

Thursday February 6, 2025 ~ Morning Mingle Agenda

Teresa Gilles, Denise McCarty, David Janik, Ginni Murphy, Lisa Brown, Dan Bowen, John Dunn, Cindi Manning, Marion O., Debbie Jeffries, Joni Poli, Cheri Stempowski, Gabriel Rey, David Portman, Zander Portman, Elyse Nedrow, Kristen Amore', Mark Cawthon, Jacob Perez, Les Kreeger, Cookie McLoda, Sandy Kaiser, Gary Gibbs, Mike Witte, John Sekletar, Steve Sanders, Brandon Thimke, Marie and Michael Ciu, Becky Denes, Chris Durkin, Scott Nelson, Christina Meiers, Stephanie Decker, Jeri Leigh Siss, Jennifer Wasilk, Larissa Bariswill, Shelby Gillespie, Doc Watson, Craig Snodgrass, Angie DeLeone', Scott Nelson, Andrew Krieger, Chris Derkin, Cynthia Gote, Michael Esper, Tom Gerborg, Shavena Brown, Rob Ellison, Stephanie Decker, Garry Gibbs.

President ~ Denise

- Call meeting to order and welcome to the Morning Mingle
- Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance
- Prayer by Josh Smith (if in attendance)
- Go around the room and introduce
- Approve the minutes from December Morning Mingle – Teresa 1st, Joni 2nd. Motion passes.
- Thank you to Amherst Public Library – Becky Denes for providing the goodies this month.

Promotional Chairs ~ Joni & Cindi

2025 Events

- Basket Bingo – April 6; tickets on sale now. A group of 8 reserves a table.
 - Beautification Day – May 17
 - Wine & Chocolate – May 18
 - Explorer's Club – TBD
 - Basket Bingo – October 5
 - Miracle on Main Street – December 5
 - Jingle Bell Bus – December 17
- Possibly new events
- Taste of Amherst
 - Movie in the Park
 - Noon Years Eve

There is a sign up sheet going around for 2025 – Please help us out with one event. We will be using a new software system this year called SignUp Genius to stay in touch with people that would like to volunteer.

Executive Director's Report ~ Teresa

- Cabin Fever – Feb. 27, downtown business owners having a “night out” at 6 and 7:30pm. \$20 fee includes making crafts, body scrub, etc. Tickets on sale at MSA website.
- Amherst Alumni Event – August 2. Closing downtown streets for alumni to enjoy music, support businesses, taverns. Organizing a car show, corn hole boards, and more from 4-9pm. All alumni years are welcome!
- Scholarship – offering 4, \$500 scholarships. Students submit a video of why they are deserving of these scholarships.
- Backpack Program by Good Sheppard Church – the sign-up sheet was passed around for participants to donate food for the children. Monetary donations are accepted as well. 119 children are served in the community. Checks payable to Good Sheppard Church, weekend Backpack Program, 1100 Cleveland Ave, Amherst. www.gsbcamherst.org
- Welcome to our new members for 2025 – Georgia with Howard Hanna, Karen with Bella's Boutique, Dave with Modern Enterprise and Lace & Lens Studio.

Open the Floor

Please only take 2 to 3 minutes and only one person per organization speaks to give everyone a chance to talk - Police, Fire Dept., City Council, School District, Rotary, Lorain County Auditor, AHS, Mural Association:

- Eco League – Angie De Leone from Steele High School spoke about their annual February food drive. They need the community's help with food donations. A signup sheet was passed around and boxes are available to put at your business for donations.
- Police Dept. - Last weekend they held their annual chili cookoff for Local Blue. Monies are raised for officers that are in need due to being injured on the job. The police won for the best chili and received 2 drones! These will be used in the community. Announced a program to report when a student/child is affected by a trauma. It is reported on a website that the adult/parent chooses the child's school so they are notified and aware of the trauma the child has gone through and could provide support. Railroads being repaired throughout the city. Most roads will be open, at least one lane.

- City Council – announced road reconstruction for 2025 includes 5 streets. Also working on sidewalk repair and replacement. Also, the safety service director will be putting out a bid for tree trimming for electrical wire encroachment.
- Amherst Rotary – rotary has been around since 1937! Focus is on service and networking. Please join them on the second Monday of each month. Next is February 10th at 12noon at Doc Watson's Market. Rotary partnered with Amherst Schools on Fresh Fruits and Veggies initiative! Once a month they take fruit & veggies to the schoolchildren. Also, they are partnering with Cole's Public House for Amherst Wine Tasting and fundraising for the Fruits and Veggies initiative.
- LC Auditor – Congratulated Joni Poli for her years with the auditor, retiring Feb. 28th. New Tax values are out. See their website for Board of Revisions forms to file to have your taxes reviewed. The deadline is March 31st. Suggested you have a certified appraisal or a recent sale. Taxes are set by state law. Value is set by the auditor. There is also a Homestead reduction if you are eligible. www.loraincountyauditor.gov
- Mural Association – John Sekletar; They are a non-profit organization. Their newest project is to put a fence at the entrance to the public parking lot across from MSA. This will be done at zero cost to the Amherst community. Pasta lunch fundraiser will be March 9th at VFW, 12-3pm with the support of the United Auto Workers 2000. 2025 is the 15th year for their Veteran's Day Ceremony! Congratulations. Basket donations are accepted for the spaghetti fundraiser.
- Amherst Library – calendars passed around, also on www.amherstpubliclibrary.org See the library's website for more information and programs.
- Marion – WKFM Radio offered to advertise for Good Sheppard Baptist Church food program for children in our community. They will also advertise MSA events like Amherst Alumni Night!
- Historical Society – calendars distributed. New tour of the Amherst Quarries! See their website for more programs and details.
- Elise Nedrow – offered services for homeowners to find out the valuation of their homes. The Home Buyers Seminar is April 17th and May 1st. Call Elise for more details.
- Kids Clothing Closet – Deb Jeffries announced they have found a spot on Kresge Dr., across from Giant Eagle.
- LCCC – classes are on their website.
- Achieve Credit Union – announce 2025 Community Pledge of \$70,500 to go towards community crisis care and recovery services. See their website for more details and to apply at www.achievecu.org/impact
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Gift card drawing from Hot Dog Heaven – Mike Sekletar! Congratulations.
Next Morning Mingle will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2025.
Adjournment 10:00AM