

## TROY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NOV. 2023 MINUTES

The Troy Chamber of Commerce provided the details of the Troy Hometown Christmas during their monthly meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

President Bonnie Seeley informed the Chamber that she went along with Trisha Wilkinson to walk around to the local chamber businesses to see who was going to be open on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 25.

The Chamber will be doing a brochure, providing free business advertising, depicting which businesses will be open for Small Business Saturday.

The brochures will be placed at First Citizens Community Bank, Troy Vets Club, and First Presbyterian Church of Troy to hand out so people know which businesses are open on Small Business Saturday.

Flyers will also be hung and the information will be on the Chamber's facebook page.

### **Committee Reports**

Seeley advised for the Car Show, that may want to add chips or cookies next year. They are also going to have a sign or banner at the food table informing people it is a Chamber event, with all funds raised going to the three \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors.

Elizabeth Card advised the Troy High School building is in, which is a little different than it was in the past. The ornaments are not in yet. They had discussion on providing a discount of all the past ones in inventory to move them out.

Amy Ward of C & N Bank, handles the facebook page, and advised that businesses that post an event on their own facebook page, to also tag the Troy Chamber, so she will see it and can share it on the Chamber's page.

Tami Bethune of BTG Solutions, who is from Michigan, was present at the meeting. Seeley appears to have acquired an individual to update the website on a daily basis. Bethune would like to highlight a different business every month and needs photos and videos. She is looking to keep the website up-to-date.

Robyn Cummings indicated they are commencing with the Person/Business of the Year event. They will have this presentation at the next Chamber meeting which will be held as an evening banquet, so hopefully every Chamber member can come. It will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at the Troy Vets Club again, with appetizers and cocktails from 5 to 5:30 p.m., with the program beginning at 6 p.m. RSVP will be requested.

The 2023 Person of the Year nominees are Cathy Jenkins, John Estep, and Robert Oldroyd. The 2023 Business of the Year nominees are Hoover Hardware, Milky Way Farms, and Troy Vets Club. The bios of the nominees have been e-mailed out to Chamber members. Please take the time to read all the bios as it's important to recognize those working so hard for the Chamber and the Troy Community!

Each chamber member receives ONE vote for each category. Please send your vote to troychambervotes@gmail.com by Friday, November 17th. Votes received after that date will not be counted.

### **Announcements**

Cummings wanted to stress that she needs events to put in the 2024 annual travel guide by Friday, Nov. 17. She advised this is free and a great way for businesses to advertise their events. The form can be downloaded off their website at [www.visitbradfordcounty.com](http://www.visitbradfordcounty.com).

There is to be one event per form.

Also, Cummings advised with regard to the mural on the train car, the brochure is done and the landing page will be launched for it, including the history of it.

In addition, Cummings has the 2024 Chamber meeting schedule, with the first meeting being on Wednesday, Jan. 3. Although it is great to have a lunch, if any Chamber business would like to host it, they don't have to provide lunch. Also, the July Joint Mixer has been moved to July 10.

Nicole Harris of Greener Pastures Farm & Greenhouses and the Troy Sale Barn, informed the Chamber they have more than 40 local artisan vendors setting up at the Troy Sale Barn on Saturday, Nov. 25 for the Hometown Christmas event.

In addition, Harris advised sound panels will be coming in and installed in the Troy Sale Barn. Bill Bower offered a tour to Chamber members of the upstairs arena area and downstairs, founders lounge, of the Troy Sale Barn.

Cummings provided the update with the Lions Raffle, which was held at the Troy Vets Club. This fundraiser will help with costs of eye care of local children.

In addition, Cummings stated they are always taking donations for the Christmas baskets, which is a \$30,000 project that supports 457 individuals and some shut-ins. Volunteers are always needed also. There are applications on the Troy Lions Club facebook page. The boxes will be put together the week of Dec. 11 - 15 at the Troy Sale Barn.

The Old Shoe Banquet was held on Tuesday, Nov. 7 at the Troy Vets Club.

Joan Smith Reese of United Way advised of a free tax preparation program, starting the first of the year, for seniors or veterans. Also, anyone with income limits under \$66,000, would qualify for this free service. The programs will be held at the Bradford County Area Agency on Aging and the Lackawanna College, both in Towanda and also at Rep. Tina Pickett's Office and the Salvation Army, both in Sayre.

Seeley advised the decorating of the downtown of Troy has been changed to take place on Sunday, Nov. 19 at 7 a.m. She advised it would look really nice if all the businesses would have the little white candles in their windows. There will be a lift available, which can reach to the top of the trees to decorate. So they will need red lights for trunks and more white lights. Anyone that helps with decorating will be treated to a free breakfast.

With regard to some of the hometown poles being empty, they will check into obtaining welcoming and also open signs for chamber businesses. Also, Cummings will check into purchasing Hometown Christmas banners for at each end of town. Seeley made a Motion for Robyn Cummings to purchase three banners for under \$1,500, for the Hometown Christmas, which was seconded.

The next meeting will be the banquet at Troy Vets Club on Wednesday, Dec. 6, beginning at 5 p.m. with appetizers, and the program at 6 p.m.