

Progressive Referral Group
Thursday, September 9, 2021
Deb's Corner Café

President: Colleen Spangler
Vice President: David Weber
Treasurer: Dee Conrad
Secretary: Cheryl Barber

Members Present: Jennifer, Mike, Kim, Dee, Christine, Richard, Dawn, Cheryl, Dave Y, David W, Rochelle, Sara, Jesse, Teresa, Colleen, Bruce, Bill.

Treasurer's Report: \$8086.41

Referrals Given: 5

Talked to someone as a result of a referral: 2

Discussed PRGL with someone outside the group: 3

New Business:

Was brought up to consider subject line in emails when we are changing venues or having an after-hours event in case members don't get a chance to open emails before the next meeting.

Old Business:

Reminder of Covid protocols:

As COVID numbers rise in our community, we need to re-share a couple of the PRGL safety protocols that are still valid. Please feel free to reach out if you have questions or concerns.

- Anyone running a fever or feeling ill are asked to please stay home.
- If you test positive for COVID-19 **or have been exposed to COVID-19 and are in quarantine** and have attended an in-person meeting, **you must notify the President of the board** immediately so a decision about future meetings can be made to protect other PRGL members.

Facebook: no updated news to report. Board will continue to look into the issue.

Acknowledgements:

None this week

Announcements:

- FAIRHOPE Hospice & palliative Care is having their Trash to Treasure sale next Friday, September 17 & Saturday, September 18. Donations are being accepted. See flyer attached to minutes for details.
- New PRGL member applications are available from Colleen, Cheryl, or David W.
- If you are scheduled to speak, please contact David W. for the bio form

Speaker: Rick Szabrak-Fairfield County Economic & Workforce Development Director

Rick discussed some of the issues facing employers including the fact that 55 % of Fairfield County residents drive to Columbus for jobs. Good News is that about the same amount commute from the southern counties to Lancaster for work. Manufacturing makes up 10% of the current workforce.

Employment issues: federal money issued during shut down (has now been taken away, so some are back out looking), families that have kids in school are deciding 1 parent isn't going back due to possible quarantining or school closings and needing to be home with the kids, more people working from home, so looking for jobs that allow remote work, effects of supply chain (ex: auto production: no parts & materials mean layoffs).

Workforce Center: located at 4465 Coonpath Road NE, Carroll, offers classes from Hocking College as well as Ohio University to help build the labor force. Some classes available are HVAC, Electrical, Carpentry, Basic Electronics, Safety Management and others. STNA classes will begin in 2 weeks.

There will be an Open House for the Workforce Center on Wednesday, September 22nd beginning with a ribbon cutting at 4:00 p.m. Tours of the center will be available, and everyone is invited to attend.

New things coming: Google Data Center in the Rockmill Industrial Park.

Rick also discussed the Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund for businesses as well as the CBDG grants available through the city of Lancaster.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Barber, Secretary of PRGL