

FCDC NEWS

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FCDC Director's Update

We are nearing the end of 2020. In some ways it flew by, and in other ways, it has taken a long time to get here. I know that this was a year none of us will forget. I believe we will learn much from this year's experiences that will provide for new ideas and new approaches to many aspects of how we live our lives and run our businesses. These have been hard lessons, but I have confidence we will come out of this much stronger and better equipped to handle future challenges.

With that said, we are not out of the woods yet. FCDC will continue to be a source of information on COVID relief funds, health updates, and general support as you manage through the remainder of this pandemic. Our organization allows all of our members to benefit from communication related to our ever-changing environment and we will continue to aggressively provide you with valuable information.

Year in Review

How we started the year was much different than how it is ending. We had a great industry luncheon at the Walmart Distribution Center before the pandemic took hold. I received great feedback on this event and we will begin to hold such luncheons again when able to do so safely.



We featured a number of our partners throughout the year in this newsletter. It is important for all of us to know our fellow members and support each other whenever possible. It was an honor to lift up this year, QSI, Ottawa CO-OP, American Eagle, Select Steel, Walmart Distribution #6035, COF, and the City of Wellsville. I look forward to lifting up many more in 2021.



We celebrated Industry Appreciation Month in June with a strong radio and print marketing blitz. Our partners at the Ottawa Herald and KOFO did a great job helping us communicate the value that all of our FCDC members bring to our community. I received many positive comments from members of our community that did not fully understand the impact you all have regarding, jobs, taxes, and charitable support.

FCDC was very active in supporting small businesses across the county by applying for and managing the CDBG-CV grant program for the county. This COVID relief grant fund of \$135,000 has helped eight small business/industries located in Franklin County. Over \$107,000 has been granted so far and I expect the remainder to be awarded during the first quarter of 2021. FCDC members are playing an important role in assisting those in need during these difficult times.

FCDC has worked hard this year to provide helpful and timely information to the membership regarding COVID relief programs. The stimulus packages passed by congress resulted in significant funds becoming available through PPP, SPARK, and the CARES Act during these difficult times. Our financial members were key to getting PPP funds out into the market and they did an outstanding job. We were also actively engaged at the state level as determinations were being made as to how funds would be allocated throughout the state and various industries and organizations. We will continue this work in 2021.

With the arrival of 2021 we will have new leadership on our board. I want to say thank you to Ryan Henningsen for his great leadership as our president during 2021. We will have another strong leader for 2021 as Craig Evans takes over the role of president. We also say goodbye (for now) and thanks to David Lee and Rob Pearce who are leaving the board as their terms expire. They have both served this organization well. With that, we welcome three new board members, Roger Maxwell, Donielle Dodson, and Jarred Sterling. I know they will provide strong leadership to FCDC.

Happy Holidays

I hope all of you will have time to relax and enjoy family during these holidays. I know COVID impacts how we accomplish that, but it is possible with technology and safety protocols. You all have worked hard for our community this past year. Your efforts are a gift to this community. Thank you.

I am excited for a new year and the opportunities it will bring all of us. We will soon have this pandemic behind us and begin to live our new normal. I look forward to working with you throughout 2021 and I wish all of you great success. I stand ready to assist you anyway I can to help you reach your goals. Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

It is a GREAT day to live in Franklin County!

Paul Bear

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