



# The CHAMBER



## ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD



### Executive Director

"The riskiest thing we can do is just maintain the status quo." — Bob Iger

One of the more annoying terms being overused right now is "new normal". What is normal? Those in business have long understood that change is constant. If you don't change and adapt, you fail. There is no doubt that COVID has forced much change but in many ways, it's change long overdue. Many innovative and creative processes developed to deal with recent challenges will stay in place and be further refined. Critical infrastructure needs like expanded broadband and technology upgrades have been emphasized and must be a focus. It is not an option. I have always found it somewhat ironic that one of the reasons Allegany County is on the map is because of transportation infrastructure like the C&O Canal, the National Road and Rail yet we are now way behind in developing the needed infrastructure of today. What else do we need to happen to prove the time is long overdue for taking this needed infrastructure to another level? We cannot grow without it.

As another election season comes to a close, I am reminded once again that we cannot love jobs but hate job creators. Economics, Economics, Economics. If we want jobs and increased population, we need to support job creators. We cannot continue to vilify successful individuals and businesses who have taken the risk to start and maintain what employs us, our friends and neighbors. Continued attempts at unreasonable regulatory and tax burdens are no way to incent

business creation and growth. We must use everything in our power to encourage entrepreneurship and make starting and running a business as easy as possible. If our businesses are successful, we are successful, our community is successful.

The Chamber has the pleasure of honoring its 2020 Business Award winners at its 33rd Annual Outstanding Business Recognition Dinner on November 10 at the Ali Ghan Shrine Club. The awardees are **UPMC Western Maryland**, *Business of the Year*, **Donny & Kristan Carter**, *Entrepreneurial Spirit*, and **DelFest, LLC**, *Community Service*. The 2020 Western Maryland Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) Outstanding Young Professional, **Andrea Lowery**, will also be recognized at the dinner. More perfect examples of what is good about Allegany County. Tickets are still available. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you to the Chamber Expo Committee chaired by **Kathy Diehl**, *Allegany College of Maryland*, for their hard work on Chamber's Marketplace Expo 2020 – A Chamber "After Hours" for Everyone. Thank you also to Platinum Sponsors **ACT 1<sup>st</sup> Federal Credit Union**, **M&T Bank**, and **Rocky Gap Casino Resort**, Gold Sponsors **Allegany Coal and Land Company**, **Positive Transitions, LLC** and **UPMC Western Maryland**, the Vendors, and to all who attended the event. Your enthusiasm and support of the Chamber and its members is greatly appreciated.

I will leave a part of my heart at the Bell Tower Building. I have loved my time serving you. The Chamber is not Stu, Krista or even Peg. The Chamber is you, the membership, and you make a difference. Thank you.

One starfish at a time!

**Stu Czapski**  
Executive Director

### NOVEMBER 2020

Volume XXXVIII No. 11  
Bell Tower Building  
Cumberland, MD 21502

#### Annual Business Recognition Dinner

Tuesday, November 10, 2020  
Cocktails: 6:00 pm  
Dinner 7:00 pm  
Ali Ghan Shrine Club

#### Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, December 3, 2020  
Noon  
Cumberland Country Club

### November Calendar

**NOTE:** If social distancing guidelines continue as they are, committee meetings will be held via Zoom as needed.

#### November 5

8:00 am  
Membership Committee Meeting  
Zoom Conference

#### November 10

6:00 pm  
Chamber Recognition Dinner  
Ali Ghan Shrine Club

#### November 12

8:00 am  
Education Committee Meeting  
Zoom Conference

#### November 16

8:00 am  
**Leadership Allegany!** Alumni Mtg.  
Zoom Conference

#### November 17

8:00 am  
**Leadership Allegany!**  
Steering Committee Meeting  
Zoom Conference

#### November 18

8:00 am  
Economic Development Com. Mtg.  
Zoom Conference

#### November 19

11:30 am  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Zoom Conference

#### December 3

8:00 am  
Membership Committee Meeting  
Zoom Conference  
Noon  
Annual Membership Meeting  
Cumberland Country Club



# ALLEGANY COUNTY MARKETPLACE EXPO 2020

A CHAMBER "AFTER HOURS" FOR EVERYONE

Special thanks to our Platinum Sponsors:  
**ACT 1<sup>st</sup> Federal Credit Union, M & T Bank,**  
and **Rocky Gap Casino Resort**  
and our Gold Sponsors  
Allegany Coal and Land Company,  
Positive Transitions, LLC and  
UPMC Western Maryland.





# ALLEGANY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BELL TOWER BUILDING □ 24 FREDERICK STREET □ CUMBERLAND, MD 21502

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## ALLEGANY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at the Cumberland Country Club beginning at noon.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Ms. Karen Johnson, has submitted the following names of candidates for the Board of Directors to serve a term of three years, expiring December 2023.

**Patrick W. Buck**, *CBIZ Insurance Services*  
**Kristan S. Carter**, *The Toasted Goat Winery*  
**Robert W. Collette, Jr.**, *Cumberland Healthcare Center*  
**Stephen R. McBride**, *American Woodmark Corporation*  
**Kristi N. Minnigh**, *Kristi Otto Allstate Insurance Agency*  
**Rebecca L. Ruppert**, *Allegany College of Maryland*

Additional names of candidates to serve as directors can be nominated by petition bearing the signature of at least five (5) qualified members of the Chamber. Such petition should be filed with the Nominating Committee prior to November 30, 2020. Bios provided by the candidates are attached.

Lunch will be served at a cost of \$20.00 per person. Please RSVP by detaching and returning the reservation form, emailing [krista@alleganycountychamber.com](mailto:krista@alleganycountychamber.com), or by phoning the Chamber office (301-722-2820) no later than Wednesday, November 25, 2020

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Allegany County Chamber of Commerce  
Bell Tower Building, 24 Frederick Street, Cumberland, Maryland 21502  
Phone 301-722-2820, Fax 301-722-5995  
E-mail: [krista@alleganycountychamber.com](mailto:krista@alleganycountychamber.com)

### 2020 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING CUMBERLAND COUNTRY CLUB

NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ will attend (my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed)

\_\_\_\_\_ will not attend

Make checks payable to the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce

# Candidates for the Board Vote at the Annual Meeting

## **PATRICK W. BUCK**

Patrick Buck is Vice President of Commercial Insurance and Risk Management at CBIZ Insurance Services in Cumberland, MD, and holds the designation of Commercial Lines Coverage Specialist. Patrick works with middle market clients primarily in the construction, health care, manufacturing, technology and public entity industries. Drawing from his own experience, and the support from various other CBIZ practice leaders and subject matter experts, he advises his clients on how to best manage, reduce and transfer their risk, and find the most competitive option to insure these risks. Clients may have other needs not handled by Patrick's business unit, so he helps find the right person to introduce them to within CBIZ's broad network of tax, financial, payroll and employee benefits professionals. Patrick is a 2019 graduate of *Leadership Allegany!* He currently serves as a board member of The Dapper Dan Club, and is a former board member of the Cumberland Country Club. Patrick graduated from Virginia Tech in 2003 with a degree in Business Information Technology, and was a three-year starter on the nationally ranked VT Rugby team. A native of Richmond, VA, he now resides in Frostburg with his wife, Mirjhana, a Financial Advisor with Boggs Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, and his two sons, Liam and Carder. Both children are in the Chinese immersion program at West Side Elementary, and participate in both local and travel baseball. Patrick is the head coach of Liam's 11U travel team, Wheelhouse Arsenal.

## **KRISTAN S. CARTER**

Kristan Carter is a local businesswoman, realtor and co-owner of several successful ventures in Allegany County: Carter & Roque Real Estate, The Toasted Goat Winery, Route 40 Brewery and Distillery, and multiple residential and commercial investment properties. She is a graduate of Frostburg State University with a degree in

quantitative economics with a concentration in finance, as well as a Master's in finance. Kristan has extensive experience in economic and community development and banking, including having been the vice-president of Garrett Community Action Committee for Community Development, past president of FrostburgFirst, and the Frostburg Historic District Commission. She currently serves on several local, regional and state boards focusing on policy and improving our local area's quality of life. Kristan is also a 2007 graduate of *Leadership Allegany!* She continues to be a champion and supporter for small business initiatives and the importance of community networking and involvement. Kristan coaches several youth leagues in the community and resides in Frostburg with her husband and three daughters.

## **ROBERT W. COLLETTE, JR.**

Rob Collette carries a strong experiential business acumen coupled with clinical marketing expertise and senior healthcare operations. Complimenting a Bachelors in Business, Rob graduated from a local and nationally recognized and accredited nursing school, using his diversified résumé to expand sales, management, and marketing expertise across the healthcare spectrum. Previously working for Biomet and Zimmer Orthopedics as a clinical sales professional at Western Maryland Hospital System, WVU's Ruby Memorial, and hospitals throughout the greater DC/Baltimore hospital region, he garnered year-to-year sales growth accolades and coveted National Sales meeting recognition for excellent performance among his colleagues and peers. Prior to healthcare, Rob experienced defining career roles in transportation sales and marketing, construction materials management, foundation engineering, commercial pest consulting, and operating ownership of a Four Star Pizza franchise in Cumberland, MD. Currently, Rob is Clinical Liaison and Director

of Public Relations for Cumberland Healthcare Center and Commons at Cumberland assisted living facility, both part of the Communicare® Family of Companies. He spearheads advancement of community awareness for both facilities and several WV corporate facilities by leading senior healthcare education seminars, integration of healthcare professionals, local networking and regional event sponsorships. Rob earned his A.A in business at Allegany Community College, additionally garnering NJUCO recognition in soccer. He completed his B.S. degree in 1986 at Frostburg State University and graduated from ACM RN Nursing School in 2014, elected class spokesperson for graduation ceremonies. Most recently, he joined the alumni with the Chamber of Commerce **Leadership Allegany!** program, graduating with **Leadership Allegany!** Class of 2020. Following a two-year healthcare career stint in Wilmington, NC, Rob has returned to his hometown of Cumberland, MD and is active in community, church, missions, and non-profit volunteer programs. In his personal time, Rob's passions expand into God's great outdoors where he enjoys hunting, fishing, organized sports, and precious family time.

### **STEPHEN R. MCBRIDE**

Stephen McBride is the Human Resource Manager for the American Woodmark Corporation facility located in Rawlings, MD. American Woodmark is a leading manufacturer of kitchen and bath cabinetry with operations located throughout the United States and Mexico. Stephen started with American Woodmark in September of 2013 at their manufacturing facility located in Moorefield, WV. He has spent the last six years serving as an HR business partner for the Allegany Plant. Stephen is a 2003 graduate of Hampshire High School and attended West Virginia University where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. While in school, Stephen worked full time as a manager for Lowe's

development. After five years with Lowe's Companies, Stephen transitioned to American Woodmark and began expanding his knowledge and experience in the field of Human Resources. He became certified as a Human Resource Professional in May of 2016 is a certified consultant for the Myers Briggs Type Indicator Assessment (MBTI), helping support both individual and team development. Stephen is also a 2017 Graduate of **Leadership Allegany!** Throughout his thirteen plus years of management experience in the private sector, Stephen has served on a variety of cross functional teams supporting many operational initiatives, and has had the privilege of engaging with the local community in a variety of settings. As a sponsor and former Chair of the Allegany Chapter of the American Woodmark Foundation, Stephen has and continues to engage with numerous local nonprofit organizations by providing both financial and volunteer support. Advocating for a plant population of nearly 600 employees, Stephen understands some of the unique challenges that face our community, and is grateful for the opportunity to dedicate his time in service to Allegany County. Stephen and his wife Rebecca reside in Springfield, WV, have been happily married for eleven years, and have three wonderful boys of whom they are most proud. As a family they enjoy traveling, attending youth sporting events, and anything that brings them outdoors.

### **KRISTI N. MINNIGH**

Kristi is the owner of the Kristi Otto Allstate Insurance Agency on National Highway in LaVale. She graduated from Allegany High School Class of 2009, and Frostburg State University Class of 2013 with a B.S. Degree in Business Administration. She has proudly represented Allstate Insurance since 2010 and became an agency owner in 2016. The insurance industry has enabled her to help local families and businesses protect their loved ones and assets, while building lasting relationships.



She currently serves as a Chamber Board Member, is Chair of the Marketing Committee, and serves on the Membership and Lucky Ladies Night Out Committees. Through her involvement with the Chamber, Kristi has built invaluable relationships with fellow business owners and members of the community. Kristi currently resides in Frostburg, MD with her Great Pyrenees, Samson.

### **REBECCA L. RUPPERT**

Becky Ruppert is the Director of Community & Employer Solutions for the Continuing Education Department at Allegany College of Maryland. She has over 20 years' experience developing and implementing training programs for individuals, businesses and agencies. Becky received a B.S. in Business Administration and a B.S. in Economics from Frostburg State College in 1983 and then received her M.Ed. from FSU in 2006. Prior to working at ACM, Becky served as a First Grade Teacher at Calvary Christian Academy. She also worked in Human Resources at Hercules/ ABL handling all employee and retiree benefits. Becky currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Economic Development committee since graduating from **Leadership Allegany!** Class of 2010. She also serves on the Board of Directors of ACT 1st Federal Credit Union, the Board of Directors of the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority, the Allegany County Strategic Planning Committee as well as other community service organizations. She is a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church. Becky is a lifelong resident of Allegany County where she resides with her husband, Tom. They are the parents of four grown children and four grandchildren. Becky spends her free time with family enjoying every minute with her grandchildren.

# SGAGGERO EVENT PLANNING LLC

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your business?

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Seth Sgaggero, CWP  
78 Knobley Estates Drive  
Ridgeley, WV 26753  
240-727-6943

[sgaggeroeventplanning@gmail.com](mailto:sgaggeroeventplanning@gmail.com)



## Leadership *Allegany!* Alumni Event



On October 6, the **Leadership *Allegany!*** Alumni enjoyed an informative tour of the Emmanuel Episcopal Church and Tunnels. The church is a landmark we pass almost daily and take for granted its historical impact on Allegany County. The alumni were educated by Mr. Ron Growden, who is a wealth of knowledge about the birth of the City of Cumberland, the fort (Fort Cumberland) that existed before the church, the use of the tunnels for both the military and later as a stop on the underground railroad and the church building itself. Mrs. Terry

Michels, *Class of 2006*, also enlightened the group of the church's future projects and their impact on tourism and economic development. After the tour, the alumni were welcomed to Dig Deep Brewery and Charis Winery for tours and tastings with dinner delivered by Oscar's Restaurant. The alumni wish to thank Dig Deep and Charis owners, Rob Dettinburn and Chuck Park, for opening during normally closed business hours to host us. The **Leadership *Allegany!*** Alumni Committee meets monthly to plan educational and informational opportunities

for our alumni members. We welcome alumni to attend our monthly meetings or if you have ideas for tours, new adventures, or learning opportunities, please email Peg McKenzie at [peg@alleganycountychamber.com](mailto:peg@alleganycountychamber.com).

The next **Leadership *Allegany!*** Alumni event will be a tour of the new Locust Post Brewery scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2020 at 2:00 pm. Watch your email for additional information.



## Allegany County Teacher of the Year

The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce recently presented a 2020-2021 Allegany County Teacher of the Year plaque to Stacey Bradley, South Penn Elementary School. Presenting the plaque, on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, was Ms. Autumn Becker, Vice-Chair of the Chamber's Education Committee.

Ms. Bradley has a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Reading, both from Frostburg State University. Currently, she is a reading teacher at South Penn Elementary School. Stacey facilitates the Instructional Consultation Team, chairs the Reading Team, and serves as a representative on the Leadership Team. She also takes a huge part in school and community efforts to spread the message of drug awareness. In addition, Stacey serves as the Superintendent of the Sunday School at Barton Presbyterian Church.





## Notice of Annual Meeting of the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce

Thursday, December 3, 2020  
Cumberland Country Club  
Noon

\$20.00 per person

The Nominating Committee, chaired by **Karen Johnson**, *UPMC Western Maryland*, has recommended the following candidates to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors:

**Patrick W. Buck**, *CBIZ Insurance Services*

**Kristan S. Carter**, *The Toasted Goat Winery*

**Robert W. Collette, Jr.**, *Cumberland Healthcare Center*

**Stephen R. McBride**, *American Woodmark Corporation*

**Kristi N. Minnigh**, *Kristi Otto Allstate Insurance Agency*

**Rebecca L. Ruppert**, *Allegany College of Maryland*

According to the Chamber By-Laws, "additional names of candidates for directors can be nominated by petition bearing the genuine signature of at least five (5) qualified members of the Chamber. Such petition shall be filed with the Nominating Committee after notice has been given of the names of those nominated. The determination of the Nominating Committee as to the legality of the petition(s) shall be final." The deadline for submitting write-in candidates is Monday, November 30, 2020.

**Elections will be held at the beginning of the luncheon.**

### IMPORTANT!

At the Annual Meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup> your vote is important to the candidates. In order for your company to cast its full share of votes, the correct names of your designated representatives must be on file at the Chamber office. If you are in doubt about who your voting representatives are please direct your verification and/or changes of your voting representatives to Peg McKenzie or Krista Llewellyn at the Chamber office – 301-722-2820.



## LEADERSHIP Allegany! RISING Class of 2021

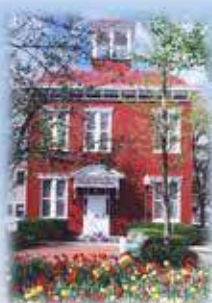
The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce **Leadership Allegany! Rising** program recently held an orientation for the twenty-two participants who are participating in this year's program. **Leadership Allegany! Rising**, which is modeled after the Chamber's very successful **Leadership Allegany!** program, is dedicated to providing positive change by creating a network of future leaders committed to impacting their community.

The participants, all high school juniors, are from Allegany High School, Bishop Walsh School, Calvary Christian Academy, the Center for Career and Technical Education, Fort Hill High School, and Mountain Ridge High School. In a forum of open discussion and interaction class members gain the knowledge and motivation to effect positive change within the region. Class members cover topics such as healthcare, social services, government, economic development, business careers and higher education.

Participating in the program are:

**Sydney Bearinger**, *Bishop Walsh School*  
**Hailee Clawson**, *Center for Career and Technical Education*  
**Joel Clise**, *Calvary Christian Academy*  
**Kolby Custer**, *Fort Hill High School*  
**Adrienne Dale**, *Bishop Walsh School*  
**Ben Green**, *Calvary Christian Academy*  
**Josh Howsare**, *Calvary Christian Academy*  
**Lillian Jackson**, *Allegany High School*  
**Kyah Lee**, *Calvary Christian Academy*  
**Haley Llewellyn**, *Mountain Ridge High School*  
**Saylor Miller**, *Mountain Ridge High School*  
**Brooklyn Noel**, *Fort Hill High School*  
**Grace O'Baker**, *Mountain Ridge High School*  
**Avery Painter**, *Center for Career and Technical Education*  
**Brianna Palasik**, *Center for Career and Technical Education*  
**Emilia Porter**, *Mountain Ridge High School*  
**Kathryn Schram**, *Allegany High School*  
**Cadence Simpson**, *Fort Hill High School*  
**Abigayle Spangler**, *Fort Hill High School*  
**Oliver Tesar**, *Bishop Walsh School*  
**Olivia Thomas**, *Allegany High School*  
**Catherine Vassiliadi**, *Bishop Walsh School*

The program is proudly sponsored by AT&T, Bella, LLC, **Leadership Allegany!** and Mr. James "Snake" Robertson.



*The*  
**CHAMBER**  
  
ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD  
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[www.alleganycountychamber.com](http://www.alleganycountychamber.com)

**Stuart C. Czapski**, Executive Director

**Allegany County Chamber of Commerce 2020 Officers**

**Chairwoman: Nicole R. Wigfield**

**First Vice Chairman: Jeffery D. O'Neal**

**Second Vice Chairman: Robert A. Godfrey**

**Immediate Past Chairman: Scott C. Pfeiffer**