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CHAMBER HOSTING MEET THE LEGISLATORS LUNCHEON

Uniontown, PA – Federal, state and county government will be represented Friday, as the Fayette Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Meet the Legislators Luncheon.

Made possible through the Government Affairs Council, the luncheon is an opportunity for chamber members and other business owners to meet directly with elected officials regarding business issues and legislation.

“Each year in the spring, the Fayette Chamber brings together our county commissioners, Pennsylvania senators and House representatives for a conversation about issues that directly affect our business community,” said chamber Executive Director Muriel Nuttall.

The event takes place from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 9 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 555 Synergy Drive, Uniontown.

Senator Patrick Stefano, R-32nd District, has participated as a panelist for four years, but attended the luncheon many times as a chamber member.

“I was always really interested in what my legislators had to say, because they could tell us some of the things they were working on and we could ask specific questions,” Stefano said. “Now, when working with chambers, you’re talking to a lot of business owners who are concerned with what the government will do with businesses.”

Stefano said he hopes the luncheon will help show attendees that their elected officials are accessible and always willing to listen.

“As a business owner myself, I know there are decisions being made at the government level that will affect them and they need to weigh in,” he said.

State Rep. Bud Cook, R-49th District, said he’s looking forward to the luncheon because business owners are some of his many “bosses.”



“As elected officials, you better keep your boss happy, so I take every opportunity I have to get out there and let my bosses have a shot at me,” Cook said. “I want to look, listen and hear what’s going on. I want to share and find out where everyone’s at so we can build a team.”

State Rep. Ryan Warner, R-52nd District, said any opportunity for legislators to come together with the business community is a positive one.

“It’s good for both sides to hear from each other in a casual and open setting,” Warner said. “I hope that what they take away from this is that we have a great group of legislators, especially in Fayette County, and that our local government is always open.”

Warner said he’s looking forward to hearing directly from the business community about their priorities and needs.

“Chamber members will get to tell me and the other local representatives firsthand what they need from us and have some of their questions answered,” Warner said. “Also, budget season is coming up, so this is a chance for them to tell us how the last state budget affected them positively or negatively. This experience just fosters good discussion.”

Fayette County Commissioner Dave Lohr said the luncheon is a chance to share what he and his fellow commissioners are working on.

“We can get that info out on the street and show that we’re available to work with our local businesses,” Lohr said. “They’re a vital part of the county’s growth, and we’re here to facilitate and try to help them do that. They will also get the networking aspect the chamber offers by being able to reach out to each other.”

Fayette County Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink said the luncheon provides the business community another opportunity to interact with the legislators who make policy which directly affects them.

“On the county end, everything we do to help create an atmosphere where people may live, work and play and be happy about their community is a good thing,” Zimmerlink said.

Fayette County Commissioner Vincent Vicites has participated in the Meet the Legislators Luncheon every year he’s been in office.

“I believe it’s a great opportunity to let chamber members know what the priorities of the Board of Commissioners are and what we intend to focus on to make Fayette County a better place to live in the upcoming year,” Vicites said.

State Rep. Pamela Snyder, D-50th District; State Rep. Matthew Dowling, R-51st District; and representatives from the offices of Congressman Bill Shuster, R-9th Congressional District; and Pennsylvania Senators Robert Casey, D-PA; and Pat Toomey, R-PA; will also attend the luncheon.



Registration is \$25 per person and \$35 for non-chamber members, which includes lunch and beverages. RSVP and prepayment are required, with cancellation required at least 48 hours in advance.

Additionally, attendees are asked to take an online issues survey before the luncheon. For more information, call 724-437-4571 or email info@fayettechamber.com.

The Fayette Chamber is an apolitical organization with no direct political ties. The chamber is a member of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce and the United States Chamber of Commerce but is not affiliated with any political committees.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettecountypa.info.

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