

June 2015

Board of Governors

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Can you believe that it's June already? This is my last column as chair of the Board of Governors before passing the torch to the next team of leaders and turning over the chairmanship to the extremely capable hands of Barry Fisher.

I leave your Chamber in excellent condition. During my term we saw our emerging business councils like the Young Professionals, LGBT, Nonprofit & Business Partners, and Manufacturers councils hit their strides and begin to bring real value to previously underserved segments. We also began the integration of the Carbon County Chamber of Commerce, creating a footprint that mimics the official Allentown - Bethlehem – Easton Metropolitan Statistical Area.

We have grown our membership and maintained a stellar member retention rate, which shows that we are providing the events, services and support that our members demand. With an endless selection of current event programs, networking opportunities, store openings, public policy forums, master minds groups, educational and business growth programs, this Chamber continues to be the Lehigh Valley's leader in business event programming. Thanks to the success of events like these and other Chamber initiatives, our financial status is very sound. We have made our budget for the past two years and increased our reserves.

I will take this one last chance to state the importance of getting involved, exposing your business and making a name for yourself by attending or sponsoring one or more of these upcoming Chamber events: **The Lehigh Valley Women's Summit on June 9, Easton Area Chamber Annual Dinner on June 11, Emmaus Main Street Partners Golf Classic on June 15 (SOLD OUT), Excellence in Business Awards on June 17, Phillipsburg Easton Golf Classic on June 25, Carbon County Adventure Race on June 27** and the **LV Transportation Forum on June 30**.

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the outstanding Chamber staff and president, Tony Iannelli. Tony has built a team that loves the Lehigh Valley business community and demonstrates it every day, working tirelessly to support our members. Their dedication and enthusiasm is the core of the Chamber's success.

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to serve as Chair of this great Chamber.