

June 2016:

William Vogler, Pinebrook Family Answers
Nonprofit & Business Partners Council Chair
610-435-9651 • BVogler@pbfalv.org

Well over four years ago a few good people decided to act on a very good idea. We knew that nonprofits needed a place to get together and network, and thought that our Chamber might be a good place to make that happen. The Nonprofit and Business Partner Council was born.

From the beginning we wanted to be more than just a place for nonprofits to communicate with each other. We also wanted to avoid just being a place for nonprofits to access businesses for funding. The traditional understanding of nonprofits as the “third sector” – meekly coming to businesses for support in the form of dollars, volunteers, time, and expertise - is clearly inadequate. We wanted to turn this traditional thinking on its head and encourage the conversation to go both ways, so that for profit businesses, large and small, can have a better understanding of how important our sector is – not just in terms of improved quality of life, but also in terms of improving the bottom line for Lehigh Valley businesses. This is why we are not the “Nonprofit Council”, but are instead the “Nonprofit and Business Partners Council”.

I would like to take this chance to thank Drew Maron, who is rotating off the board, for his leadership in our first two years. While we still have some work to do to accomplish our lofty mission, he laid the groundwork for our ongoing success. I also want to thank the Chamber staff, especially Lorie Reinert, for her hard work every month supporting us. Starting in July our Board will have some new members and new leadership. We look forward to continuing to serve the Lehigh Valley by strengthening collaboration across all sectors, and building our capacity to do better work.