

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER - 2017

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a fantastic September! In addition to the gorgeous "Chamber of Commerce weather" we experienced, there were a number of outstanding events the Chamber was involved in.

The first event was the dedication of the new Richard C. Call Arena and Student Success Center at Genesee Community College. While technically not a Chamber event, I was fortunate enough to be involved in the planning of this wonderful evening. The two new buildings are beautiful additions to the GCC campus and we at the Chamber are excited to market these assets – especially the Call Arena – for trade shows and other events that will bring visitors to our county and stimulate the local economy.

The next big event was the Chamber's Small Business Workshop on the new New York State Paid Family Leave Act. This law goes into effect in January and has been a hot topic due to the many unanswered questions pertaining to the Paid Family Leave Act. That was apparent as we hosted one our largest attended workshops ever of close to 50 people, so many that we had to move the workshop from our Chamber office to the Quality Inn next door. Many thanks to our friends at Lawley Insurance – Bill Fritts, Susie Ott, Judy Karmens and Michael Szymoniak, Jr. – for an informative session that answered a lot of questions on this subject.

Next up was our 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Decision Makers Ag Tour. This year's theme was "Genesee County's International Ag Connections". This is always one of my favorite days of the years because I'm always amazed at what is going on in the Genesee County's number one industry, Agriculture. This year's tour did not disappoint with stops at Love Beets, Oxbo, Vegetal ID and presentations by Jeffrey Kyles of Bonduelle and Chris Suozzi of the Genesee County Economic Development Center. If you haven't ever gone on the Chamber's Ag Tour, you should plan on going next year. It's a real eye-opener!

The final event of September was the freshLAB "Foodie Challenge" Competition. This was an event sponsored by the Batavia Development Corporation, Genesee Valley Education Partnership (BOCES), the Batavia Business Improvement District and the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the "Foodie Challenge" was to try and attract potential restaurant start-ups for the new freshLAB restaurant incubator that will open in the new Eli Fish Brewery on Main St. in Batavia. I was lucky enough to be chosen as a taster for the challenge and the food was fantastic! If the "Foodie Challenge" is any indication, the freshLAB restaurant incubator will be a big hit in Downtown Batavia.

Yes, it was a busy and interesting September. Have a great October!

Sincerely,

*Tom Turnbull*  
*President*