



MABA MONTHLY MEETING

The Windmill Family Restaurant

May 18, 2021

The Tuesday, May 18, 2021, monthly breakfast meeting with 17 members and guests in attendance began at 7:40 am with President Kelly Spica opening the meeting and inviting everyone to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. President Spica then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting. Scott Graham made a motion to accept the minutes and Emery Ritchie seconded the motion—the minutes were approved. Next, Kelly asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report printed in the April *MABA Newsletter*. A motion was made by Maria Harvey for approval and it was seconded by Caitlin Brady—the Treasurer’s report was approved.

President Spica suggested that each person introduce him or herself, and if they have any upcoming events, please talk briefly about them. **Lois Ann Mast** of Masthof Press & Bookstore, and the Vice President of Membership, announced two new MABA members, Nick DiGiacomo of DiGiacomo Auto Detailing in Honey Brook, and Cole Chamberlin of Impact Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation in Morgantown. She also said that if anyone knows of a business in the area tootify her as she has an invitation pack she would send.

Caitlin Brady of Solstice Yoga Shala said that there is an event coming up on June 20 which is both Father’s Day and the summer solstice, that they will be celebrating at another local business, the Brandywine Branch Bistro & Distillery. Caitlin said that they will be conducting an outdoor yoga class on the lawn followed by live music with food and drink specials in the Bistro. Anyone that attends will get a 10% discount on all food and drink purchased at the Bistro. Caitlin said that she would send information to Dave to post on the MABA Facebook page, and the event details are also available on the Solstice Yoga Shala website.

Tim Biegler of A. J. Blosenski, Inc. Trash & Recycling Services, introduced himself and said that in case you weren’t aware this company is a 4th-generation family-owned trash company located in Honey Brook. Tim said that they are always looking for drivers, loaders, mechanics, and folks in general. If you need a job, or anyone you know needs a job, check the website, or call the office for information.

Gwen Werner of the Twin Valley Internship Program said they send interns out, paid and unpaid, to help in business and also so that the interns can get good business work experience in a career that they might like to try out. She said that they have about 150 already signed up for next year and they will probably have more. So if you need an intern, let us know. Information is in the booklet, and she said that they would like to partner with more local businesses next year.

Angela Morgan, also an Internship Coordinator for Twin Valley High School said she recently became a professional realtor with Remax Professional Realty. She said that years ago Dave Hinkel visited her classroom as a speaker and spoke about being a realtor. She thanked Dave for instilling in her a desire to become a realty agent.

Anthony Firrantello of Karr Barth Financial Consultants said that in his job he helps people everyday plan and prepare for their financial future. Over the past month, there has been a lot going on in the financial market, but the general idea is that inflation is going up. Anthony said that he specializes in what he calls “retirement dignity”, not only making sure his clients don’t outlive their money but making sure that his clients are properly protected throughout their retirement.

Emery Ritchie of Hay Creek Valley Historical Association said that he has been with the Association for 42 going on 43 years. He said that Hay Creek does have some activities coming up and said that it looks like they will have the Fall Apple Festival this year.

John Theisen of Sanatoga Water System said that they do water testing, installation of new equipment, repair, evaluation of home equipment. John said that he has acquired more information on the no-detergent laundry system he talked about last month and that his company offers a 30-day money-back satisfaction guarantee when you try this new system.

Lynn Bickta of Zerbe Retirement Community said that at Zerbe they offer independent living, personal care, and nursing care. They currently have a single home available, and she said that they don’t get single homes available very often. It is a 2-bedroom with 1 ½ baths, a very nice house. If you know anyone looking to retire, she said to ask them to call her.

Maria Harvey of Lorah’s Handmade Chocolates said that it’s been a crazy 18 months or so. However, last year chocolate was classed as essential, and that she has had her “Scamper,” her mobile chocolate shop, on the road almost every weekend. Maria said she has been looking for a retired person or a high school kid that wants to work a couple of hours a week. Featured flavors that she has now are caramel lavender, cinnamon marshmallow, mango ganache, and she has an abundance of fresh mint so there is fresh mint ganache as well.

Kelly Spica of Ephrata National Bank in Morgantown, and current MABA President, said if you want to do home improvements, say fixing up your office, or moving into a new house there may be things that you want to do or redo for which you may need funds. At present interest rates are still low, and it is very easy to lend. For savings, interest rates are a little challenging, so you can call for your best rate and shop around a little bit. If you need a place to put your funds or borrow money, they can help with that. The PPP loans program has been exhausted, so if you have not already applied and been approved it is too late to apply now. Kelly said that while the PPP program was active, they were able to help a lot of people that really needed these loans.

Kelly said that if you have any announcements, please remember to give announcements details to Dave Hinkel of Coldwell Banker, and MABA Treasurer and Webmaster. Dave asked everyone to remember to send information to him about any upcoming business-related events so this information can be posted on the MABA website. Dave reminded members that as the Webmaster he can also send out email broadcasts to members and post information on the MABA Facebook page. Dave said that if you haven't already done so, be sure to go online and "like" the MABA Facebook page.

A question was raised about whether there would be a MABA Expo this year. Kelly responded that we are going to try again at Hay Creek to have an Expo. There will be room for at least ten members under a tent, and members like Maria with her traveling sales trailer will have places outside of the tent. Check online and in the newsletter for information or to sign up. Lois Ann said that there was already one member who sent in a reservation for a space, so if you want to be one of the ten under the tent you need to get your reservation in soon. The deadline is July 1.

Scott Graham of Devon Sound music instruments repairs asked if his sound system for music and announcements would be needed this year as in the past. Kelly said that we can ask Mark Zerr since he will be handling everything for the MABA for the Expo. She said that Hay Creek has a system and that it is used for music and announcements, and we may have to use that. Emery Ritchie recommended that Scott give Mark a call.

Next, President Spica introduced the speaker, **Dr. Patrick Winters**, the new Superintendent of Twin Valley School District.

Dr. Winters began by saying thank you very much for the opportunity to be here this morning. He said that we are very fortunate in Twin Valley to have an amazing internship program. Gwen Werner and Angela Morgan do a phenomenal job placing our students and working with local businesses, many of whom are in this room. He said that when he was looking at internship numbers, Twin Valley was right at the top of Berks County in terms of the number of kids that are being placed in internships.

Dr. Winters continued saying that he wanted to take a few minutes and share a little bit about himself and his background. A Lancaster County native, he grew up in Lancaster and graduated from Manheim Township. He then earned a B.A. in English with a double minor in French and Business Administration as well as a Secondary Teaching Certification from Catawba College in Salisbury, NC. He stayed in North Carolina and spent the first 8 and a half years of his career as a high school teacher at East Rowan High School in the Rowan-Salisbury School System. During his tenure as a teacher, he also served as Department Chair, received his National Board Teaching Certification, and earned master's degrees in English Education and School Administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Gardner-Webb University, respectively. Upon leaving the classroom, Dr. Winters served as an assistant principal at East Rowan High School for an additional year and a half. In February of 2008, Patrick and his wife decided to move back to Pennsylvania because they wanted their children to have a close relationship with their grandparents. He took a middle school assistant principal position at Garden Spot Middle School in Eastern Lancaster County (ELANCO) School District and spent 10 years in ELANCO in a variety of additional administrative roles including, but not limited to, the following: high school assistant principal, Director of Virtual Programs, and Director of Curriculum & Instruction. It was during his time in ELANCO that Patrick earned his doctorate in Educational Leadership and his Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility from Immaculata University. After his tenure in ELANCO, Dr. Winters was afforded the opportunity to serve in Exeter Township School District as their Assistant Superintendent for three-plus years before joining the Twin Valley School District family on April 1, 2021. Dr. Winters said that in his spare time he enjoys reading non-fiction, listening to music, watching Philadelphia professional sports, Penn State football, and Tarheels basketball, and spending time with his family.

Patrick is married to his wife of 21 years, Lee, and they have four children - Anna Claire (18), Carter (16), Ella Kate (11), and Charlie (9) - plus two miniature Golden Doodles, Bailey and Maggie. Dr. Winters said that he and his wife are helping their two oldest children determine what and where they might want to study after high school. He mentioned that Carter, his oldest son, had shown interest in a skills-based education at a tech school such as Thaddeus Stevens College.

Bunny Graham, of Devon Sound, commented that Thaddeus Stevens College, or Stevens Trade as it is known, is a great school. She said that education is very important for everything that you do, but it's not always the traditional degrees that are needed. Bunny worked in Human Resources for 40 years at UGI Utilities, Inc., and looked for degrees for positions in the IT and engineering groups, as well as for upper management. However, UGI sought candidates from Stevens Trade and other skills-based schools for several departments, such as those who repair and install equipment as well as other similar jobs. If an applicant had a Stevens

Trade or other skills-based degree or could demonstrate comparable life skills, they usually got first consideration for skills-based positions. She said that skills-based education certificates or degrees are needed today too.

Dr. Winters said that he appreciated Bunny saying that, and that one of the great opportunities out there is that students can take advantage of is that Stevens Trade has a program where students can spend their senior year as an apprentice and get the first year of a skills-based associates degree done for 50% of the tuition, and possibly even more. Kids that participate in that program essentially get a two-year associate's degree for \$12,000. There are a number of schools in the Berks, York, and Lancaster County areas that have similar programs that kids can take advantage of.

Scott Graham of Devon Sound, music instruments repair, said that one thing he has come to realize in recent years as he's been working on musical instruments is how all the different experiences he had on other jobs and in other careers helped feed into this. Had he not had the diverse experiences in other industries, everything from delivering newspapers to working in computer operations, retail sales representative, warehouse and shipping manager, computer systems field service engineer, and computer programming in the aerospace industry, he said he felt that he wouldn't be able to do what he is doing now. Every little snippet of those past experiences allows him to pull together what he is doing now and helps him do a much better job than he would have been able to do if he had spent his time focusing only on musical instruments. All students, not just the interns, should pay attention to and learn as much information as they can.

Dr. Winters said he thought that was a great point. Yesterday a friend that manages a local health care organization called Visiting Angels called and said that she's looking for a temp over the summer to come into the office and take phone calls. He said that his son spoke up and said he would do it if they can't find anybody else. Patrick said that whether his son ends up working in an office or not he'll learn some skills from a customer service standpoint that will be useful to him. Even unpleasant jobs or hostile work environments provide learning.

Scott Graham said that he has had a few of those encounters in computer system support, such as when a network crashes and 3,000 people aren't working, and you have some \$1,000 an hour lawyer screaming at you from a distance of two inches as to why weren't you here a half an hour before it went down, and why didn't you fix it before it broke. However, that can pay off in terms of learning some people skills.

Emery Ritchie said that he wants to mention something about hands-on. He said that his grandson had the opportunity to work for Rolex, the watchmaking company. After learning about his life experiences, he was offered a job. His learned skills got him a position at a company he wanted to work for.

Dr. Winters said thank you again and he appreciated the opportunity to speak today. If there's ever anything specific to the district anything you'd ever like to know, he said he could come back again to talk about it. He said he is always happy to do that. And if there's ever anything he can do as Superintendent or the district can do to support the work of the mission of this group, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Tim said that he had one more thing to mention. Contrary to any rumors you might have recently heard A.J. Blosenski has not been purchased by Waste Management Inc. This rumor was deliberately being spread and legal action has been taken so that these rumors have been or will be stopped.

Kelly said that we want to have the June MABA meeting at the Holiday Inn in their newly refurbished restaurant. Information about the June meeting will be sent to everyone as soon as we know what the arrangements are.

Someone asked about the casino opening if it is opening soon and would it have a restaurant. Dave responded that he believed the casino would open in November, and yes, they will have a restaurant. They might have meeting rooms that we could occasionally use for MABA meetings.

The next general MABA meeting place is yet to be determined and information will be sent to members when arrangements have been made. Please be sure to register online before the meeting so we know in advance how many will attend.

President Spica asked if there was any further business, and when there was none, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Luanne R. Graham
2021 MABA Secretary