

RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CHAMBER LINK

FEBRUARY 2025



Mayoral Vision 2025



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Explore the 2024 Annual Report

Sandy Messner

Director of Marketing, Communications & External Contracts

We are excited to share the **2024 Annual Report**, highlighting a year of growth, collaboration, and impact. As we reflect on the past year, it's clear that our **Chamber members, business partners, and community leaders** played a vital role in advancing Richland County's success.

From celebrating **125 years** of the Chamber to securing funding for key economic development projects, expanding workforce initiatives, and launching award-winning programs, this report showcases the collective efforts of our **three organizations: Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, Richland Community Development Group, and the Mansfield-Richland Area Educational Foundation. Together, we worked to support businesses, strengthen communities, and invest in workforce development that will drive long-term success.**

Some 2024 highlights include:

- 1,084 total members, showcasing the Chamber's strength and dedication to economic development.
- 5,040 event attendees, engaging in networking, education, and business growth opportunities.
- BrandRichland video earned two major awards, enhancing community visibility and business recruitment efforts.
- Nearly 200 attendees at Legislative Business After Hours, connecting business leaders with elected officials.
- BuildRichland initiative launched, streamlining regulatory processes and fostering a business-friendly environment.
- Secured \$4 million in funding for industrial site development, paving the way for future business expansions.
- 30 new jobs and \$45M in capital investment secured through a Shelby manufacturer's expansion.
- \$250K awarded for workforce training, supporting upskilling in medical and manufacturing careers.
- 1,000+ students participated in LeaderRichland, engaging with career pathways and local industries.
- 120 participants attended a cybersecurity series, enhancing business resilience against cyber threats.

View the full 2024 Annual Report here:

As we look to 2025, we are excited to build on this momentum with new programs, stronger partnerships, and even greater opportunities for our members. **Thank you for being a part of this journey! We can't wait to see what's ahead!**

[READ NOW](#)



Thank you to our renewing members!

CATALYTIC LEADERS / PLATINUM



CATALYTIC LEADER / GOLD



SHAPE & THRIVE

Schmidt Security Pro
Skybox Packing, LLC.

Interested in
enhancing your
member benefits?

Contact Jennifer at (419)
522-3211, or jwagner@richlandareachamber.com

BOOST & EXCEL

Cooper Enterprises, Inc.
J & B Accoustical, Inc.
Love's Travel Stops
Roby-Foster-Miller-Earick Insurance

Skate Ohio
Warren Rupp, Inc.

BUILD & GROW

Amerascrew, Inc.
Arbors at Mifflin
Bookwalter and Skulski Orthodontics
Central Ohio Warehouse, LLC.
Cole Distributing, Inc.
Eberts Heating & Cooling
Hill International Trucks

Mansfield Brick & Supply
Moritz Concrete
Moritz Materials, Inc.
Pinnacle Building Services
Redemption Recovery Group, LLC.
Shaffer, Johnston, Lichtenwalter & Associates, Inc.

Shaw Ott Medical
The Voegele Historic Lofts
Weiss Industries
Westmeister Farm

ENGAGE & CONNECT

Adams, Albert & Curry Agency
APO Pumps and Compressors
Apple of My Eye Imaging, LLC.
Axe Social Lounge
B-Dry System of NCO, Inc.
BES-3D, LLC.
CAJO Healing Therapies
Central Ohio Joint Fire District
Chem-Tech Consultants, Inc.
Chicago Title Agency of North
Central Ohio, Inc.
City Garden Cafe
City of Shelby
Cline Fire
Community Action Commission of
Erie, Huron & Richland Counties,
Inc.
Crossroads Church
Deca Manufacturing
Dream Huge Realty
Drouhard Studio Jewelers
Dzugan Real Estate Services
Eichinger Brafford McClead Group,
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
Element of Art Studio/Gallery

Fanello Concrete
Galion Assisted Rentals
Good Clean Fon, LLC.
Gordon Flesch Company
Hall's Auto Sales, Inc.
Helen Brown CPA, LLC.
Hempy Water
Hi-Tech Home Inspections
JDog Junk Removal and Hauling Mid Ohio
Kimmiscucina, LLC.
Knox Title Agency Inc. Dba ACS Title &
Closing Services
Lennox Real Estate
Main Mulch Supply, LLC.
Mansfield Art Center
Mansfield Cemetery Association, Inc.
Mansfield Fire Museum, Inc.
Mansfield UMADAOP
Mohican Adventures River Trips, Camp,
Cabins, & Fun Center
Mound Agency of Ohio, Inc.
My Floors Kitchen & Bath Remodeling
Once Upon a Child
Phil Hicks Sweeping & Snow Plowing
Purdy Construction Company

Snyder Funeral Homes, Inc.
Starfish Project of Richland County
Superior Cleaning & Recovery
Taking Root Farms
Tara's Floral Expressions
Texas Roadhouse
Text Loyal
The Food Tour
The Ideal Electric Power Co.
Thornton Powder Coating, Inc.
Total Performance, Inc.
Village of Plymouth
Vineta Group, LLC.
Weldon Huston & Keyser LLP
Werner-Gompf Funeral Services,
Ltd.
Zeiter Leasing, Inc.

Renewals reflect paid dues received from 12/27/2024 through 01/27/2025

Karate, Beyond the Dojo

Learn to Utilize Selected Virtues of Karate to Facilitate Personal Development within the Workplace

[REGISTER](#)

Reneta is a dedicated physical fitness professional whose journey in martial arts began in 1991 with a passion for karate. Within just three years, she earned her black belt and committed herself fully to empowering others through physical fitness, particularly women and children. Her expertise expanded in 2010 when she began kettlebell training at the YMCA of North Central Ohio, quickly rising to lead both the karate and kettlebell programs. She has also played a vital role in the Livestrong program, supporting cancer survivors on their healing journeys.

- 8th-degree black belt, certified personal trainer, and movement specialist
- Founder of the Music Academy of Karate and Empowerment, a nonprofit dedicated to inclusive learning
- StrongFirst Team Leader Elite with certifications in kettlebells, barbells, and bodyweight training

In 2023, Reneta took a bold step in her career by founding the Music Academy of Karate and Empowerment, which officially opened as a nonprofit school in downtown Mansfield in 2024. Committed to revitalization and community growth, she offers a welcoming space where individuals of all ages, regardless of financial resources, can learn and thrive. Through strength training, movement, and life-protection skills, Reneta continues her mission to help others unlock their potential and lead confident, healthy lives.



RENETA MUSIC

Founder/Executive Director
Music Academy of Karate and Empowerment



FEB. 19, 2024
11:45 am - 1:00 pm

DLX | Kobacker Room
28 N. Main St.
Mansfield, OH



The Gorman-Rupp Company

The Gorman-Rupp Company was founded in 1933 during the worst depression in U.S. history. It was during this year that J.C. Gorman and H.E. Rupp, two entrepreneurs from Mansfield, Ohio, pooled \$1,500 – along with other considerable talents and fortitude – and began making pumps in a barn on the outskirts of town.

In an industry that lacked a clear market leader, Gorman and Rupp saw an opportunity to excel, establishing their new company upon a mission statement that dictated it would “enter a field of pumping service only when able to provide superior products with better performance.”

The company, which began with a handshake on a sidewalk in downtown Mansfield, now stands as a leader in its field and boasts a history of innovation, improvement and quality that continue to set standards for the industry.

Still headquartered in Mansfield, that original barn has grown to over one million square feet of manufacturing and warehousing in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Africa. Gorman-Rupp manufactures over 3,000 different pump models. Around the world, Gorman-Rupp is chosen as the superior pumping solution in the water, wastewater, industrial, construction, mining, petroleum, aircraft refueling, OEM, government and agricultural markets. It goes to prove that there is no limit on what dedicated men and women can accomplish when they put their heads – and their hands – together.



Being privately owned keeps us personally invested.

As your local, independent bank, we're uniquely equipped to make choices that benefit this community and all the wonderful people in it. It's a privilege to serve you and to share this place we all call home.

mymechanics.com

Sincerely yours,



JANUARY RIBBON CUTTINGS



4TH STREET COFFEE HOUSE
Grand Opening



BUCKEYE IMAGINATION MUSEUM
Vendors Market Exhibit



SNAP FITNESS MANSFIELD - LEXINGTON
Grand Opening



EMAIL MARKETING

Exclusively for Chamber members, the Member Message Email Marketing program is your ticket to directly engage with over 2,300 employees of Chamber member businesses. Here's a quick rundown:

- **Timing and Exclusivity:** Your Member Message email goes out on Tuesdays or Thursdays, ensuring maximum visibility as the sole sender on your chosen day.
- **Reservation and Availability:** Due to high demand, each member can send one message per quarter. Secure your preferred date by reserving early.
- **Open Rates and Cost:** Enjoy an impressive 30% average open rate for just \$175 per email blast (\$150 for non-profits).
- **Ease of Process:** Provide your content in a PDF or share text, 1-2 images (like your logo), and up to 3 links. Supply content 3-5 days before your slot for a proof before sending.



Don't miss out! Amplify your marketing with Member Message Email Marketing and make a lasting im-pact on the Chamber community. Contact Evan Stuart at estuart@richlandareachamber.com to get started!

[CONTACT](#)

JANUARY MEMORABLE MOMENTS



INSTITUTE FOR ORGANIZATION MANAGEMENT



RICHLAND COUNTY COMISONERS MEETING



CHAMBER COFFEE - THE RENAISSANCE PERFORMING ARTS THEATER



MAYORAL VISION 2025



THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS FOR MAKING THE EVENT A SUCCESS!

The Great Catsby Sponsors



The Big Cheese Sponsors



The Speakeasy Sponsors

BlueScope Recycling

Eichinger Brafford McClead Group, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

HW&Co. CPAs & Advisors | Koorsen Fire & Security

The Flapper Sponsors

ArcelorMittal Tubular Products - Shelby
 Destination Mansfield - Richland County
 Directions Credit Union
 Nyte Flyte Entertainment
 Richland Source
 Shanna Stapleton Events
 The IDEAL Electric Power Co.

The Cat's Meow Sponsors

Brightspeed Business
 Columbia Gas of Ohio
 Dan Lew Exchange
 Sutton Bank



Big health benefits for small businesses



You put everything you have into your business. And we put everything into creating high-quality health insurance plans for you and your employees. We've partnered with the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development and Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) to offer a unique benefit option for small businesses like yours. The COSE Benefit Plan is a multiple employer welfare arrangement (MEWA) that allows businesses of 1-50 to experience rate stability, savings and the same great health benefits that large corporations have. Bundle your health plan with our dental, vision or life plans for a fully integrated benefits package.

Contact your broker | COSEBenefitPlan.com



MEDICAL MUTUAL[®]
Ohio's Hometown Health Insurer

18th Annual Business Expo



PRESENTING SPONSOR:



FOOD TRUCKS!

Bring Your

~Friends ~Family

~Neighbors ~Co-workers

Public Welcome- visit with local businesses

Bring this completed ticket! This is your

PRIZE DRAWING TICKET

BUSINESS EXPO

Thurs, March 20, 10am-4pm
at the Richland Co. Fairgrounds
Bring a Canned Food Item for Prize Drawing
FREE EXPO BAG to 1st 600 Guests

— ADMIT ONE —

— ADMIT ONE —

See 100 local businesses showcase their products & services!

Food Drive- Bring a item for the Humane Society or Richland County Dog Shelter!

(as of 2-6-25)

TOP DOG



MEDIA SPONSOR



TOTE BAG SPONSOR



LEADER OF THE PACK



PICK OF THE LITTER

Chicago Title Agency of North Central Ohio, Inc
Koorsen Fire & Security

WAGGING TAILS

Area Agency on Aging
B-Dry System of NCO, Inc.
Health Insurance Options, LLC.
Southern Title of Ohio, Ltd.

SPECIAL THANKS TO



Questions? 419-522-3211 www.RichlandAreaChamber.com

PRIZES ~ GIVEAWAYS ~ DON'T MISS IT!

18th Annual Business Expo



2025 BUSINESS EXP

UNLEASH THE PAWSIBILITIES



BOOTH REGISTRATION

PRESENTING SPONSOR:



DETAILS:

- Thursday, March 20, 10-4pm, at the Richland County Fairgrounds
- Set up will take place from 3-5pm on Wed., March 19 to allow for the “Expo Eve” Business After Hours taking place 5-7pm that evening - 300+ attended the BAH in previous years, with over 900 attending the Expo!
- Theme: Unleash the **Pawsibilities!** Join This Year’s Pet-Themed Business Expo
- Booth prizes will be awarded for: Most Creative, Best Use of Theme, & People’s Choice
- Admission will be free, and once again, many forms of media will be used to promote the Expo to the public.

COST: Booth cost is only \$215 if you reserve your space before February 20

(\$265 after this date). Booth size is 8'x10'. 8ft. table, 2 chairs, and electricity/wifi included.

THIS EVENT WILL SELL OUT! TO GUARANTEE A SPOT, PLEASE RESPOND PROMPTLY!



COMPLETE FORM AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO RESERVE YOUR BOOTH

Booths are first come, first served. Online registration is available by visiting the event calendar at www.RichlandAreaChamber.com).

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Contact person: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

PAYMENT: Check Enclosed VISA/MC/DISC CARD #: _____

Exp: ____ / ____ Security Code: _____

Address of Card Holder: _____



Phone: 419-522-3211 • Fax: 419-526-6853

Email: lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com

Mail: Richland Area Chamber & Economic

Development • 55 N. Mulberry St., Mansfield 44902

**18TH ANNUAL
BUSINESS EXPO**



**SPONSORSHIPS
AVAILABLE**

Previous attendance = 1,000 + Booth space has sold out the past six events!

<p style="text-align: center;">Presenting Sponsor (Limited to One) \$3,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naming rights (Business Expo presented by...) • Double booth space at main entrance, facing incoming guests • Facebook Live interview at event streamed from Chamber's page • Banner with your company name hung in prime location • Your booth featured on cover of April Chamber Link Newsletter • Company logo on booth map provided to attendees • Logo (large) on sponsor banner displayed at Expo • Logo (large) on tote bag given to attendees • Logo (large) on posters displayed at Expo • Logo on any major print media Expo ads • Featured interview with company representative via live radio broadcast • Name on Expo radio ads • Logo & link on Chamber website for Expo • Paid social media campaign featuring company photo (\$\$\$\$) • Logo in Chamber newsletter • Up to 3 items in tote bag given to attendees • Logo on Chamber email blasts for Expo • Inclusion in press release • Right of first refusal for next year 	<p style="text-align: center;">Top Dog Sponsors (Limited to Four) \$1,200</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double booth space in a prime location • An aisle sign will be hung with your company name and also printed on booth maps • Logo (large) on booth map provided to attendees • Logo (large) on sponsor banner displayed at Expo • Logo (large) on tote bag given to attendees • Logo (large) on posters displayed at Expo • Logo on any major print media Expo ads • Name on Expo radio ads • Logo & link on Chamber website for Expo • Paid social media campaign featuring company photo (\$\$\$\$) • Logo in Chamber newsletter • Up to 3 items in tote bag given to attendees • Logo on Chamber email blasts for Expo • Inclusion in press release • Right of first refusal for next year
<p style="text-align: center;">Expo Eve Business After Hours Sponsor (1 Remaining) \$900</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) prime booth space in the Bus. After Hours networking area • After Hours banner with sponsor logos hung in prime location • Business name announced by DJ multiple times throughout event • Name on booth map provided to attendees • Name on tote bag given to attendees • Logo & link on Chamber website and registration materials for Expo Eve Business After Hours • Paid social media campaign featuring company photo (\$\$\$) • Logo (small) in Chamber newsletter • Up to 2 items in tote bag given to attendees • Logo on Chamber email blasts for Expo Eve Business After Hours • Right of first refusal for next year 	<p style="text-align: center;">Leader of the Pack Sponsors \$900</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) booth space in a prime location • Logo (small) on booth map provided to attendees • Logo (small) on sponsor banner displayed at Expo • Logo (small) on tote bag given to attendees • Logo (small) on posters displayed at Expo • Logo on any major print media advertising • Logo & link on Chamber website for expo • Paid social media campaign featuring company photo (\$\$\$) • Logo (small) in Chamber newsletter • Up to 2 items in tote bag given to attendees • Logo on Chamber email blasts for Expo
<p style="text-align: center;">Pick of the Litter Sponsors \$600</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save \$100 on a booth space • Name on booth map provided to attendees • Name on banner displayed at Expo • Name on tote bag given to attendees • Name on posters displayed at Expo • Name on any major print media advertising • Name & link on Chamber website for Expo • Paid social media campaign featuring company photo (\$\$) • Name in Chamber newsletter • One (1) item in tote bag given to attendees • Name listed on Chamber email blasts for Expo 	<p style="text-align: center;">Wagging Tails Sponsors \$300</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save \$75 on a booth space • Name on booth map provided to attendees • Name on banner displayed at Expo • Name on posters displayed at Expo • Name on any major print media advertising • Name & link on Chamber website for Expo • Paid Expo social media campaign featuring company photo (\$) • Name in Chamber newsletter • Name listed on Chamber email blasts for Expo

Engage Richland participants discovered how healthcare providers and agencies contribute to a thriving community during our January program day.



Representatives from OhioHealth, Avita Health System, and Third Street Family Health Services shared about investments they are making throughout the community, health equity, technological advancements, and the future of healthcare.



Left, the YMCA of North Central Ohio - Mansfield Campus talked about recreation and wellness on a tour of the facilities. Middle, group members competed in a friendly fitness challenge. Right, Richland Public Health personnel shared about the extensive programs and resources offer to businesses and community members.



2024-2025 Presenting Sponsor



Program Day Sponsor



During our January program day the Class of 2024 discovered a wealth of K-12 and adult educational opportunities in Richland County.



At Springmill STEM Elementary School, a panel shared unique opportunities including STEM and Spanish Immersion Curriculum, as well as industry credentialing.



From left, Major Mary F. Kauffman from the 179th Cyberspace Wing discussed educational training related to the conversion. Amy Wood, Director of Grants and Special Projects, highlighted how Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center supports partner districts and the graduation seals students earn. Mansfield City School personnel shared their strategic goals and core commitments. The class learned about Madison student and adult education programs and toured labs.



Participants toured The Ohio State University at Mansfield STEM labs and celebrated the success of the first B.S. in Engineering Technology class.



Spread

KINDNESS

NOT



GERMS

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to help prevent the spread of germs.



 **Richland
Public Health**
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Item Donation

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS DAY LUNCHEON

@MID-OHIO CONFERENCE CENTER



DONATE A DOOR PRIZE OR GIFT BAG ITEMS

This is a great opportunity to highlight your business! Contributors will be thanked in the program and announced during the drawing.



Option one: Provide a prize for the live drawing (or we can shop for you).

Option two: Donate 400 small items branded with your name or unique to your business. These will be placed in the goodie bag that each participant receives.

To donate an item(s), return the completed form below or contact Lisa Duckworth.

Phone: (419) 522-3211 Email: lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com

Business / Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Item(s): _____

Pick one: Item enclosed (for mailed gift certificates) Item will be dropped off / sent to Chamber office

Please respond by Friday, April 11th

Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development
55 N. Mulberry St, Mansfield, OH 44902

SPONSORSHIPS ALSO AVAILABLE!

It's not too late to sponsor this event! Contact Lisa at (419) 522-3211 or lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS DAY LUNCHEON

@MID-OHIO CONFERENCE CENTER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

11:30am - 1pm

REGISTRATION



*Celebrate
Your Staff!*

Register your staff today!

How to order tickets for your staff:

- Click here or visit event calendar at www.richlandareachamber.com
- Call Lisa at 419-522-3211
- Email Lisa at: lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com
- Mail payment to the Chamber at:
55 N. Mulberry St, Mansfield OH 44902

The Fun Includes:

- ~ Delicious Buffet Lunch
- ~ Swag for every guest
- ~ Door Prizes
- ~ Entertainment

PRICE

\$30/person for Chamber members registered by April 5th.
\$35 for members registering after April 5th.
NON-MEMBERS: \$40





SPONSORSHIP

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS DAY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 23
11:30am to 1pm

@Mid-Ohio Conference Center



Gold (\$600)

- Eight (8) Tickets to the event (\$240 value!)
- Verbal recognition from the podium at event
- Table sign with corporate logo
- Logo recognition during slide show
- Logo in Chamber newsletter
- Logo on promotional emails
- Logo & link on Chamber event website
- Logo shared on social media
- Logo on event program

Silver (\$300)

- Four (4) Tickets to the event (\$120 value!)
- Verbal recognition from the podium at event
- Logo recognition during slide show
- Name in Chamber newsletter
- Name on promotional emails
- Name & link on Chamber event website

Bronze (\$150)

- Two (2) Tickets to the event (\$60 value!)
- Verbal recognition from the podium at event
- Name recognition during slide show
- Name in Chamber newsletter
- Name on Chamber event website
- Name on event program

Your level of Chamber membership MAY include credit for sponsorship.

Everyone from CEO's to support staff enjoy this event!

Count Us In! We're excited to be a Sponsor for the 2025 Business Professionals Day Luncheon!

Organization: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

SPONSORSHIP LEVEL (Circle One): GOLD - \$600 SILVER - \$300 BRONZE - \$150

Payment: Check Enclosed Please Invoice VISA/MC/DISC (enter # on line below)

CC#: _____ Exp: ____/____ Security Code: _____

Billing Address of Cardholder: _____



Contact: Lisa Duckworth Phone: (419) 522-3211
Email: lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com Mail: Richland Area Chamber, 55 N. Mulberry St, Mansfield, OH 44902

Each year, OSHA publishes its Top 10 most-cited workplace safety violations, highlighting the most common hazards found during inspections. Reviewing this list is a valuable opportunity to assess your own safety programs, identify potential risks, and ensure compliance with workplace regulations. Addressing these issues proactively can help prevent injuries, reduce liability, and create a safer work environment for employees.

Top Violations (FY 2024)

1. Fall Protection (6,307 violations) – Lack of proper fall protection at required heights.
2. Hazard Communication (2,888 violations) – Missing safety data sheets, training, or chemical labels.
3. Ladders (2,573 violations) – Improper ladder use, damaged equipment, or incorrect placement.
4. Respiratory Protection (2,470 violations) – No fit testing, medical evaluations, or training.
5. Lockout/Tagout (2,443 violations) – Inadequate energy control procedures during maintenance.
6. Powered Industrial Trucks (2,248 violations) – Lack of operator training or unsafe forklift use.
7. Fall Protection – Training (2,050 violations) – Failure to train employees on fall hazards.
8. Scaffolding (1,873 violations) – Unsafe setup, missing guardrails, or lack of inspections.
9. Eye & Face Protection (1,814 violations) – Not using or providing proper PPE.
10. Machine Guarding (1,541 violations) – Missing or inadequate machine safety guards.

How to Improve Compliance

- Review OSHA standards and update policies.
- Conduct employee training on workplace hazards.
- Perform routine safety audits and inspections.

Taking proactive steps can prevent injuries and costly violations.

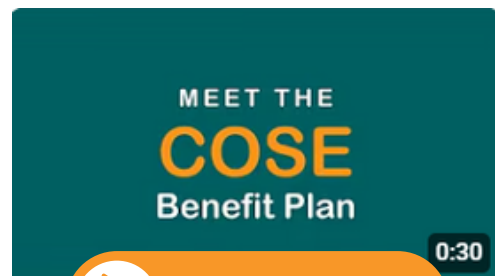
For assistance in identifying and addressing fall hazards in your workplace, please contact Andy Sawan, Risk Services Specialist at Sedgwick: andrew.sawan@sedgwick.com | 330-819-4728.



Cleveland Financial Group

Cleveland Financial Group is and has always been committed to promoting the continuing development and progress of Downtown Mansfield. We believe in investing where our hearts are: right at home, right in our own neighborhood. Owner and Certified Financial Planner® Chuck Hahn is a native Mansfielder and St. Pete's graduate who spent his formative years immersed in downtown culture. It has been an important mission for Chuck to help transform Downtown Mansfield and bring it back to life. Thus, Cleveland Financial Group looks to support emerging entities that fit into this picture of progress and has been instrumental in helping to launch several successful programs that highlight the incredible talent, vision, and heart that exists in Downtown Mansfield.

Medical Mutual COSE Benefit Plan



Medical Mutual cares about small businesses in Ohio. The COSE Benefit Plan offers comprehensive, affordable healthcare for companies with 50 or fewer employees. By joining today, you could save up to 25% in health plan rates.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Seeking Sponsors for Women's Leadership Connection Series

At the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, we are excited to continue our commitment to empowering and inspiring women in our community through our Women's Leadership Connection series. These events provide a platform for personal and professional growth, networking, and community engagement.

We seek sponsors who share our vision for women's leadership. Your support reflects commitment to diversity and offers exposure to an engaged audience.

Why Sponsor Women's Leadership Connection?

- **Prominent Visibility:** Your brand is prominently featured in event promotions, reaching a wide audience.
- **Community Engagement:** Align with an event fostering growth and development.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Exclusive networking with professionals and community leaders.
- **Supporting Women's Leadership:** Sponsorship supports professional growth opportunities.

How to Become a Sponsor

If you or your organization are interested in becoming a sponsor for our Women's Leadership Connection series, please contact Lisa Duckworth at (419) 522-3211 or via email at lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com.



RECENT COURT DECISION: AUTOZONE V. INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

The Ohio Supreme Court has ruled that an injured worker must be employed at the time of requesting temporary total compensation (TT). In *AutoZone v. Industrial Commission*, the claimant, who was terminated for cause, sought TT after surgery but had not secured other employment. The Court determined that since he was not working or earning wages at the time of his request, he was not entitled to TT. This decision reinforces the importance of evaluating both medical and employment status when determining eligibility for compensation.

Key Takeaways:

- **Medical Condition vs. Employment Status** – A claimant's inability to work must be directly related to the allowed conditions of their claim, rather than unrelated factors like job termination for misconduct. Employers should ensure that medical documentation clearly supports any claims for compensation.
- **Employment at the Time of Request** – The Court reaffirmed that claimants must be actively employed or earning wages when requesting TT. If an employee is terminated for reasons unrelated to their injury and does not secure new employment, they may not be eligible for benefits.
- **Implications for Employers** – This ruling provides employers with legal precedent to challenge TT claims when an injured worker is no longer employed and has not sought alternative work. Employers should carefully review claim details and consult legal counsel when necessary.

An advertisement for HDC SIGNS. It features a dark blue background. On the left is a 3D globe logo with the letters "HDC" in white. To the right, the words "HDC SIGNS" are written in large, bold, white, sans-serif font. Below this, a white rounded rectangle contains the text "SIGNAGE | WRAPS | GRAPHICS" in blue. At the bottom, the website "www.HDC-SIGNS.com" and the phone number "419-774-0199" are displayed in white.

If you have any questions, contact our Sedgwick program manager, David Deyo, at 614-376-5401 or david.deyo@sedgwick.com.



UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

Register for these events [HERE](#) or visit our event calendar at www.richlandareachamber.com.

- 02/12/25 Annual Meeting, Mid-Ohio Conference Center, 5:30-9pm
- 02/19/25 Women's Leadership Connection, DLX Kobacker Room, 11:45am-1:00pm
- 03/13/25 2025 Nonprofit Fair, The Ontario Center (shopping mall) 2-5pm
- 03/19/25 Business After Hours - Expo Eve, Richland County Fairgrounds Fairhaven Hall 5-7pm
- 03/20/25 Business Expo, Richland County Fairgrounds Fairhaven Hall 10am-4pm
- 04/11/25 Chamber Coffee, Richland Source
- 04/23/25 Business Professionals Day, Mid-Ohio Conference Center, 11:30am-1pm
- 05/18/25 Business After Hours, Snow Trails
- 06/20/25 Chamber Golf Classic, Deer Ridge Golf Club
- 10/23/25 Savor & Sip



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