

MABA GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING  
Windmill Restaurant  
Tuesday, December 17, 2019

MABA Board members in attendance: President Nora Filmore, Kelly Spica, Vice President of Events, and Secretary Luanne “Bunny” Graham. A total of 20 members and guests also attended the meeting.

At 7:36 am Kelly Spica introduced speaker PA State Representative Mark M. Gillen. He began by thanking the MABA for all the organization does to support local business, and he apologized for asking to speak first so he could leave to attend a meeting in Harrisburg.

Rep. Gillen spoke briefly about property taxes, protection of property values and owning your own property. He said he has been and will continue to attend meetings in the upcoming months with the members of the House and Senate to work on a bipartisan property tax plan. Retirees have left states with heavy property tax and retirement tax burdens, and the same can occur in Pennsylvania if new taxes targeting retirees were adopted as suggested in some proposals. All people, particularly our seniors, should be secure in their homes. Mark said he supports 100% elimination of the property tax and he said he would not support a new tax on the next egg of retirees.

Rep. Gillen also mentioned the Berks Military History Museum located in Mohnton, and that admission is free though it is open only on Saturdays. Rep. Gillen takes a special interest in issues related to our military and was a huge part of getting this establishment created. He said that he will be meeting this week in Harrisburg with World War II veteran Harold Billow, who was drafted in 1943 and served as a member of the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion. More information is available on Rep. Gillen’s Facebook page and his website.

President Nora Filmore called the meeting to order and asked everyone to silence their phones. She then asked everyone to stand and face the flag in the back of the room and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Since the holiday dinner in November replaced the regular monthly meeting, there were no minutes taken in November. President Filmore asked for a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. A motion was made by Scott Graham for approval and this was seconded by Bob Gebhart, and the minutes were approved.

Nora then asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report. Mark Cummins made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report and Maria Harvey seconded the motion. The Treasurer’s report was also approved.

President Filmore announced the candidates for the election of MABA officers:

- President - Kelly Spica, Ephrata National Bank
- Vice President of Events - Nora Filmore, Masthof Press & Bookstore
- Vice President of Membership - Lois Ann Mast, Masthof Press & Bookstore
- Vice President of Marketing - (none)
- Secretary - Luanne “Bunny” Graham, Devon Sound
- Treasurer - David Hinkel, Coldwell Banker Brokerage

There was only one candidate nominated for each office except for Vice President of Marketing that had no nominees.

Ballot forms were distributed to each member - 1 per business - and would be collected shortly. Nora said that write-in candidates may be added to each ballot if desired. She also asked that members write down several topics and/or speakers they might be interested in hearing at meetings in 2020. Tablets were available if needed.

Nora mentioned the three members who were present today with some of their merchandise for sale: Mindee Zimmerman with Thirty-One Gifts, Maria Harvey and Lorah's Handmade Chocolate and Lois Ann Mast for Masthof Press. All presented a nice assortment of products for last minute gifts.

Next, President Filmore asked that each person introduce him or herself and said that they can talk briefly about their business and special events they might be having, especially with the holidays coming up.

Bob Gebhardt of the Twin Valley Fire Company announced that the 2019 annual holiday raffle was underway and proceeds from raffle tickets sales will support the fire company. He said he had only a few remaining and they are available if anyone wants to purchase one. Winning raffle numbers are based on the Pennsylvania daily lottery on numbers pulled on Christmas Eve-\$1000, Christmas day-a Harley Davidson motorcycle, and the day after Christmas-\$500. Winners will be contacted and listed on the Twin Valley Fire Company website.

Mark Cummins of Thunder Wash Pressure Washing said that he is now offering a new cleaning process called media blasting, which is gentler and has less potential for damage than sand blasting.

Dr. Gordon R. Donaldson of Morgantown Family Practice spoke briefly and said that he is offering a community talk series on a variety of health topics and how personalized healthcare can benefit everyone. Dr. Donaldson said that time spent with a patient is the key to better health and wellness for them and that he believes in focusing on the patient to give the best possible treatment and to coordinate the best possible care in this complex medical environment. He said February is heart month and we should all take care of our heart. Dr. Donaldson will be giving a talk at the Holiday Inn about decreasing inflammation for a healthier life. For more information contact Dr. Donaldson's office.

Maria Harvey of Lorah's Handmade Chocolates mentioned that she still has chocolates available for the upcoming holidays. They offer over 80 different chocolate and filling flavors, and have been making new ones, some flavors include alcohol.

Daniel Fick of Phoenix Rehab introduced physical therapist Nathan Daigle who has just joined Phoenix Rehab. Dan said that the rehab provides a variety of therapies and that they help fix broken people! Please keep them in mind if you or someone you know needs therapy.

Lois Ann Mast of Masthof Press took a few moments to thank her children and new employee Nora Filmore for all their hard work at Masthof Press.

Scott Graham of Devon Sound mentioned that he has several music instruments available on consignment sale, one of which is a vintage Gibson banjo. If anyone is interested more information and Scott's contact information are available on the Devon Sound website. Scott also took a few minutes to recommend keeping instruments such as guitars and banjos in their cases when not in use, and to protect them from extreme temperature changes and ugly weather. And if you are having trouble playing there are several things you can do. First have a professional check your instrument to be sure it is set up correctly; and second if you are having trouble and/or pain your hands ask your doctor to refer you for therapy to a facility such as Phoenix Rehab.

President Nora Filmore asked that all ballots be collected and given to Maria Harvey to tally. She also took moment to thank everyone for their cooperation, ideas and work during her term as MABA President. Dave and Kelly surprised Nora with a poinsettia and a gift card as a thank you for serving as President.

Maria Harvey announced the results of the election:

President - Kelly Spica, Ephrata National Bank

Vice President of Events - Nora Filmore, Masthof Press & Bookstore

Vice President of Membership - Lois Ann Mast, Masthof Press & Bookstore

Vice President of Marketing - (none)

Secretary - Luanne "Bunny" Graham, Devon Sound

Treasurer - David Hinkel, Coldwell Banker Brokerage

Nora said that the Board was updating the bylaws and they would be made available to MABA members as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 am.

Respectfully submitted by,

Luanne R. Graham  
2019 MABA Secretary