



January 2016

Dear Fellow Business Owner,

What a great time to get involved with your local business association!! Get to know your fellow business owners in the area; discuss business concerns; stay up to date with goings-on in the community; have an opportunity to promote your business and gain more customers. We are EMBA, the Endless Mountains Business Association, a networking business organization where business owners get together on a regular basis to socialize and discuss business issues that affect them.

EMBA was organized to serve businesses along the I-81 and Rt 11 corridor of Susquehanna County; primarily the Blue Ridge School District area from Gibson and New Milford to Hallstead and Great Bend. But our members hail from areas such as Binghamton, NY, Tunkhannock, Kingsley and Hawley, PA.

2015 was jam-packed with informative, relevant and meaningful events including speaker meetings, the annual mixer and a group tour. We were fortunate to meet and hear from Leaders in our area such as the New Milford Township Emergency Management Coordinator on emergency preparedness and a Certified Financial Planner on the myriad of financial products available today. Greater Binghamton SCORE paid us a visit to detail the services that are available to us as small businesses in starting and growing our ventures. We heard from some of our own as they presented on their products and services. A licensed social worker/counselor led us in some great stress busting tips and ideas. We also heard from the Executive Director of the Endless Mountains Visitor's Bureau (EMVB) who work hard to promote our area from a tourism perspective.

Our Summer Mixer was well received this year with Alan Hall, Majority Commissioner for Susquehanna County, and Tony Ventello, Executive Director of the Progress Authority, speaking on the Economic Development along the I-81 Corridor.

And we ended the year with a group tour of the recently opened Mormon Visitors Center/Priesthood Restoration Historical Site and learned of the economic impact this potentially could mean for our area businesses.

EMBA worked hard in 2015 with the submission of the Room Tax Grant application. And we are pleased to announce that we were awarded funding that will allow for the design and development our new website. This will enable us to promote the member businesses we serve. In addition, rack cards will be created and distributed pointing locals and visitors alike to our website generating greater visibility for your business.

This past year, EMBA was also involved in the community by offering its annual \$500 Business Scholarship to a graduating senior as well as fully sponsoring a 6<sup>th</sup> grader on their 4 day Washington DC trip through the Creative Adventures for Education, Inc.

As we move forward, we can expect 2016 to be equally beneficial and engaging to our members; but we need you to join us. Our membership application is enclosed. At only \$45 and with all the opportunities and benefits that EMBA offers, how you can afford not to join?

To your success,

Ethel Boccafogli,  
2016 President

Tom Chamberlain,  
Vice President

Dr Lisa Ciavola,  
Secretary

Marsha Morrison,  
Treasurer