

# Chamber CHATTER



**MECHANICSBURG**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
*The Strength of One. The Power of Many.™*

**4.24.25**

6 West Strawberry Avenue, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (717) 796-0811 [www.mechanicsburgchamber.org](http://www.mechanicsburgchamber.org)

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**News, Events & more!**

## Seeking HOSTS for 2025 EVENTS

- Business Women's Networking Luncheon
  - After Hours Mixer
- Business Leaders Discussion Group

BE A HOST and showcase your business, service and more...

## CHAMBER EVENTS

*Watch for Weekly Updates!!*

*May*

**1 - 15th Annual Cinco de Mayo Regional Fiesta Mixer** - Location - **Volvo CE**, 200 Rowe Rd., Shippensburg, 4:30 - 6:30pm. RSVP requested.

**20 - After Hours Mixer** - **Penn Harris Hotel**, 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill. 4:00 - 6:00pm.

**29- Business Leaders Discussion Group** - Sponsored by **PaySmart Payroll Services**, 650 Wilson Ln, Ste. 100, Mechanicsburg. 7:45 - 9:00 am. Members only event.

RSVP to [info@mechanicsburgchamber.org](mailto:info@mechanicsburgchamber.org)

For a full calendar of chamber and member events, visit [www.mechanicsburgchamber.org/events](http://www.mechanicsburgchamber.org/events)

## Thank You For Renewing Your Membership!

Bridges at Bent Creek (The)  
Civil War and More  
HD Entertainment  
Hoffman Funeral Home & Crematory  
Joy's Ceramics  
Messiah Lifeways

Musselman Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
Penn State Health  
The Manor Salon  
Trez Music Education School  
United Way of the Capital Region

15th Annual



REGIONAL  
FIESTA MIXER

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025  
4:30 - 6:30 PM

V O L V O

Volvo Construction Equipment  
Customer Center  
200 Rowe Road, Shippensburg

RSVP:

<https://bit.ly/3EUGaDD>





# 15th Annual Regional Fiesta Mixer

Thursday, May 1, 2025

4:30 - 6:30 pm

Volvo Construction Equipment  
Customer Center  
200 Rowe Road, Shippensburg

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

Take advantage of this opportunity to connect with 350+ business professionals!

### Exclusive Event Sponsor (SOLD)



### Food Sponsors (1 additional available \$1,000)

- Logo promoted in all event advertising
- Booth Space
- Display Business Banner (provided by Sponsor)



### Venue Sponsor

**V O L V O**

### Beverage Sponsors (\$500)

- Logo promoted in all event advertising
- Signage at bar
- Recognized in print and on social media

### Event Partner (\$500)

- Logo promoted in all event advertising
- Booth space
- Recognized in print and on social media

### Table Sponsor (\$250)

- Booth space
- Recognized in print and on social media



Sponsorship Information: [chamber@shippensburg.org](mailto:chamber@shippensburg.org)

Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce presents:

# *After-Hours Mixer*

FREE  
EVENT!

**Tuesday, May 20**  
**4:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

FREE  
EVENT!

**Penn Harris Hotel**  
1150 Camp Hill Bypass  
Camp Hill, PA 17011



Join us for a Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce After-Hours Mixer at the Penn Harris Hotel. Come see and check out the newly restored hotel featuring its new restaurant - Mercato Mio - and freshly opened pool and patio area.

Music will be provided by the Noah Spangler Quartet (as seen/heard at Jubilee Day).

We invite you to come network with other businesses and get to know fellow professionals in the area. The Mixer is FREE.

RSVP to [info@mechanicsburgchamber.org](mailto:info@mechanicsburgchamber.org) or call 717-796-0811.

Enjoy an evening of networking, refreshments and a chance to win a prize!

RSVPing is easy, simply email [info@mechanicsburgchamber.org](mailto:info@mechanicsburgchamber.org), RSVP online, or call 717-796-0811



**Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce presents:**

# **Business Leaders Discussion Group**

**Thursday, May 29**

**7:45 - 9:00 am**

**Sponsored by  
PaySmart Payroll Services  
650 Wilson Ln, Suite 100  
Mechanicsburg**



RSVP to [info@mechanicsburgchamber.org](mailto:info@mechanicsburgchamber.org) or call 717-796-0811.  
This members-only event is **free** to attend!

**Bring your questions and business topics and hear what others have to say!**

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## **Seeking HOSTS for 2025 EVENTS**

- Business Women's Networking Luncheon
  - After Hours Mixer
- Business Leaders Discussion Group

**BE A HOST** and showcase your business, service and more...

For more information - on **HOSTING AN EVENT**  
contact the Chamber office at 717-796-0811 or email - [info@mechanicsburgchamber.org](mailto:info@mechanicsburgchamber.org).



# Jubilee Day

## Save the Date

On June 19, Jubilee Day returns to the streets of downtown Mechanicsburg. This year marks the 95th Annual edition!

Don't miss your chance to be exposed to nearly 70,000 attendees from across the midstate.

Booth space is available at a discounted rate for Chamber members.

Contact the chamber for an application. 717-796-0811 or [info@mechanicsburgchamber.org](mailto:info@mechanicsburgchamber.org)



## Voter Registration Deadline May 5

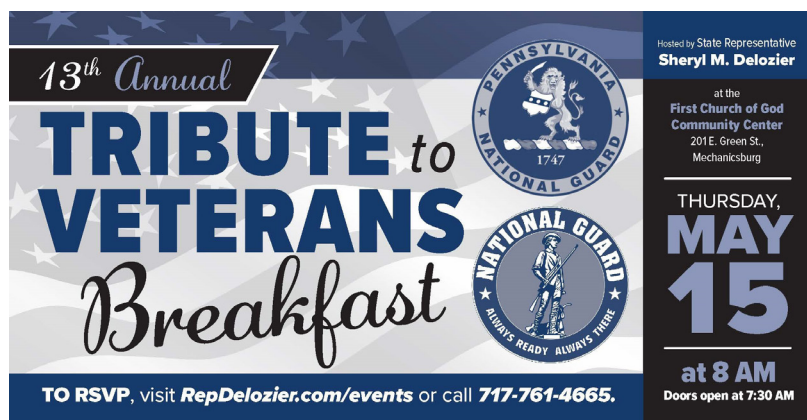
Pennsylvanians who are not already registered to vote but wish to participate in the May 20 municipal primary election should be sure to register no later than Monday, May 5.

To be eligible to vote in the primary, you must be a citizen of the United States for at least one month before the election; a resident of the election district in which you register to vote for at least 30 days before the primary; and at least 18 years of age on or before the date of the primary.

Under state law, only voters registered as Republicans or Democrats may vote for candidates in the primary election.

Citizens may [register to vote online here](#) or visit your [county voter registration office](#). Not sure of your registration status? [Check it here](#).

Voters who prefer to vote by mail-in or absentee ballot have until May 13 to apply for the ballot and until 8 p.m. on May 20 to return it. [For more information, click here](#).



The 88th District's veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families are invited to my 13th annual Tribute to Veterans Breakfast on Thursday, May 15, at 8 a.m. at the Mechanicsburg First Church of God Community Center, located at 201 E. Green St. in Mechanicsburg. At this free program and breakfast, we will pay tribute to the service of local veterans.

This year, our theme is "Celebrating Our National Guard." Rep. Joe Kerwin (R-125), a Pennsylvania Army National Guard captain who deployed for 11 months as commander of Task Force Paxton, 2nd Battalion, 112th Infantry in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-Horn of Africa, will be our guest speaker.

I am looking forward to expressing our gratitude and reflecting on the extraordinary service, sacrifice

# JAZZ ME BAND

KIRK WISE UPCOMING  
SOLO, DUO & BAND  
PUBLIC DATES

Fri. 4/25 – Reid's Wine & Cider House,  
Gettysburg...Kirk & Patrick Duo 7-10

Sat. 4/26 – Gettysburg Farm Campground,  
Dover...Kirk solo 1-4

Sat. 4/26 – Hemauer Brewing  
Anniversary Event...Kirk solo 6-8

Tues. 5/27 Essex House, Camp Hill  
...Kirk solo 1:30-2:30

Fri. 5/9 – Hemauer Brewing, Mechanicsburg  
...Kirk solo 6-9

Sat. 5/10 – Captain Bob's Steamed Crabs,  
Railroad/ Shrewsbury...Kirk solo 6-8

Thurs. 5/15 – VibraLife, Mechanicsburg  
...Kirk solo 2-3

Fri. 5/16 – Jimmy Jaxx Shine Shack,  
Dillsburg...Kirk & Beth 7-10

Sat. 5/17 – Williams Grove Chili Cook Off  
...Kirk solo 8-Noon +

For complete up-to-date  
schedule, information,  
and photos go to  
[www.jazzmeband.com](http://www.jazzmeband.com)

**Bookings:** call Kirk at 717-979-0341 or  
E-mail [wisemotors@aol.com](mailto:wisemotors@aol.com)

**Tour sponsors:**  
**FARNHAM INSURANCE,**  
**MEMBERS 1st F. C. U.,**  
**CLASSIC DRY CLEANERS, STUDIO D &**  
**LANDON WISE PHOTOGRAPHY**

and dedication that defines our Guard soldiers and airmen. Whether it's responding to natural disasters, protecting our communities at home or supporting our armed forces abroad, National Guardsmen embody the essence of service.

Please RSVP to 717-761-4665 or visit  
[RepDelozier.com/Events](http://RepDelozier.com/Events).



## Get Ready for REAL ID

The deadline for enforcement of the federal REAL ID Act is less than a month away.

As of May 7, federal law will require you to present a federally accepted form of identification to board a commercial domestic flight or visit a secure federal building that requires ID at the door. Federally accepted forms of identification include a Pennsylvania REAL ID driver's license or ID card, a U.S. passport or passport card, or a military ID.

While all Pennsylvanians must comply with the new law, obtaining a state-issued REAL ID is not mandatory. PennDOT will continue to offer standard-issue driver's licenses and photo IDs for those residents who do not want or need one. If you're not sure, [PennDOT is offering the REAL ID online wizard to help you decide](#).

In light of growing reports of long lines and limited hours at the state's driver license centers, House Republican leaders have called on the Shapiro administration to expand evening and weekend hours to ensure those who choose to obtain a REAL ID are served more efficiently. PennDOT is currently offering a series of dedicated REAL ID Days on Mondays at many driver license facilities. [Check the schedule here](#).

To learn more about REAL ID and how to obtain one, visit [penndot.gov/REALID](http://penndot.gov/REALID).



# Aspire to Rise Scholarship

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) wants to help fuel your academic future, even if it has an unconventional timeline. The Aspire to Rise Scholarship provides financial assistance for non-traditional students who have experienced adversity in their lives but are looking to overcome those struggles through further education. The opportunity also supports students who plan to register or are scheduled to take the GED.

Rise at any time!  
[www.tfec.org](http://www.tfec.org)



If you are 22 or older and ready to pursue further education despite life's challenges, the Aspire to Rise Scholarship from The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) can help.

This TFEC scholarship supports those who have experienced setbacks such as caregiving responsibilities, financial hardship or other obstacles that delayed attending college, trade school or completing a GED.

"We want individuals to know that it's never too late to continue your education," said Wendy Ellenberger, program officer for educational opportunities at TFEC. "Whether you need to earn your GED, start a trade program or enroll in a four-year degree, this scholarship can help open doors you never thought possible."

## Why Apply for the Aspire to Rise Scholarship

The Aspire to Rise Scholarship offers flexible pathways by supporting various educational goals, from preparing for a GED to attending two-year or four-year degree programs. Awards vary and can help cover tuition or other essential expenses, allowing recipients to focus on their coursework. Schedules are flexible to accommodate students attending part-time or full-time so they can balance school with work or family commitments.

Extra consideration is given to those who have not completed a post-secondary degree, creating second chances for individuals ready to pursue new opportunities.

## Who Should Apply

The scholarship supports nontraditional students who are 22 or older and have faced circumstances such as homelessness, substance abuse recovery, health issues, criminal justice involvement or military service. Applicants must live in Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon or Perry counties or in Dillsburg (York County), giving them access to local colleges, trade schools and certificate programs. It also covers related expenses for GED seekers who are preparing or planning to take the exam.

### How to Apply

Visit [tfec.org/scholarships/aspiretorise](https://tfec.org/scholarships/aspiretorise) to review the criteria, gather the required documents and complete the application.

Submit your application, essay and supplemental files by Wednesday, December 31.

“We are excited to offer this scholarship to individuals who haven’t had an easy road,” said Caitlin Cluck, director of community investment at TFEC. “We believe everyone deserves the chance to invest in their future and positively impact our community.”

TFEC manages 195 scholarship funds and, in 2024 alone, awarded more than \$2 million to nearly 500 students, making higher education more attainable for aspiring learners in south central Pennsylvania. With opportunities spanning a wide range of academic paths, TFEC offers support for diverse interests and backgrounds. To explore all available scholarships, visit [tfec.org/scholarships](https://tfec.org/scholarships).

Would you like to support the TFEC Aspire to Rise Scholarship Fund? You can donate directly to this fund, helping it grow and continue providing essential educational resources to students in our community. Visit [tfec.org](https://tfec.org) to contribute or email [info@tfec.org](mailto:info@tfec.org) with any questions.

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## The 2025 Public Comment Period for the 12-Year Program Update Final Reminder!



TELL US  
ABOUT YOUR  
TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

TAKE THE SURVEY  
March 3 - April 30

 Pennsylvania  
Department of Transportation  State Transportation  
Commission





# Recovery-Friendly Workplace Survey



Penn State's Center for Economic and Community Development is surveying Pennsylvania businesses and organizations about their needs for a recovery-friendly workplace training initiative.

**Please click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code to participate!**



All participants will receive a **\$10 Amazon gift card** as a token of appreciation for their time.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at [cecd@psu.edu](mailto:cecd@psu.edu). Thank you!

The Center for Economic and Community Development at Penn State is conducting a survey to assess the needs and interests of businesses and organizations across Pennsylvania regarding a recovery-friendly workplace training initiative.

The survey gathers information on:

- Workforce needs
- Understanding of substance use disorder
- Current workplace practices in supporting recovery
- Interest in recovery-friendly workplace training

Responses will inform the development of a training initiative tailored to the needs of Pennsylvania employers. Survey responses will be anonymous. All participants will receive a \$10 Amazon gift card as a token of appreciation for their time.

If you are interested, please complete the survey at the link below. Also attached is a QR code to the survey.

[https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5vB0M2dO1nmJWlw](https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5vB0M2dO1nmJWlw)

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at [cecd@psu.edu](mailto:cecd@psu.edu). Thank you!



**Big Brothers  
Big Sisters®**  
OF SOUTH-CENTRAL PA



# BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE

REGISTER TODAY. IMPACT TOMORROW.

## 1) Choose a Date.

- **Saturday, March 22**  
1:00pm & 3:30pm. ABC West, Mechanicsburg.
- **Sunday, March 23**  
2:30pm. ABC West, Mechanicsburg.
- **Saturday, April 5**  
1:00pm. 222 Dutch Lanes, Ephrata.
- **Friday, April 11**  
5:00pm. Suburban Bowlerama, York.
- **Saturday, April 12**  
2:00pm. Suburban Bowlerama, York.
- **Thursday, April 17**  
6:00pm. Palmyra Bowling, Palmyra.
- **Thursday, April 24**  
6:00pm. Midway Bowl, Carlisle.
- **Saturday, April 26**  
2:00pm. South Hanover Lanes, Hanover.
- **Sunday, April 27**  
2:00pm. Edgewood Lanes, Gettysburg.

King Pin Sponsor & Candy Sponsor



**CAPBIGS.ORG/EVENTS**

(717) 236-0199 • events@capbigs.org

## 2) Register Today.

[CAPBIGS.ORG/EVENTS](https://capbigs.org/events)

## 3) Build your team.

Invite friends, family & coworkers.

## 4) Raise funds.

Support a Little, a Big & a family.

## 5) Party!

Bowling. Pizza. Drinks. Raffle prizes.  
Inspire children to dream BIG!

Food Sponsors





**Friday, April 25, 6:00 – 8:00 pm**

Members Only Preview Night

Invitations to Preview Night were mailed to members of the Friends of the Library. We have a list of members at the door.

Not a member? Join at the door! Memberships start at just \$25.

**Saturday, April 26, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

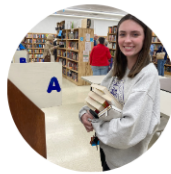
See the list of prices on our website.

**Sunday, April 27, 1:00 – 3:00 pm**

Sunday is the bag sale!

Buy all the books you can fit in a level bag for only \$10.00!

Some restrictions apply. Paper bags are supplied by the Friends of the Library.



At the Learning and Book Sale Center  
45 West Allen Street, Mechanicsburg

***Chamber Chatter*** is published on-line every Thursday.

We encourage member businesses to send us information on sales, promotions, news and events. It is a great way to promote your business or organization.

*Chamber Chatter* advertisements will remain for up to 4 weeks, or as space permits.

If you have something to share, please submit it by Wednesday at noon to  
[info@mechanicsburgchamber.org](mailto:info@mechanicsburgchamber.org).

**\*\*Chamber Chatter advertising is a FREE member benefit.\*\***



*Spreading sunshine to  
those in our community  
fighting cancer or other  
life-threatening  
illnesses.*



**SUNDAY APRIL 27, 2025**

## **Mary Lank Memorial Flamingo Bingo**

**Lower Allen VFW Post 7530 - 4545 Westport Dr.  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

Doors Open at Noon - Games begin at 1:30pm



### **CASH BINGO**

**\$35 includes: 10 Games, Hearty Appetizers & Soda**

Special Games available for purchase

*Tear off-tickets ~ 50/50 Raffle ~ Door Prizes - Basket Raffles*

*Extra Game Cards will be available to purchase*

***For Reservations Contact:  
Karen Shaner 717-979-5546***

EIN #63-0655922

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### **GFWC (General Federation of Women's Clubs) Mechanicsburg**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 7:00 PM at Buhrig's Gathering Place, 25 East Main Street, Mechanicsburg. The program will be a speaker will be Carol Forbes, from Tree 4 Hope. Tree 4 Hope is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to providing a bright future of long-term hope for children, elders, and their families in Guatemala.

May 20th, election day we will be having a bake sale at the Monroe Township Building. Stop by and see us!

Would you like to know more about how we serve the community while helping Veterans, libraries and schools? Come for a visit to find out.

For more information, contact Sue at 717.243.9872 visit our website at <http://gfwcmecch.tripod.com/>



**GFWC**  
est. 1890  
**GENERAL FEDERATION  
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

**JOIN US FOR A**

# **Derby Night of Giving**

**SUNDAY, MAY 4  
4-7 PM**

**The Barn at Creek's Bend  
29 S. Middlesex Road  
Carlisle, PA 17015**

**For the  
Health  
of a  
Child**



**Silent  
Auction**



**Delicious Food  
& Drinks**



**Derby Hat  
Contest**



**Cocktail  
Attire**



**Evening Emcee:  
Alicia Richards, WHTM-abc27 Anchor**



**Tickets: \$100 Per Person  
Sponsorships Available**



**SCAN HERE**

**All proceeds benefit  
children's medical &  
dental services at  
Sadler Health Center.**





# RACE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL AROUND THE WORLD

2025 proceeds support The Tide ministry work in Cameroon!



Race Registration

## Event Options

- 5K Race
- 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk

Registered racers receive

- Race t-shirt
- Race sticker

Top three 5K finishers in each category receive a medal!

## Event Details

Saturday, May 17th  
9 AM to 1 PM

Norlo Park  
Pavilion 1 and 2  
Fayetteville, PA

FREE  
Family Fun Day  
for everyone!

Open to the public!

## Additional Fun

- Prizes
- Games
- Activities
- Inflatable
- Give Aways
- Picnic Lunch
- Sponsor Booths

See reverse side for Sponsorship  
and Virtual Challenge information.





**THE FOUNDATION  
FOR ENHANCING  
COMMUNITIES**

## Emergent Needs Grant

**In response to the recent federal funding freezes and disruptions, TFEC has seen and heard the needs of local nonprofits and is releasing an RFP for general operating expenses to ensure the continuation of essential community programming.**

- Up to \$15,000 in grant support to help nonprofits sustain vital community programs.
- Rolling application process for flexible, timely funding
- Trust-based philanthropy ensures a streamlined process and empowers nonprofits to use grants where they are needed most.
- Focus on south central Pennsylvania, serving Cumberland, Lebanon, Perry and York Counties.
- Up to \$250,000 in total available grant funds.

**Visit [tfec.org](https://tfec.org) to learn more**

Nonprofits in south central Pennsylvania work tirelessly to address urgent community needs—from food insecurity to healthcare. When these organizations face sudden federal funding disruptions and uncertainty, vital services can suffer.

To help continue their essential work, The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) announces its Emergent Needs grant, offering eligible nonprofits up to \$15,000 in support for programs that serve residents across the region.


“When unpredictable shifts in the funding occur, nonprofits often struggle to meet rising community needs,” said Caitlin Cluck, director of community investment at TFEC. “This grant program assists in bridging those gaps by providing critical financial support so organizations can maintain vital services for individuals and families who rely on them—even when funding support is uncertain.”

By embracing a trust-based philanthropic approach, TFEC aims to bolster nonprofits’ ability to address urgent community needs without the constraints of burdensome processes. By providing flexible, timely support, TFEC ensures that funds—dispersed on a rolling basis over the next three

months—can be used where they are needed most. This targeted effort helps safeguard social services and improve quality of life in Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry and York Counties.


“The Emergent Needs Grant is a reflection of our mission to protect and uplift the nonprofits that strengthen our communities,” said Jennifer Doyle, president and CEO at TFEC. “We want local organizations to know that when circumstances become uncertain, TFEC is here to help them stay resilient and impactful.”

Eligible nonprofits can find details on how to apply at [www.tfec.org](http://www.tfec.org), where information on deadlines, application guidelines, and FAQs is readily available. Community members or potential partners seeking more information are encouraged to email TFEC’s Community Investment Team at [ccluck@tfec.org](mailto:ccluck@tfec.org).




eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
carlisle & cumberland county

The  
**Persimmon**  
*Awards*  
Honoring Women of Achievement



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HEALTH


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ORRSTOWNBANK




ALLIANCE  
FINANCIAL



thrivent<sup>+</sup>

Roots Financial Group



Strickler  
Group, Inc.  
100 YEARS



REESE  
& CO *Design Group*  
TOTAL LIFE AESTHETIC.

IN-KIND SPONSORS



The  
Whimsical  
Poppy



Speckled Hen  
Florida

Please join us for the annual  
**Persimmon Awards Luncheon**  
as we honor the diverse achievements of  
women in Cumberland County.

May 29, 2025  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
*Army Heritage and Education Center*

**2025 Persimmon Honorees**

<b>Colleen Friend</b> Carlisle Area School District Superintendent	<b>Sonya Browne</b> Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties Executive Director	<b>YWCA George Award</b> <b>Jacqueline L. Powell</b> Alliance Financial Certified Financial Planner™
<b>Ashley Knight</b> Carlisle Area School District Teacher	<b>Jamie DiMartile</b> Carlisle Police Department Corporal	

Register Here





Cumberland Area  
Economic Development  
Corporation

# LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT SEMINAR



**June 12, 2025**



**10 AM - 12 PM**

**Register Here**

Join CAEDC to learn more about the Local Share Account programs and discuss best practices to engage stakeholders.



**West Shore Theatre  
317 Bridge St  
New Cumberland, PA 17070**

**CUMBERLAND VALLEY**  
PENNSYLVANIA

Cumberland Area  
Economic Development  
Corporation

# Mechanicsburg Lions Club

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual "We Serve" Golf Tournament



July 11, 2025 @



The Mechanicsburg Lions Club will host the 5th annual "We Serve" charity Golf Tournament on Friday, July 11, 2025 at Mayapple Golf Club in Carlisle. 8am shot gun start with lunch to follow at Fiddler's Bar & Grill at the golf course.

We hope you will join us again this year and help us support our many charitable organizations.

[Click here for registration forms](#)

Limited to the first 108 golfers that sign up and pay. We look forward to seeing you on the course. Thank you for your continued support.

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## Being asked to do work that's not in your job description? 5 smart ways to draw the line

*From one-off favors to chronic over-functioning, taking on tasks that don't belong to you drains your energy and dilutes your impact.*

By **Megan Dalla-Camina** - Fast Company

You're already juggling competing deadlines, back-to-back meetings, and strategic priorities. Then the Slack message arrives: "Hey, can you just take care of this?" It's not in your job description. It's not aligned with your goals. And it's not the first time.

Whether it's managing logistics, picking up someone else's project, or being asked to take notes



again—many workers are routinely handed tasks that fall outside their role. Often, it's framed as being a "team player." But over time, these extra asks can add up to chronic overwork, blurred boundaries, and a stalled career trajectory.

Handling these situations well isn't about being difficult—it's about being strategic. Here's how to respond in ways that are clear, confident, and aligned with your long-term goals.

## 1. Clarify the request—and its relevance

Before you respond, take a moment to understand the ask. What's really being requested? Who should be doing it? And why is it coming to you?

This is especially important for tasks that seem "quick" but aren't strategic—like organizing team events, taking meeting minutes, or picking up admin no one else wants. These are often invisible labor tasks that **disproportionately fall on women and people of color**, particularly in hybrid and virtual environments.

**What to say:** "Happy to support—can you help me understand how this fits within my priorities or where it came from?" Or: "Is this something our [ops/admin/project] team would usually handle?"

Asking these questions reframes the conversation and makes the invisible visible—without defensiveness.

## 2. Pause before responding

You don't have to answer immediately. One of the biggest reasons we say yes to things we don't want (or need) to do is because we're caught off guard. We're conditioned to be agreeable and responsive. But taking a beat creates space between the request and your response.

That pause can be powerful.

It allows you to assess:

- Do I have the capacity?
- Is this aligned with my role and goals?
- What's the real cost of saying yes?

**What to say:** "Thanks for thinking of me—can I come back to you on this once I've reviewed my priorities for the week?"

This puts you back in control and gives you room to respond with intention rather than obligation.

## 3. Don't confuse being helpful with being responsible

There's a big difference between offering support as a leader and being expected to clean up someone else's mess. Many high-performing workers default to "I'll just do it" because it feels faster or more efficient in the moment. But over time, it leads to scope creep, burnout, and resentment.

Tasks like organizing team birthdays, onboarding new hires without a handover, or smoothing out interpersonal dynamics often land on women—not because they're in your job description, but because you're seen as the reliable one.

**What to do:**

- Ask yourself: “Is this a one-off favor or an ongoing expectation?”
- Track how often it happens—and the impact on your core responsibilities.
- Notice if it’s being evenly distributed across the team—or falling on you by default.

Being helpful is a strength. But when it’s at the expense of your boundaries, clarity, or energy, it’s time to draw a line.

**4. Practice saying no—without guilt**

Saying no can feel uncomfortable, especially when you want to be seen as collaborative and competent. But “no” doesn’t have to be harsh. It can be thoughtful, respectful, and still assert your priorities.

**What to say:**

- “I’m currently at capacity with my core responsibilities and can’t take this on right now.”
- “That’s outside my scope, and I want to make sure I’m focused on where I can add the most value.”
- “I’m not the best person for this, but happy to suggest someone who might be.”

The key is to remove apology from your tone. You’re not being difficult—you’re being discerning. And that’s what leadership requires.

**5. Raise the bigger conversation when needed**

If you’re regularly being asked to do tasks outside your role—or expected to manage things that aren’t aligned with your position—it’s time to step back and zoom out. This isn’t just about one request. It’s about your scope, your role clarity, and the culture you’re operating in.

Use your next check-in or performance review to realign. Be honest about what you’ve taken on, how it’s impacted your work, and what needs to shift.

**What to say:** “I’ve noticed I’m consistently being asked to take on tasks that sit outside my formal role. I want to make sure I’m being as impactful as possible in my core responsibilities—can we talk about boundaries, priorities, and how to structure my work accordingly?”

This kind of conversation not only protects your time—it models leadership for others who might also be navigating blurred lines.

The bottom line: Just because you can do something doesn’t mean you should. Your energy, time, and talent are precious—and finite.

Protecting your scope isn’t selfish. It’s strategic. It’s how you stay focused on the work that matters, create sustainable success, and lead with clarity and confidence.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Megan Dalla-Camina** is a renowned author, founder of the *Women Rising* movement, and authority on women’s empowerment and leadership. Her new book, *Women Rising: The Forces That Hold Us Back, The Tools to Help Us Rise*, explores the paradoxes and power dynamics women face, offering practical tools for reclaiming personal and professional growth. [womenrisingbook.com](https://womenrisingbook.com)