshewana

Mike Patka  
Grogg-Martin Auctioneering

Dan Byler  
LaGwana

Staff:

Beth Sherman  
Executive Director
director@lagrangechamber.org

Melissa Pettit  
Administrative Assistant
info@lagrangechamber.org

Renewing Members

JoJo’s Pretzels  
Cinnamon Stick
Sarah Davis Ltd  
Kitchen Cupboard
Village Boutique  
Wellspring Components
Wolheter Farms  
Ludder’s Cleaners
Legacy Chiropractic  
FBI Farms
Fry, Trowbridge & Associates  
Horner Roofing
Lakeland Title  
Brandenberry Furniture
Topeka Save-A-Lot  
D-Bar-D Trucking
Spreuer & Son, Inc  
Community Harvest Food Bank
B & L Woodcrafts  
All That Jazz
Jacob’s Advertising  
Ben’s Soft Pretzels
The Carriage House  
LaGrange Communities Youth Centers
Finish Works  
LaGrange Co. 4-H Fair Assoc.
Kappa Kappa Kappa

Thank you!

Lights of Joy  
November 8th  
Shipshewana Auction  
Shipshewana, Indiana

Shipshewana-Light Parade  
November 9th  
Streets throughout Shipshewana  
Shipshewana, IN

Texas Tenors  
November 15th  
Shipshewana Event Center  
Shipshewana, Indiana

Chocolate Day  
November 16th  
Begin at Davis Mercantile  
Shipshewana, IN

Day After Thanksgiving Horse Auction  
November 29th  
Shipshewana Auction  
Shipshewana, IN

Christmas with the Nelsons  
November 30th  
Shipshewana Event Center  
Shipshewana, IN

The Chamber News is a member publication and is distributed free of charge to businesses in LaGrange County and surrounding areas. Advertising in the Chamber News is available only to Chamber members who invest in the business community by supporting the Chamber.
New Members

Thirty-One Consultant
Janet Byers
260-336-0038
janet_byers@yahoo.com
www.mythirtyone.com/jbyers

LaGrange County Trails, Inc.
Jeff Wingstrom
P.O. Box 313
LaGrange, IN 46761
www.lagrangecountytrails.org/

Welcome to the Chamber

After 14 years of attracting groups to LaGrange County, JoDee Hooley will be retiring from the CVB. Her knowledge and passion for county tourism will be greatly missed.

16 Associate Degrees/18 Certificate Degrees
On-Campus Housing
Online/Evening Programs
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.

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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
LaGrange County Public School Districts’ Losses from Vouchers, 2017-2018

Prairie Heights - $195,936.88
Lakeland - $305,051.44
Westview - $307,544.65

Want to know why?

Follow the money: Why public education funding is not keeping pace

Presented by Dr. Phil Downs
Indiana Superintendent of the Year

Monday, November 18th, 7 PM
Lakeland Jr/Sr High School

Dr. Phil Downs, Superintendent of Southwest Allen County Schools and Indiana Superintendent of the Year, will speak on the topic of public education funding in Indiana on November 18th starting at 7 PM at Lakeland Jr/Sr High School. His presentation, "Follow the money: An analysis of why public education is not keeping pace," will address how much state spending has increased while the funding of public schools is behind inflation, how vouchers have drawn over $150 million annually from public schools to private schools, where voucher money ends up, and how there is no public accountability for how those dollars are spent.

The 10th Annual Power of the Purse & Wallet is almost here. The fundraising event benefits the Boomerang Backpack and Blessings in a Backpack programs. This year’s event will take place on November 6th at the Shipshewana Event Center.

New to the event this year are the Pop-up Shops. Guests will able to sip their favorite beverage and shop before the dinner, fashion show and auction begin.

The event would not be possible without our generous event sponsors, NIPSCO, Lakeland Title, Precision Financial Group, Miller’s Merry Manor, Lakeside Occasions, Grogg-Martin Auctioneers & Realty, and the Blue Gate Restaurant, Theatre, Inn & Shops. A huge bonus is that the LaGrange County Community Foundation will match the first $12,000.00 raised!

The proceeds from the event will feed county school aged children who need food over the weekends and during the holiday breaks. The money is distributed evenly over LaGrange county's three school districts to benefit their respective backpack programs.

This year’s model line up as of this publication are: Eva Merkel, Randy Miller, Kyle Phillip, Janell Dickerson, Danielle Hill, Lydia Wolheter, Natalie Glick and Krystle King. Participating retailers are: You-nique Boutique, Sarah Davis, The Cinnamon Stick, Topeka Pharmacy, Carliloha, The Craftsman’s Daughter, Options, Our Front Porch, Shipshe Casuals and Head Over Heels.

To purchase tickets, sponsor the event, donate a purse or wallet, phone the Chamber at 260-463-2443 or email us at info@lagrangechamber.org. Only a couple tables are available at this time!

Help us assure that “No Tummy Goes Hungry”

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LaGrange County
Community Foundation

The gateway to investment in our community’s future—
together we inspire and sustain
• generosity,
• leadership
• service
in our community
Ribbon Cutting Held at LaGrange County Habitat for Humanity

The LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the Grand Opening of the LaGrange County Habitat for Humanity.

John Sisson, Executive Director of the organization tells us that people have been very generous in donating items to Habitat. You will find everything from furniture, windows, appliances, etc.

The LaGrange County Habitat for Humanity Warehouse Resale Store is open every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Check out what they have to offer at 205 East Wayne Street in LaGrange. Call them at (260) 463-8519. They are also looking for volunteers to man the store.

Pictured above are Habitat for Humanity board of directors and volunteers cutting the ribbon celebrating the opening of the Habitat resale store.

Attendees will take home wisdom and tools they can apply immediately.

They will be emboldened to take courage in their daily lives, whether it be in the workplace or at home. Nine expert leaders will share their inspirational stories of courage while also teaching us steps to enable change in our lives. Attendees will walk away with the courage to make a difference in their lives, the boldness to take control of their careers and the confidence to lead themselves and others to better futures.

Tickets are available now, You can purchase tickets at www.lcwnei.com. Members of the four participating chambers should contact their chamber representative for ticket discount information. Call 260-463-2443 for more information or to sign up for a scholarship.
Why Join Your Local Chamber of Commerce

Some business owners might say their schedule is demanding enough at the moment, and the thought of adding one more activity to their busy calendar is unbearable.

So why should they try to cram time into their already hectic schedules to join and actively participate in their local chamber of commerce?

Because membership in the local chamber offers numerous benefits and keeps business owners on top of important, ever-changing issues and trends within their community and local marketplace.

Not only that, but research points out that consumers are more likely to do business with a company if it’s a member of their local chamber of commerce.

According a research study by The Shapiro Group, Inc. and Market Street Services, when consumers know that a small business is a member of their local chamber of commerce, they are 44 percent more likely to think favorably of it and 63 percent more likely to purchase goods or services from the company in the future.

If you still don’t think you have time to join and participate in your local chamber of commerce, consider the following:

Most consumers (59 percent) think that being active in the local chamber of commerce is an effective business strategy overall. It’s 29 percent more effective, however, for communicating to consumers that a company uses good business practices and 26 percent more effective for communicating that a business is reputable.

If a company shows that it’s highly involved in its local chamber (e.g., sits on the chamber board), consumers are 12 percent more likely to think that its products stack up better against its competition.

When a consumer thinks that a company’s products stack up better against the competition because the company is highly involved in its local chamber of commerce, it is because he or she infers that the company is trustworthy, involved in the community and is an industry leader.

Article by Betsy Demitropoulos as published in the American Business Magazine

Are you convinced yet that you should join your local chamber if you aren’t a member already?

If not, read this top 10 list of reasons why you should join the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce.

#1 People do business with people they know!
#2 Web Based Marketing of Your Products or Services
#3 Sponsorships & Promotion Opportunities
#4 Training & Personal Development
#5 Advocacy
#6 Sense of Community
#7 Save Money
#8 Networking & Sharing
#9 Business is more Trustworthy
#10 Business Presence Out of sight, out of mind!

Ready for more information to find out how to become the newest Member of the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce?

For more information or explanation of how your business can benefit from being an active member of the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce, give Beth Sherman, Executive Director a call at 260-463-2443 or email her at director@lagrangechamber.org.
Lieutenant Governor of Indiana, Suzanne Crouch to Speak at Chamber’s Annual Meeting

The Lt. Governor of Indiana, Suzanne Crouch will be the guest speaker at the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce’s Annual Meeting on January 16, 2020. The Lt. Governor will speak about her responsibilities, opportunities to grow jobs in Indiana, collaboration efforts taking place in the general assembly, access to broadband internet, and much more.

The Member’s Showcase, election of officers, awards and year in review will also take place at the meeting.

**Annual Meeting, Elections & Member’s Showcase**

**January 16, 2020**
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Shipshewana Event Center

Display your wares and or services at the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce’s Member’s Showcase. The event takes place before the Annual Meeting and with his year’s speaker is being Lt. Governor Susan Crouch so the crowd should be bigger than the usual 250 plus.

Member’s Showcase

Phone the Chamber staff at 260-463-2443 or email info@lagrangehchamber.org to reserve your booth space. Booth space is only $50.00! *(Table and two chair are provided)* Lunch

Suzanne Crouch
Lt. Governor of Indiana