



MABA MONTHLY MEETING

Windmill Restaurant, Morgantown, Pa.

December 21, 2021

On Tuesday, December 21, 2021, the MABA monthly breakfast meeting took place at the Windmill Restaurant in Morgantown, Pa., with 17 members and guests in attendance.

At 7:40 am President Kelly Spica announced that Lois Ann Mast, VP of Events and Membership, was running a little late and would arrive shortly with extra printed ballots for the election. Just after Lois Ann arrived, President Spica opened the meeting and asked that cell phones be set on mute or turned off. She then invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Spica asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October general meeting. Scott Graham made a motion to accept the minutes, Emory Ritchie seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved. The November meeting was the annual Holiday dinner and no minutes were needed for that event.

Next, Kelly requested a motion to approve the Treasurer's report that was printed in the recent MABA Newsletter. Bob Gebhart made a motion for approval of the report, Caitlyn Brady seconded the motion and the Treasurer's report was approved.

President Spica announced that since this is the election meeting, no speaker had been scheduled to speak at the meeting today. She asked that we go around the room and each person introduce him or herself and their business, and if they had anything to share about their business in the community or for the upcoming holiday, they can talk briefly about that.

First up Amy James of Unique Pewter and Glass Picture Frame studio in Knauertown, jewelry and glass artist. She said that she just started attending the meetings and that it was good to be here.

Bob Gebhart, The Village Electrician and President of Twin Valley Fire Department announced that they had sold so many raffle tickets last week, that the firefighters selling them outside at Walmart called him to get his unsold tickets. The Twin Valley Fire Department is conducting this sportsmen's cash raffle together with 2 other fire companies. Tickets cost \$25 each, and ticket holders will have a chance to win every day all next year using the Pick 4 winning number that is drawn every evening. Most prizes are guns, though you can request cash instead, and on January 1 the prize will be \$1,000. Bob said that these tickets make great Christmas presents, and he does have a couple remaining, though they have sold over 3,000 far.

Bob then introduced Christopher Eckert of Queen of Hearts Honey. Chris said that although he has been a member for about a year, he was visiting an MABA meeting for the first time. He also said that Queen of Hearts Honey offers various honey products and that in addition to producing honey products they perform bee colony rescues and removals.

Mark Cummins of Thunderwash Pressure Washing said that as Winter begins, and the weather is getting cooler and nippy, his business is slowing down. However, he has already begun to schedule customers for Spring services.

Emory Ritchie of Haycreek Valley Historical Association said that their Christmas event did very well this year with more visitors than expected.

John Thiessen of Sanatoga Water suggested that now is a good time to get your well tested. He also said that everyone should drink plenty of water especially now with the dryer winter weather beginning. John said to remember that if you are on a well you are responsible to get your water tested regularly at least for bacteria. He also said that due to Covid he didn't do any shows this year and he has pens available here that were originally intended for handouts if anyone wants any.

Caitlyn Brady who is with Solstice Yoga Shala said that things are going well with business picking up in the Fall. If you know of anyone interested in our services, please ask them to contact us.

Tim Spacek, the CFO/Human Resources of Pilgrim Tours, mentioned the upcoming trip that will include seeing the popular Passion Play in Germany. It was big news for the tour company that places in Germany are planning to present the Passion play this year. He said they still have tickets available if anyone is interested. After nearly 2 years without travel, it seems that people are enthusiastic about being able to travel again.

Anthony Firrantello of Karr Barth Financial Consultants said that he loves his job because he gets to help people everyday plan and prepare for their financial future. There has been a lot going on in the market recently, and he tells people that what's going on behind the headlines can affect their retirement. He said he shows them how to have retirement dignity which is retiring the way you want and living the way that you want not the way someone else wants. Anthony ended by saying If you are interested in a financial plan, or just have questions, please give him a call.

Tim Bigler of A.J. Blosenski Trash and Recycling Service said that he just wants to say a simple thank you all for your business this year. It's been up and down for everybody, and we at Blosenski appreciate the long-term relationships we have with our customers. He continued that if anyone wants to give their drivers, loaders, or whatever you call them - we call them the operating crew - a holiday gratuity, the easiest way is to write a check to the company and mail it in. As long as the address on your check is the address we service, we pull up your account and we identify who your drivers and loaders are, and give them the tip directly. Tim went on to explain that thieves have been stealing gift cards and cash envelopes that were taped to the trash containers so please don't ever do that again. Again, thank you for all of your support through the years, and let's make 2022, even dirtier? More trashy? Trashier?

Luanne "Bunny" Graham, of Devon Sound and MABA Secretary, introduced herself and said that she wanted to take a moment to say that she thinks that Tim's company is a very good one. She said that she and her husband Scott have been with Blosenski for about 20 years with no complaints. However, recently her mother-in-law who lives in Devon, PA had a couple of large trash items that her local trash hauler said they would take, but then changed their mind and said that they would not pick up. Because we use Blosenski, and primarily because we know Tim from MABA meetings and events, her husband Scott called and asked Tim if there was anything Tim could do for Scott's mom. Tim checked and said they do service that area and that he could arrange for a truck that would be in the area near there to pick up her stuff in a week, which they did. We did pay for the pickup, but it wasn't much, and it was well worth it. Tim graciously took care of us, and Scott's mom was pleased with the quick pick-up. I just want to let you all know that networking works and that this is one of the ways networking can benefit members. Thanks, Tim!

Scott Graham, owner and operator of Devon Sound, provides repair services for guitars, basses, other fretted string instruments, and instrument amplifiers. As musicians know, instruments should not hurt their fingers to play. If they are new and just starting out, Scott can help with instrument setups to make them easy and comfortable to play. And he noted that if he does his work well, and they practice, the world will be more tuneful and joyful. He has some used instruments available for last-minute Christmas gifts, and if anyone is looking for something now or after the holidays, like a Martin guitar or a Gibson banjo, small practice amps, or some musical accessories, please visit DevonSound.com.

David Hinkel, a realtor with Coldwell Banker Realty said that a couple of you have asked me about real estate and it is still going crazy with selling prices still way over asking. He said that he is also the MABA Webmaster and Treasurer and if any business has any event coming up and you want it advertised on the MABA Facebook page or included on the MABA website, please contact him, and let him know so he can put it on those sites. Dave said that if you did not renew for 2022, please get that renewal to us so we can include you on the list for next year. Merry Christmas and happy holidays to everyone.

Lois Ann Mast of Masthof Press and MABA Vice President of Membership said that she never had this many members renew before the beginning of the year, so thank you, thank you for making our job a little easier. She

said Merry Christmas and if you still need a book to get for someone, we have a large number at Masthof press. Lois Ann also said that they have 340 different nativity scenes on display in the lobby, many from different countries and made from varied materials, showing the nativity scene in many lovely and unique ways.

MABA President Kelly Spica of Ephrata Bank said that paper election ballots are available and due today, and mail-in or emailed ballots are due by the end of the day today. She then read the candidate's names to the assembled group:

President – Kelly Spica of Ephrata Bank
VP of Membership & Marketing – Lois Ann Mast of Masthof Press
VP of Events & Programs – Lisa Wilcox of Lawns to Leashes
Treasurer & Webmaster – Dave Hinkel of Coldwell Banker Realty
Secretary – Luanne “Bunny” Graham of Devon Sound

Kelly then asked if there were any other nominations, if anyone else wanted to run, or knew anyone who wanted to run for an office. There were no responses. She continued that if anyone wants to speak at a meeting or has any ideas or suggestions for speakers or programs please think outside the box and contact someone on the MABA Board with information and ideas. She also mentioned that for those who need a last-minute present she has money envelopes available at the bank if you want to stop in and pick some up.

There was a brief discussion about the length of time current Board members have been serving for upwards of 10 or more years. Dave Hinkel said he has served for 13 years. Although the MABA Bylaws provides term limits for Board members, there has been no one else willing to run for and serve in each of these positions. The current officers are all are willing to step down if others would volunteer to take on these roles. But there needs to be someone on the Board or there would be no MABA leadership and no organization.

Lois Ann Mast told the assembled members about a project the MABA Board had been working on. Earlier this year the Board received a suggestion about putting up large banners on Main street in Morgantown supporting the MABA, and the Board spent several months trying to arrange this but was unsuccessful. Board members talked with city supervisors who originally approved mounting several large banners with MABA and/or MABA member names printed on the bottom of each. However, after getting prices and doing everything except ordering the banners, the Board of Supervisors said that they decided that they did not want the MABA organization name or any printing on the banners, just an art design. The MABA Board felt that not having at least the MABA name on the banners defeated the original purpose which was to advertise the MABA organization. The Board may try again at a later date.

Chris Eckert said that the Spring and Summer honey crops are available around Memorial day and are sweet and floral. Fall honey is darker and has a bolder richer flavor. Chris said that all of their honey products are local and that they do not have a storefront, but they collaborate with a few local vendors and sell a lot online. Bob Gebhart mentioned that he sells honey too.

The deadline for returning ballots for this election is the end of the day today.

President Spica asked if there was any further business, and when there was none, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 am.

The next general MABA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 7:30 am at the Windmill Restaurant. Please be sure to register online before the meeting so we know in advance how many will attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne R. Graham,
2021-2022 MABA Secretary

Reminder: The MABA meeting severe weather policy is that if Twin Valley School District cancelled classes for the day, the Breakfast Meeting is automatically canceled. In addition, due to the pandemic and the possibility of in-school attendance being in question, please check the MABA website or MABA Facebook page to see if the meeting was canceled.