

LVEDC Annual Meeting

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"From this location, steelworkers made the steel that built the skylines of our cities, and the armaments that helped to win two world wars," Cunningham said, noting the blast furnaces just outside the ArtsQuest Center. "It's hard to beat the poetry of that. Today, we make a little bit of everything."

From Crayola to Mack Trucks, the Lehigh Valley is home to more than 750 manufacturers, and manufacturing employment is growing five times faster than the national average. With an output of \$8.4 billion, manufacturing is the biggest contributor of the Lehigh Valley Gross Domestic Product of \$47 billion.

And the interest in the Lehigh Valley is growing among manufacturers and businesses in many other sectors.

Last year, the Lehigh Valley was ranked once again in the Top 10 in the United States for regions of our size in new economic development projects, placing second in the U.S. for regions of 200,000 to 1 million.

Mayors Panel: Quality of Place Drives Economic Growth

Cunningham moderated a panel discussion with the Allentown Mayor Matt Tuerk, Bethlehem Mayor J. William Reynolds and Easton Mayor Sal Panto Jr.

They lead growing cities that are driving downtown renaissances with new residential construction, community attractions, office space and community investments. The quality of place taking shape in the urban core is attracting new residents, priming the pump for economic development.

The mayors recently announced the creation of a 3-city collaboration that will develop shared solutions to address issues common to all Lehigh Valley municipalities.

Leadership Award for Commitment to the Lehigh Valley

LVEDC honored former state Senator and current Acting Secretary Browne with its Leadership Award for Commitment to the Lehigh Valley.

Browne has long been a champion for economic development in the Lehigh Valley and a dedicated partner with LVEDC in initiatives to grow the regional economy.

As a legislator, he helped secure state funding that supported Lehigh Valley economic development efforts, including the LVEDC-led regional talent strategies initiative, the Made Possible in Lehigh Valley regional marketing partnership, and the work of LVEDC's Education and Talent Supply Council.

Board of Directors Recognition

LVEDC Board Chairman Ed Dougherty told the crowd that LVEDC's partnership for economic development "is producing impressive results."

"Our partnership for economic development is producing impressive results," Dougherty said. "We're fortunate the LVEDC board represents a wide range of Lehigh Valley businesses and organizations with a shared commitment to regional growth."

Dougherty, Senior Vice President & Chief Business Development Officer at Lehigh Valley Health Network, will remain on as the board chair. Along with Dougherty, the LVEDC executive committee includes Vice Chair Stephen Hoff, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Crayola; Treasurer Chris Brown, Senior Vice President & Director SBA Lending at Fulton Bank; and Secretary Dan McCarthy, Secretary of the Lehigh Valley Partnership.

Dougherty then recognized the changes on the board. To see a full list of the board changes, click here.

LVEDC Investment

LVEDC received a record level of \$810,000 in sponsorship and investment from its regional partners, said Jamie Marie Whalen, LVEDC Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff.

Whalen noted that sponsorship and investment increased by 7% over 2021. More than 130 companies and organizations invested in LVEDC in 2022, including 18 that were either new investors or increased their investment. The largest investors in the coalition are Lehigh and Northampton counties. Their public-sector investment totaled \$155,000 in 2022.

The coalition led by LVEDC delivers a regional strategy and approach to shape, grow, and diversify the economy. The results have been impressive. Today, the Lehigh Valley is strong, resilient, and ready for the future.

JOIN US FOR

THE EASTER BUNNY AT RFB

MARCH 24, 30, & 31 - 5:00 - 7:00
 APRIL 1 - 2:00 - 4:00
 APRIL 6 & 7 - 5:00 - 7:00
 *APRIL 8: 11:00 - 1:00 & 2:00 - 4:00
 • BRING YOUR OWN CAMERA •

Brunch with the Bunny April 8, 2023
 Menu Served 10:00 - 2:00
 •Bacon Jam Pancakes
 •Loretta's Breakfast Sandwich
 •Avocado and Goat Toast
 •Steak & Eggs Benedict
 *All items served with a side of breakfast potatoes
 *Featured Cocktails including Mimosas & Bloody Mary's
 Dinner Menu & Weekly Specials served 2:00 - 8:30

EXTENDED HOURS GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 7: 12:00 - 9:00

The Slate Belt Rotary Club Presents:

The 10th Annual Breakfast with The Easter Bunny Saturday April 1st, 2023 from 9-11AM

DONATIONS ACCEPTED PAY WHAT YOU WISH

Held at: **Scorecard SPORTS BAR & GRILL**
 130 N Broadway • Wind Gap, PA 18091

Info and Reservations: 610-863-5269
info@scorecardbar.com

Proceeds benefit: **SBR Coats for Kids Campaign**

Cars 4 Kidneys

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We take any vehicle running or not.

Every donation is tax deductible!