

THE CHAMBER

The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce



ANNUAL REPORT

2025/2026

Mission statement:

“To represent local employers in supporting vibrant, sustainable communities in Columbia and Montour counties.”

Message from the President

Dear Members,

2025 was a year of remarkable progress for the Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce. Our mission remained clear: equip members with the resources, connections, and advocacy needed to thrive.

The numbers tell part of the story: 386 members, 45 events with over 1,300 guests, and more than \$150,000 invested in youth and workforce programs — all while delivering measurable savings and dividends through member benefits. Beyond the numbers, our impact is measured in collaboration, trust, and momentum built among businesses, community partners, and local leaders.

In recognition of this commitment, the Columbia Montour Chamber became one of just three Chambers in Pennsylvania accredited by the Pennsylvania Association of Chamber Executives, demonstrating excellence in advocacy, communication, financial management, mission focus, and professional administration.

Together, we're not just strengthening businesses — we're strengthening our region.

Thank you for your continued support,

President/CEO



Five Focus Areas of Member Value



Membership

Our Chamber continues to represent a diverse and growing group of regional businesses. New member interest exploded, with 15 more new members in 2025 than in the previous year. By the numbers:

- **386** members
- **43** new members welcomed
- **87%** retention
- **135** industries represented

Financial Information

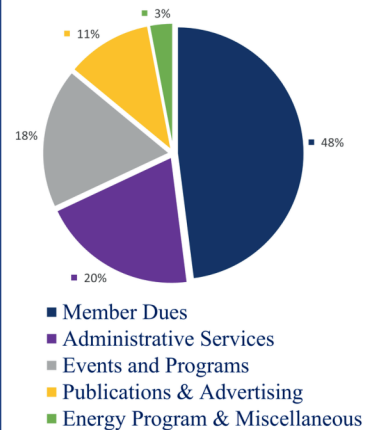
Strong financial stewardship enabled the Chamber to reinvest in programs, services, and staff capacity that directly benefit members. Closing on the Hub at Mulberry Mill will translate to new member benefits. Thanks to a **vibrant partnership with the Chamber Foundation**, the Chamber is investing deeply in initiatives that support employee and workforce development.

Balance Sheet

Assets	1/31/25	1/31/26*
Cash & Equivalents	\$ 569,282	\$ 441,687
Loan Receivables	\$ 70,473	\$ 34,205
Fixed Assets	\$ 123,973	\$ 275,206**
Other Current Assets	\$ 1,088	\$ 693
Total Assets	\$ 764,816	\$ 751,191

Liabilities & Equity	1/31/25	1/31/26*
Current Liabilities	\$ 8,705	\$ 3,952
Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 45,286	\$ 0**
Equity	\$ 710,825	\$ 747,239
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$ 764,816	\$ 751,191

Chamber Revenue



*Financial statements reflect activity through January to ensure inclusion of the most current information available prior to printing the Annual Report.

**Reflects closing on Mulberry Mill facility and Gillespie Park Loan, Fall 2025.

2025-2026 Program Highlights



ADVOCACY

The Chamber maintained a consistent and credible presence in policy discussions at the local, regional, and state levels. Through monthly **Government Affairs meetings**, strategic partnerships with the PA Chamber of Business & Industry and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and active participation in regional planning initiatives, the Chamber **advanced pro-business priorities while elevating member concerns.**

These efforts led to tangible successes, including **securing sustained county funding for the regional micro-transit initiative StopHopper**, increasing state-level attention to childcare investment (**\$50 million in the final budget**), and **strengthening business representation** in comprehensive planning and legislative discussions.

The Chamber also **served as a clearinghouse** on government shutdowns, tariffs, tax credits, and grants, while addressing key issues such as regulations, permitting reform, workforce development, infrastructure planning, healthcare staffing, and energy. Local initiatives supported included the Regional Challenger Learning Center, Roaring Creek multimodal wayfinding, Bolstrum Bluffs, Coblentz Corner, and several members' grant applications.

Through convening, partnerships, and informed advocacy, the Chamber ensured members' voices were heard and positioned to influence outcomes.



BENEFITS PROGRAM

In 2025, Chamber staff and Ambassadors **met face-to-face with more than 100 member businesses**, strengthening relationships and ensuring members understood and accessed available benefits. These conversations also helped the Chamber respond directly to emerging business concerns.

Through its **Low-Interest Loan Program**, the Chamber loaned \$20,000 to support member-led capital improvements. Members also utilized the **Mulberry Mill Conference Room and Board Room** for off-site meetings, providing convenient, cost-effective space for collaboration.

The Chamber **reaffirmed its partnership with ChamberChoice** programs, offering access to energy brokering, business insurance, and employee benefits. The Penn National Business Insurance program returned dividends for a seventh consecutive year, reinforcing long-term membership value.

To enhance visibility, the Chamber published four quarterly editions of **Business Matters** in partnership with *The Press Enterprise*, and distributed six editions of **ChamberPack**.

For many members, these benefits translated into measurable savings, increased exposure, and a stronger return on their Chamber investment.



BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

Member engagement this year ranked **well above typical benchmarks** for nonprofit and business membership organizations. Even more than the numbers show, the Chamber is routinely connecting members to one another, to customers, and to the broader community through events, communications, and staff engagement. Here are a few highlights:

- The Chamber convened **45 events** with more than **1,300 guests**
- Chamber staff read and responded to **42,570 individual emails** in 2025. This does not include filtered, spam, or bulk emails.
- Chamber staff hosted **22 days of remote office hours** in Danville and Berwick.

2025-2026 Engagement by the Numbers

Wednesday E-Biz:

- 43% open rate
- 13% click-through rate

Thursday Member News:

- 45% open rate
- 13% click-through rate

Industry Benchmark:

- 30% open rate
- 5% click-through rate



Website:

- 66k website sessions
- 100k website pageviews
- +75% web traffic



Facebook:

- 3446 followers, + 244 YOY
- 186k views, +1500% YOY



LinkedIn:

- 23k impressions
- 64.4% engagement rate



EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

The Chamber Foundation **leveraged \$154,500 in Education Improvement Tax Credits** to support **13 youth programs and school initiatives** for technical education, career pathways, and workforce development through financial literacy, STEM, entrepreneurship, and career exploration education.

62 of the region's up-and-coming business leaders received training through our Foundation's adult programs, Management & Leadership, and Leadership Central Penn (LCP)



STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES

The Chamber actively supported local initiatives that promote vibrant, resilient communities. We contributed to the **Berwick Blueprint Community Project**, provided administrative services and support to **Downtown Bloomsburg, Inc.**, and fostered collaboration through the **Montour County Task Force**, bringing together member businesses, partner organizations, and regional officials to address shared priorities. Engagement with groups such as B.I.D.A.'s ThinkTank and Employer Roundtable advanced regional workforce attraction strategies.

Members repeatedly noted that these efforts made it easier to collaborate, align resources, and see results across the region.

CONNECT WITH YOUR CHAMBER

2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

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Bob Stoudt, *Montour Area Rec. Commission (MARC)*

VICE-CHAIRS

Renee Gerringer, *Ronald McDonald House of Danville*

Aaron Stagliano, *McKonly & Asbury*

TREASURER

Denise Stone, *Bloomsburg University Foundation*

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Josh Nespoli, *Community Strategies Group*

Bruce Schlichter, *Kawneer/The Foundation of the CMCC*

Deb Shade, *Elmdale Inn Bed & Breakfast*

David Utt, *Journey Bank*

Carey Smith, *Downtown Bloomsburg, Inc.*

Chuck Wood, *PPL Electric Utilities*

Chamber Resources

- *E-Biz Weekly*
- *Member News*
- *ChamberPack*
(Bi-monthly)
- *Business Matters*
(Quarterly)
- *2025-2026 Annual Membership Directory*
- *2025-2026 Annual Report*
- *Quality Living in Columbia & Montour Counties*



www.columbiamontourchamber.com

Visit the *Columbia Montour Chamber* and our subsidiaries at the *Hub at Mulberry Mill*:

160 W. 6th Street, Suite 103
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

(570) 784-2522

STAFF



Chris Berleth
President



Taryn Crayton
Vice President



Brenda Flanagan
Admin. Assistant



Kyra McKinnon
*Marketing &
Events Coordinator*



Deb Sokol
Finance Assistant



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