

West Liberty Business Association Annual Dinner Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 15, 2026 at 5:30pm at WL Historic Opera House

In attendance:

Heather Chamberlain, President (TGH III)
Linda Vernon, Vice President (J&L Vernon Farms)
Brittany McElroy, Treasurer (Civista Bank)
Katie Neer, Secretary (Solomon's Garage)
Tami Cox, Member-At-Large (Country Friends of Ohio)
Jeff Yoder (Bobbi's Bungalow)
Roberta Yoder (Bobbi's Bungalow)
JD Harshfield (Ohio Caverns)
Janine Albert Erone (Ohio Caverns)
Ava Chamberlain (TGH)
Jamison Thornton (Logan Co Visitor's Bureau)
Lee Chamberlain (PDQ)
Margaret Piatt (Piatt Castle Mac-A-Cheek)
Kyle Williams (Car Show)
Barbie Williams (Car Show)
Jeff Vernon (J&L Vernon Farms)
Jeff Stoner (Ice Cream Parlor)
Kelli Stoner (Ice Cream Parlor)
Cindee Boyd (Village of West Liberty Clerk)
Jayne Griffith (Village Council)
Andrew Blount (WL Historical Society)

Rebecca Kauffman (Bethel Church)
Susan Hooper (WL Historical Society)
Judy Legge (WL Lion's Club)
C&R Pharmacy (Haaris Uddin & 7 others)
Ben Vollrath (Logan County Chamber)
Nicki Kimball (WL Lions Club & Raising Arrows)
Dave Neer (Solomon's Garage)
Anna Louden (Honda)
Nick Davis (U.S. Senator Bernie Moreno's Office)
Carrie Givens (TGH I)
Braxton Givens (TGH I)
James Taylor (JT's Property Maintenance)
Tisha Kauffman (Heaven's Dew)
Andrea (Heaven's Dew)
Todd Woodruff (Woodruff Enterprises, Woodland Golf Club, Woodruff Farm Connection)
Julie Bodenmiller (Malia Hughes Realty)
Ann Stroud (Malia Hughes Realty)
Marissa Stollings (Malia Hughes Realty)
Heather (Civista Bank)

Meeting Summary:

- **Welcome and Introduction:** Welcome to the Heather Chamberlain, CEO of Theresa's Gingerbread House Childcare Centers and the President of the WLBA, welcomed everyone to the Historical West Liberty Opera House and to the dinner celebrating the 2025 year!
- **Acknowledgments:**
 - Membership drive snacks and drinks were provided by the WLBA and done by Thoman's IGA. The wine is from Dragonfly Winery.
 - Live music was provided during dinner by the West Liberty-Salem Jazz Band under direction of Mr. Paul Waibel.
 - The dinner was provided by Paul's Catering.
- **Blessing:** Jeff Vernon prayed over the meal.
- **Guest Speaker:** After dinner, Heather introduced Todd Woodruff, who shared insights into his business endeavors including the recently opened "The Woods" dinner venue at the Woodland Golf Club, which was a stop on the WLBA Christmas Tour. Jason Plank, West Liberty Native, is the new Chef there, and they are open for dinner Thursday, Friday and Saturday each week. Todd also shared his vision for the restaurant he plans to open at the former Rothschild location. Todd has been a gracious friend of the WLBA for many years. He has announced our Christmas parade, participated in many events, and he is a personal friend and neighbor to Heather.

- **Membership:** We want to thank all of you for your membership in 2025 and encourage you to join us if you haven't yet for 2026. We have enjoyed a steady increase in membership over the past few years, and we ask that if you know anyone who would like to join us that you reach out to them and send them our way! More members in the WLBA means more community outreach, more events, and more encouraged commerce for West Liberty and the surrounding areas! That is the #1 goal for the West Liberty Business Association!
- **Executive Board:** Heather introduced the rest of the executive board: Linda Vernon, VP, Brittany McElroy, Treasurer, Katie Neer, Secretary, Tami Cox, Member at Large.
- **Collaboration:** Heather thanked The Village of West Liberty, The West Liberty Lions Club, West Liberty Salem Local Schools, and The West Liberty Historical Society for partnering with us for events and for our continued success. We value our relationships and hope to strengthen and continue to cultivate strong relationships together for our community.
- **2025 Event Recap:** Our local events were hugely successful again this year. The Easter Bunny at the Pancake Breakfast with the Lion's Club, The Summer Garden Tour, The Summer Street Market and Car Show which was moved to Lion's Park and has been expanded and will continue to grow at Lion's Park, Spooktacular, the Christmas Parade, Cookies and Cocoa with Santa, the Elf and the Grinch at Sweetie Pie's, the Dash Before the Game Day Bash 5K, and Christmas Tour of Homes were all very well attended events and have made it possible so that the WLBA is able to make donations to many causes and local entities, including The West Liberty Historical Society. We are also excited to tell you that due to the support of local businesses we were able to offer four local scholarships at West Liberty Salem in 2025! Local scholarships are so important to our local students, and this was an amazing and important goal of the WLBA. Thank you all for your support for these events!
- **CASH Mob:** Heather gave a quick update on the CASH MOB! It's been a great success and something we would like to continue! Once a month we pick a local retail business that is in the WLBA, and we show up to their store and surprise them with (hopefully) 10 shoppers! The shoppers receive a coupon for \$10 and they are asked to spend \$10 of their own money. This guarantees a \$200 day for the local store. We have had a great turn out for this event monthly, and we hope to continue doing it throughout 2026. If you are interested in sponsoring a CASH MOB, it's \$50, and you can see one of us about sponsoring! Many local shoppers have never been in some of our local establishments, and this gives them an opportunity to shop local, and find new fantastic places they can revisit! Please join us if you can!
- **Friendship Alley:** Last year, we worked diligently on writing a proposal for a grant through the Logan County Visitor's Bureau that would match funds we were able to set aside from the WLBA to beautify and develop the alley between the library and Dorsey's Flowers for outdoor seating and a space for people to have takeout food and enjoy the downtown. We received the awesome news we received the grant and now we are looking forward to working with the committee that is made of our Village Administrator Richard Ford, Heather, Jake Vitt, Council members Jayne Griffith and Trent Spriggs, and Shane Godwin from Godwin Construction. We are excited to have the alley ready for use this Spring, and we are looking forward to having the area be a beautiful place where people can stop for rest, relaxation, and to enjoy downtown West Liberty!
- **January 2026 Business of the Month** was presented to C & R Pharmacy.
- **2025 Business of the Year** was presented to Stoner's Ice Cream Parlor. Jeff and Kelli Stoner accepted the award. Nick Davis from U.S. Senator Bernie Moreno's office present a special proclamation to the Stoners.
- **Call to Action:** Heather encouraged each of you to join us monthly at our meetings. Please consider volunteering for a committee and get involved!
- **Adjournment:** Heather adjourned the meeting after a final round of thanks and announcements.

Upcoming Meetings

Wed Feb 11, 5:30pm at Mad River Farm Market

Wed Mar 11, 5:30pm at Liberty Gathering Place

Wed Apr 8, 5:30pm at Mad River Farm Market