

CHAMBER MONTHLY

4300 W. Streetsboro Rd.
Richfield, Ohio 44286
www.richfieldchamber.com

Stacy Dottavio
Executive Secretary

Ph: (330) 659-3300 • Email: mail@richfieldchamber.com

APRIL 2020

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Amy French

I would like to offer heartfelt thoughts and prayers of health, comfort and community as we all face what is likely the most serious public health crisis of our lifetime. I would urge all of us to continue to follow the guidance provided by state and national officials during the COVID-19 outbreak: please continue to practice social distancing and frequent and thorough hand washing; remember to cough/sneeze into your elbow; and stay home as much as you can. Many Richfield area companies have moved to remote work for their employees to help contain the spread of the virus. And the Chamber recently announced that it has canceled its luncheon for the month of April.

While we are not able to get together in person right now, we can continue to support and check in on one another. Please consider:

- Reaching out by phone or video chat to your colleagues and friends to check in on them
- Holding a Netflix party
- Moving your book club to a digital format, and

• While we are still able, please consider supporting our local restaurants by (safely) ordering takeout.

And while many of our families are experiencing unprecedented levels of togetherness, let's try and resist the urge to become grumpy and instead approach this with attitude of gratitude. I have reminded myself many times how precious it is to have this unexpected family time. Please do enjoy your family – but with 3-6 feet of space between you.

This is an unexpected and scary time for our nation and for the world. Please stay safe and support one another. We will all get through this together.

Amy French

President, Richfield Chamber of Commerce

Richfield businesses can post to community through news@scriptype.com

The Richfield Chamber of Commerce has always worked to connect businesses. With the April networking luncheon canceled, the Richfield Times is offering other ways to stay connected to the business and residential community.

The Times is the community's main source of information and the staff is working online to post information about Richfield businesses, the government, schools and neighbors.

Visit the Richfield Times website at www.scriptype.com/richfield-times,

or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/richfieldtimes.

If you want to share a business update with the community and other businesses during the "shelter" period, email the information to news@scriptype.com. It will be posted on the above website.

The Richfield Times has been connecting residents, businesses, the governments and schools for 40 years and we are pleased to be able to keep the connections going during this surreal period.



LET'S DO LUNCH!

**WEDNESDAY,
April 1, 2020
Luncheon
CANCELLED**

Richfield Chamber of Commerce Board Members

President – Amy French (OEC)

*Vice President – Lynn Seifert
(Seifert & Cox LLP)*

*Secretary – Mark Yantak
(Regina Health Center)*

*Treasurer – Justin Hamlin
(HFS Wealth Advisors)*

*Past President – Sheryl Wilson
(Bay Pointe Technology)*

*Taste of Richfield Chair –
Sue Serdinak (Scriptype Publishing)*

*Links for Education Chair – Karen Smik
(Richfield Historical Society)*

*Scholarship Committee Chair –
Jim Koewler (Koewler Law Firm)*

Membership Chair – open

Summit County Public Health offers resources for employers

The Employers for Health Consortium (EFHC) website managed by Summit County Public Health is being continuously updated with COVID-19 information and resources.

EFHC Website Link for recommendations with sample policies, infographics and more: www.scph.org/efhc/resources. "COVID-19 Quick Start Guide for Employers"

Also, you can follow EFHC on Facebook for announcements at: www.facebook.com/summitefhc.

Greater Akron Chamber COVID-19 information for businesses

Businesses need to prepare for the impacts of COVID-19 transmission in the United States. Learn more about implementing a series of actions that minimize impact on local communities and support the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) containment strategy. Find the Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Resource Guide at <https://gaccovid19.org/>

Questions or comments surrounding COVID-19 can be directed to COVID19@greaterakronchamber.org or (330) 376-5550.

Reminder from Countryside Florist

Remember April 22 is Earth Day and Administrative Professionals Day. Visit countrysideofrichfield.com for ideas to show appreciation.

As a Chamber Member, If you have an event, special promotion or recognition that you would like included in the monthly newsletter, please submit a press release to mail@richfieldchamber.com by the 20th of the month. Your release should be in paragraph format of 100 words or less. Attachments will not be accepted.

Schulte & Company explains Coronavirus Response Act for employers

Families First Coronavirus Response Act

President Trump signed the legislation on March 18th. Like any federal law, it becomes effective 15 days later; April 2nd. While the IRS and Department of Labor must still issue regulations on implementation, there are 2 key provisions that may impact your employees; Emergency Leave and Sick Leave.

Impact on Employers

Employers with less than 500 employees generally must comply with both provisions and the cost will be paid back through refundable credits on quarterly payroll reports. To reiterate, the employer fronts the cash and gets money back from the government after the fact. These are not permanent benefits; they expire on December 31, 2020.

Emergency Leave

Employees must have (a) worked at least 30 days prior to taking leave and (b) is unable to work or telework because they are caring for their minor child due to school or childcare provider being closed. Care for a minor child is the only qualifying need.

Employee is entitled to a total of 12 weeks. The first 10 workdays are unpaid but the employee can use any other vacation or paid time off otherwise provided by the employer for this period. Weeks 3 through 12 are paid at 2/3rds regular pay; limited to \$200 per day and \$10,000 in total for the 10 weeks.

These benefits are pro-rated for part-time employees and the employee is generally entitled to job restoration after the leave period ends.

Sick Leave

An employee is entitled to up to 80 hours of paid sick leave if the employee is;

- 1.subject to a federal, state or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19;
- 2.advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to COVID-19 concerns;
- 3.experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and seeking medical diagnosis;
- 4.caring for an individual (family or non-family member) subject to a federal, state or local quarantine or isolation order or advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to COVID-19 concerns;
- 5.caring for the employee 's child if the child's school or place of care is closed or the child's car provider is unavailable due to public health emergency; or
- 6.experiencing any other substantially similar condition specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor.

Subject to a cap of \$511 per day and \$5,110 for full two weeks, an employee would be paid as follows;

- For reasons 1, 2 or 3, the employee would be paid at their full regular rate.
- For reasons 4, 5 or 6, the employee would be paid at 2/3rds of their regular rate.

An employee can qualify for both Emergency Leave and Sick Leave only if they are caring for their minor child(ren).

How effective can your employees be if they work from home?

Many business owners are asking themselves this question with the situation today. Here is checklist of the tools that are needed to make the transition to a productive remote employee workforce:

- Video Calling
- Instant Messaging
- Unified Messaging
- Security Review

- Desktop as a Service
- Cloud Services

You think this situation is too hard to tackle? It isn't, let the Bay Pointe team figure out what is most pressing and solve just that one problem. One step at a time will keep your company productive no matter what is happening in the world around us. Visit baypointetech.com for more information.