



MABA GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

Windmill Restaurant, Morgantown

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

On Tuesday, October 19, 2021, the monthly breakfast meeting was held at the Windmill Restaurant in Morgantown, Pa., with 23 members and guests in attendance.

At 7:41 am President Kelly Spica opened the meeting and asked that cell phones be turned off or set on mute. She then invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Spica asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September general meeting. Scott Graham made a motion to accept the minutes, Bob Gebhart seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Next, Kelly asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's report which was printed in the MABA Newsletter. A motion was made by Mark Cummins for approval, it was seconded by Maria Harvey, and the Treasurer's report was approved.

President Spica suggested that we go around the room and each person should introduce him or herself and their business, and if they have any upcoming business-related events or other items of interest, they can talk briefly about them.

Amy James of Unique Pewter located near St. Peter's Village introduced herself and said that she and her husband do art shows for a living. She creates handmade dichroic glass jewelry, handcrafted pewter jewelry, gifts, and offers custom picture framing. Further information is available on her website.

New MABA member, Anita Vasko of French Creek Aesthetics, introduced herself and her company. She said that their focus is to help enhance their clients' natural beauty through the means of medical aesthetics and cosmetic treatments. Services they offer include several different types of facials, skincare, injections, and more. Additional information is available on their website.

Dave Hinkel of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage said that his inventory of homes is low, and people are still paying way above asking prices. He said that interest rates are pretty low right now, and it may be a good time to buy.

Dave said that as the MABA Treasurer & Webmaster if anyone is planning business-related events, please contact him and send him information about these events so that he can post that information on the MABA Facebook page and send email notifications to MABA members. This service is for MABA members and is a no-cost benefit of your MABA membership.

Gwen Werner of the Twin Valley High School Internship Program explained that in this program they send high school students out during the day for both paid and unpaid internships, to get work experience in a career that they might like to have. Gwen also thanked MABA for the scholarships that MABA gives every Spring. Contact information is on the MABA website, in the MABA Directory, and at tvsd.org.

John Theisen of Sanatoga Water System said that his company does water testing, installation of new equipment, repair, and evaluation of home equipment. Please feel free to call or visit the Sanatoga website if you have any questions.

Emery Ritchie of Hay Creek Valley Historical Association said that Hay Creek will be holding the 21st Annual Christmas event at Joanna, Friday through Sunday, the 1st week in December, which is December 3-5, 2021. More information about the Hay Creek Christmas event is available on the Hay Creek website.

Lynn Bickta of the Zerbe Retirement Community stated that Zerbe currently has no cottages available, but they do have openings elsewhere in the facility. Please contact her if interested or check the Zerbe website for more information.

Maria Harvey of Lorah's Handmade Chocolate said that with Christmas fast approaching those who want special orders like chocolate business cards, large gift orders, etc., should contact her sooner rather than later since she can't guarantee that she will have chocolate available. The Candy Scamper has been very active, and sales at the festivals have just been amazing. Please contact Maria or visit her website for more information.

Bob Gebhart, The Village Electrician and President of Twin Valley Fire Department, announced that the 2021 fire company fundraiser is going on now. The first prize is a 2021 Heritage Classic Harley Davidson motorcycle in 2-tone midnight crimson and stonewash white, that can be seen on weekends in front of the Walmart in Morgantown. Raffle tickets will be sold there, and he said he has some with him today if anyone is interested. The tickets are \$40 each and each ticket gives you 3 chances to win a prize. He also announced that they are organizing a new fundraiser in 2022, a gun/cash raffle. Tickets will cost \$25 each to win a gun, other items, or cash every day of 2022. Some of the other prizes include \$1,000 cash on Christmas day, a gun safe, a crossbow, or other cash prizes, and there are 20 instant winner tickets. This raffle is based on the 4-digit daily lottery number, and you can win multiple times not just once. The Twin Valley Fire Company is partnering with the Hegin's Fire Company for this fundraiser and Bob said that they really need your support. In response to a question, Bob said that winners can request cash instead of the bike, gun, or other prizes. For more information, you can visit the Twin Valley Fire Company website or contact Bob.

Kelly Spica of Ephrata National Bank and MABA President announced that the MABA Board is planning a holiday dinner at Emily's in November. Members should watch for notices and information will also be available on the MABA website.

Scott Graham, owner of Devon Sound announced that they have several quality preowned items for sale for the musicians on your Christmas gift list. Visit their website to see what is available.

Kelly then introduced the two speakers who were here to talk about the new casino in Morgantown: Jeff Morris VP of Public Affairs for Penn National Gaming, and Marc Guastella General Manager of the Hollywood Casino in Morgantown.

Jeff Morris opened by saying that in 2020 the casino properties had been closed for 3-4 months, and in 2019 after the Morgantown project was approved and started, construction was delayed several months due to the coronavirus pandemic. The new casino in York opened on August 12 and we are happy that we are finally getting ready for Morgantown to open before the end of this year.

Marc Guastella spoke next and mentioned that he spent the last couple of years as the Manager at the Grantville Casino at Penn National Racetrack. Mark said that he is looking forward to managing this facility and working in and with this community.

This casino was issued a Category 4 license and can operate a maximum of 750 gaming machines that will be a mix of brand new tech and a few older classic games. They plan to have 30 table games, 2 of which will be hybrid games that will be electronic and may include blackjack and baccarat. Marc said that another thing he is excited about is that since Penn National's headquarters is in Wyomissing, they will be able to try the newest innovations right here. Penn National is a leader in cashless technology, and though you will still be able to use cash, you will also be able to create a virtual wallet and use a loyalty card app. Touch-free technology is already in place at the Grantville and York locations, and customers seem to love it. People will be able to place wagers from any of several kiosks or with a teller, and there will be air hockey and foosball tables.

In response to questions, Marc answered:

- Yes, in the past people were prohibited from taking photos in the casinos. However, they feel they have vetted all concerns and are confident in this technology. Cell phones will not be prohibited.
- In addition to the gaming floor, there will be 3 restaurants and a 3-sided jumbotron above the bar. There will be an open-air space to sit and eat at the Barstool Sportsbook restaurant, and the other 2 eateries may have either open-air or covered patios. Another restaurant choice will be an Asian fusion restaurant.
- No, you do not have to wager to eat at a restaurant or visit the casino. You can come in and sit and watch if you wish or just enjoy a meal at one of the restaurants.
- Mark said that for most of the food, beverages, and craft beer suppliers they are partnering with local vendors and breweries.
- This casino was pre-engineered and there are no columns or ceilings over 20 feet high, which allows for easy reconfiguration of the floor layout as needed.
- Although Grantville offers regular entertainment, Morgantown was not built for that. However, the main floor can be easily reconfigured, and at a later time, they may consider having local entertainers come in and perform.
- Smoking is prohibited inside the facility, but there will be designated terraces for smoking outside under cover, in addition to a non-smoking gaming terrace.
- The gaming floor is just under 50,000 square feet in size.
- Penn National opened a career center at the Holiday Inn in Morgantown, where they are hosting several Table Games Dealers Open House hiring events. The Dealers School is free of charge for those who accept an employment offer.
- Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years old at the time of hire to be employed. However, patrons must be 21 to enter the casino.
- Marc said that they plan to hire 375-400 employees for full and part-time positions with flexible work schedules, and sign-on bonuses are being offered for most positions.
- The next hiring event is tomorrow and is the last one for this round. Just stop in at the Holiday Inn between 9 am - 6 pm daily to apply for a job.
- Private parties and/or meetings may be able to use a section next to one of the restaurants.

Mark also said that he would like to get the names and email addresses of all of the MABA members to invite everyone to one of the charity days so you can all come in before the grand opening. Dave Hinkel said he would take care of getting that information to Mark.

President Spica asked if there was any further business, and when there was none, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 am.

The next general MABA meeting will be replaced by the annual holiday dinner and is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, at Emily's Restaurant on Rt. 10. More information will be sent to members and will also be available on the MABA website.

Respectfully submitted,

Luanne R. Graham

2021 MABA Secretary