

May 2016:

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The Chamber hosted a lively and enthusiastic crowd at the annual Mayors' and Municipal Officials' Reception at ArtsQuest Center in Bethlehem on March 29th to celebrate their hard work and accomplishments.

Nearly 300 attendees networked before a live taping of *Business Matters*, hosted by Tony Iannelli. Panelists included David Erdman, publisher and editor of The Morning Call Media Group; Barry Fisher, president and general manager of WFMZ-TV; and Bobby Gunther Walsh, morning drive host of radio station WAEB-AM. The panel discussed how technology has transformed journalism, and what the changes mean for reporting news in the 21st Century.

After taping, each mayor and borough manager had the opportunity to highlight an area they are proud of in their municipality and something people wouldn't know about them personally which elicited many heartfelt responses from our mayors and municipal officials.

Another highlight was the award presentations for the evening. The Chamber's Mayor of the Year award went to Palmerton's Chris Olivia, for his success in growing jobs and facilitating renovation of some of the borough's older buildings. Mayor Olivia also received a \$1,000 check from the Chamber Foundation to use in his community.

The first Chamber Borough Manager of the Year award went to Emmaus' Shane Pepe, for his work to help Emmaus achieve \$2.5 million worth of savings and obtain \$1.3 million in grants. Weatherly Mayor, Tom Connors, was named the Most Entertaining Mayor of the Year for his engaging comments.

Most--66 percent!--of Lehigh Valley's residents live outside the Valley's three largest cities; Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton so to have all of our members represented by our mayors in one night was a perfect opportunity to recognize and honor all mayors and municipal officials who work so hard to assure great communities for so many.