

The Perry County Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Dinner on April 11. The Chamber welcomed 104 guests to the Dinner - a 24% increase of 2015. Keynote Speaker, Kevin Shivers, Executive PA Director for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) shared the challenges and opportunities facing small, independent business owners. "There are 900,000 small businesses in Pennsylvania. The government spends billions of dollars to attract big business. Imagine if those funds were spent supporting our small businesses." Shivers commented that he was "astonished" to learn that the Perry County Chamber was only six years old and boasted a membership of over 230.

Annual awards were also presented in seven categories: Chamber Advocates - William Benner, Christine Dudley, Rich Pluta; Business Achievement, Hoover Brothers, Jay Hoover owner; Career, Jeff Mattern; Non Profit, Ann Shields, Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties; Community Service, Butcher's Farm Market, Stacey and Mark Butcher; Young Professional, Laura Campbell; and Volunteer, Patti McLaughlin.

The Chamber also said goodbye to five Board members whose terms were up. Four of those were founding Chamber members: William Benner, Frank Campbell, Ann Simonetti and Richard Steffy. Also leaving the Board was Christine Dudley.

New Board members are: Douglas Dyer, Pinnacle Health; Jim Fuller, James W Fuller Construction; Darin Lesh, Green Acres Realty; Candice Neff, Members 1st Federal Credit Union; and Tonya Worthy, Base Camp Outfitters.

"The Perry County Chamber's momentum continues," said Chamber Director Rhonda Campbell. "It's evident in our membership growth and the attendance at the Annual Dinner. Our members are embracing what Chamber executives have known for a long time: there is value in belonging to a strong Chamber."

For information on the Perry County Chamber, visit www.perrycountychamber.org or email pccc@perrycountychamber.org.