



DEC  
2025

# LEGACY LEDGER



**Fostering Community Connection. Driving Business Success.**



# 2025 LaGrange County Board of Directors Elections

The LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce is excited to present the nominees for the 2026 Board of Directors election. This year, three current board members are up for re-election, and there is one vacancy to fill. A total of six outstanding candidates have been nominated to serve in these 3-year positions.

### The nominees up for re-election are:

- Traci Blaize - Lakeland School Corporation
- Dustin Glick - Eberhard, Weimer, & Glick P.C.
- Mervin Lehman - Heartland Mattress

### The additional nominees are:

- Verlin Lambright - Townline Furniture
- Ben Miller - Ben's Pretzel
- Viviana Guzman - Purdue Extension

Voting will take place during the Chamber's Annual Meeting & Member Showcase event on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Blue Gate Performing Arts Center. We encourage all members to attend, as your participation is essential in shaping the future leadership of our Chamber. Please mark your calendars and join us for this important event. Together, let's continue to build a strong and vibrant LaGrange County business community!



Traci Blaize



Dustin Glick



Mervin Lehman



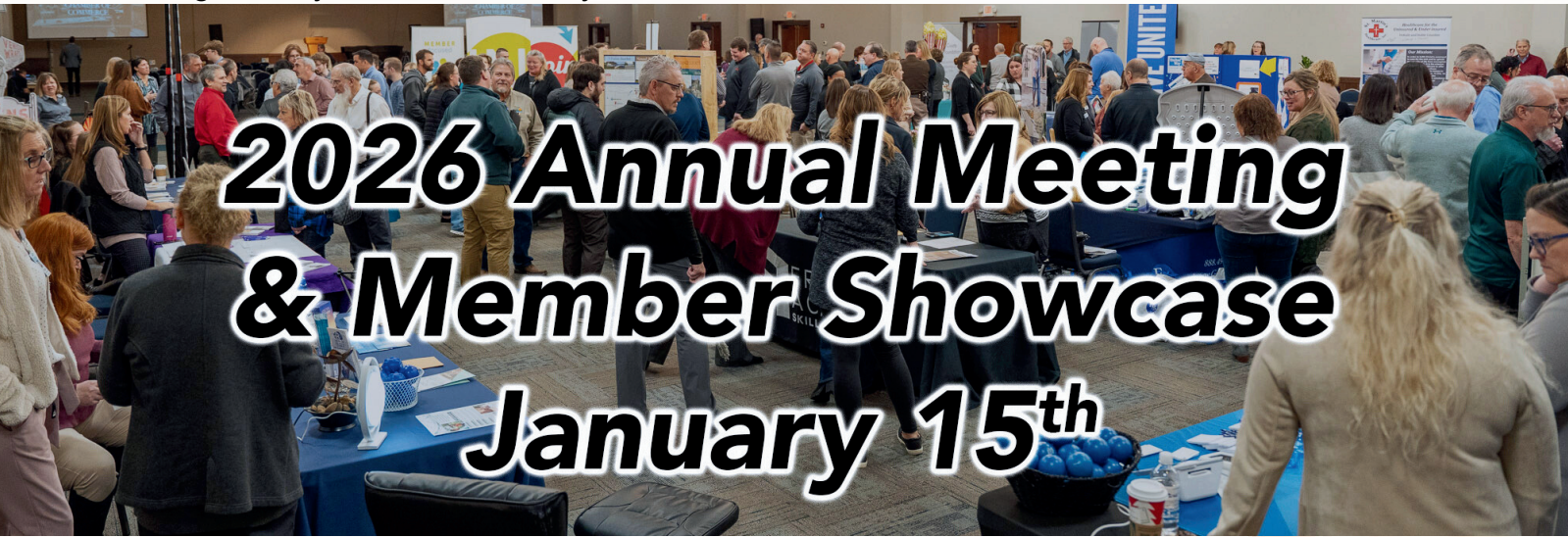
Verlin Lambright



Ben Miller



Viviana Guzman



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# Welcome No Place Like Oz Museum & Gift Shop to the Chamber!

The LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to welcome No Place Like Oz Museum & Gift Shop, owned by Katie Bailey, to our Chamber family!

Katie's love for The Wizard of Oz began when she was just two years old, sparking a lifelong passion for collecting memorabilia from the iconic story. What started as a childhood dream of opening her own Oz museum has become a reality—one she has been actively working toward for the last four years. Her museum officially opened its doors in August 2024, bringing a touch of magic to LaGrange County.

Inside No Place Like Oz, guests will find a truly unique and personal collection. Most items have been discovered by Katie in person, each one carrying its own story, memory, and moment of excitement. From rare finds to timeless classics, Katie is always searching for new pieces she doesn't yet have—continuing to grow a collection that has been decades in the making.

We are excited to see Katie's vision come to life and proud to support this one-of-a-kind addition to our local business community. Welcome, Katie, and No Place Like Oz Museum & Gift Shop!

You can find them at 204 N Detroit Street in LaGrange. Open Fridays 1:00 to 5:00 pm and Saturdays 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Follow them on Facebook to stay up-to-date on their hours!



Pictured Left-Right: Sara Patrick, LaGrange County Chamber; Katie Bailey, No Place Like Oz Museum & Gift Shop; Tony Schneider, LigTel; Jamie Fennell, LaGwana; Chris Miller, Camp Lutherwald; Brett Hahn, Indian Lakes Marketing; Jessica Linder, Mongo Trading Post; Sarah Gletty, Shipshewana/LaGrange County CVB; Jennifer Engle, Polish Girl Collectibles; and Cori Vilardo, First State Bank.

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# Maximize Your Chamber Membership in LaGrange County

As a valued member of the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce, you are part of a network that strengthens our community and drives business success. Chamber membership offers opportunities for growth, visibility, and meaningful connections that help your business thrive while supporting the local economy.

## Business Benefits You Can Leverage

- **PHP Healthy Hoosier Plan:** Save up to 30% over traditional ACA plans with specially-priced group health plans.
- **Auto-Owners Discounts:** Access scaled discounts on any business insurance plan.
- **ODP Business Solutions:** Extra savings, exclusive pricing, and free shipping on office essentials.
- **Constant Contact Discount:** Equip your business with the industry-leading digital marketing tools.
- **Virtual Job Board:** Find your next employee through online and emailed job postings.
- **CHAMP Plan:** Innovative health technology and strategies to fill gaps in your current health plan.

## Employee Benefits for Your Team

- **Member2Member:** Help your employees save on local entertainment, furniture, food, and more.
- **Professional Development:** Send your team to exclusive training opportunities to elevate your workforce.
- **CHAMP Plan:** Lower healthcare and claim costs, address high-risk areas, and promote employee well-being, boosting take-home pay and providing exceptional benefits.

## Visibility and Networking Opportunities

- **Marketing Landing Page:** Boost your search engine optimization with a supplemental website.
- **Exclusive Showcases:** Highlight your business in the Annual Member Directory, Chamber Partners program, and other member-only advertising and speaking opportunities.
- **Ambassador Program:** Expand your network by connecting your team with Chamber programs and new members.
- **Relational Networking:** Engage with potential customers through monthly luncheons and other events.
- **Referrals:** Access member-only connections for requested services and RFPs.
- **Ribbon Cuttings:** Celebrate business milestones with media coverage, photos, and community recognition.

- **Included Advertising:** Market your business via the weekly Chamber Insider e-news, countywide online calendar, and the monthly Chamber Legacy Ledger.
- **Consumer Credibility:** Membership signals that your business is trustworthy, community-focused, and committed to good practices.

## Make the Most of Your Membership

Your Chamber membership is more than a listing or a logo. It is a gateway to collaboration, connection, and opportunities to grow your business and contribute to the success of LaGrange County. Make sure you are taking advantage of all the benefits available to you.

## Need Help Getting Started?

Visit [lagrangechamber.org/member-benefits](http://lagrangechamber.org/member-benefits) or contact our team to learn more about how to maximize your membership today.



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# LaGrange County Chamber Launches “Shop Local & Win” Campaign

The LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the launch of a new initiative designed to highlight the power of shopping local. The Shop Local & Win campaign will run from November 1 through December 21, encouraging residents to support LaGrange County businesses throughout the holiday season.

Here’s how it works: anytime you spend \$25 or more at a LaGrange County business, you can submit your receipt to the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce for a chance to win gift cards to local businesses. Every \$25 spent earns you one entry into the drawing, but if you shop at a LaGrange County Chamber Member business, your entry will triple, earning you three entries for every \$25 spent.

“This initiative is all about celebrating our local businesses and reminding residents that every purchase made here in LaGrange County strengthens our community,” said Sara Patrick, Executive Director of the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce. “Shopping local keeps dollars in our local economy, supports jobs, and builds a stronger, more connected community.”

Weekly prize drawings will take place on November 24, December 1, December 8, December 15, and December 22.

Participants can visit [www.lagrangechamber.org/shoplocal](http://www.lagrangechamber.org/shoplocal) to learn more, view official rules and exclusions, and submit receipts.

Join us this holiday season to shop local, support your neighbors, and win local!



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# Chamber Joins National Call to Reopen the Federal Government

Earlier this month, the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce joined a national coalition of 215 associations and state and local chambers in urging Congress to take action and reopen the federal government. This effort, led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, aimed to end the longest government shutdown in U.S. history.

In a letter sent to lawmakers, the coalition emphasized the growing impact of the shutdown on American families, local communities, the economy, and national security. The letter applauded bipartisan efforts to identify solutions and urged Congress to immediately finalize progress and vote to reopen the government.

The U.S. Chamber expressed strong support for the Senate’s legislative package to reopen the government and called on members of Congress to act swiftly. From the beginning of the shutdown, the Chamber has been vocal about the challenges it poses to small businesses and the local economy.

By joining this nationwide effort, the LaGrange County Chamber reaffirmed its commitment to advocating for a stable business environment and the well-being of our community.



Photos taken at our November Coffee with the County event, featuring Congressman Marlin Stutzman. Photo contributed by Keith James Photography



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AND IS DISTRIBUTED FREE OF CHARGE TO BUSINESSES  
IN LAGRANGE COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

A PDF VERSION OF "LEGACY LEDGER" IS AVAILABLE AT  
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MEMBER-ONLY PERKS

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Find your next employee through online and  
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**CHAMP Plan**  
Save on your payroll taxes while offering your  
employees a supplemental health plan

## Employee Perks & Discounts

**Member2Member**  
Find savings on all things local, from  
entertainment to furniture to food and more

**Professional Development**  
Send your team to exclusive training  
opportunities to elevate your workforce

**CHAMP Plan**  
Boost your takehome pay while also enjoying  
the benefits of this supplemental health plan

## Raise the Tide

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John F. Kennedy

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