

Brown County Chamber of Commerce prepares for 2015

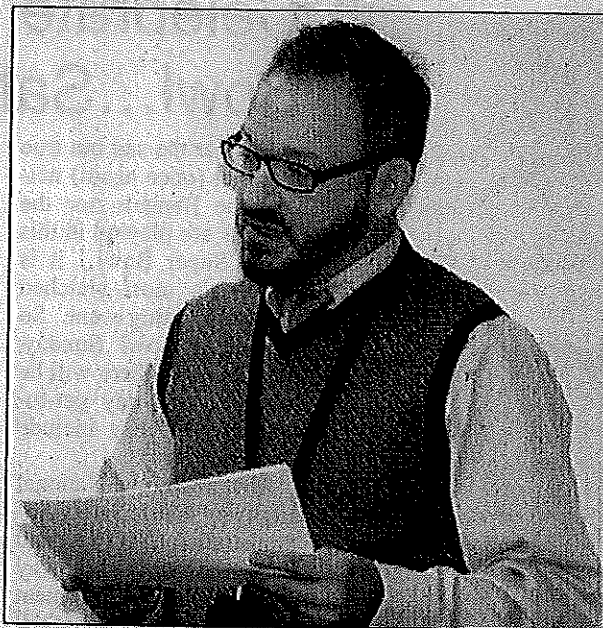
By Martha B. Jacob
The Brown County Press

The Brown County Chamber of Commerce met for its first meeting in 2015, on Jan. 15 at Hospice of Hope Ohio Valley, in Mt. Orab. Chamber President Brian Elliott opened the meeting by leading members in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by participants standing and introducing themselves.

Chamber members also heard committee reports from Dan Mitchell, communications and public relations, from Peggy Chalker, workforce development and from Melissa Layman, travel and tourism committee.

Chalker discussed the upcoming Leadercast Event, scheduled for May 8.

"Leadercast will be held at Southern State Community College, and is an all-day long event. The cost will be around \$55, the same as last year. We will have early bird signup and space is limited to 100. Leadercast is a nationwide, internationally broadcast out of Atlanta. It is a program that brings speakers together like Payton Man-



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Dwayne Alexander, with Business Resource Network (BRN) was guest speaker at the Jan. 15 Brown County Chamber of Commerce held at Hospice of Hope Ohio Valley in Mt. Orab.

ning and Rudy Giuliani."

Other speakers at the 2015 Leadercast include Aja Brown, Malala Yousafzai, Seth Godin, Bill McDermott and Bill and Giuliana Rancic.

Layman reported to the chamber that the next meeting for Brown County Travel and Tourism was set for Wednesday, Jan. 21 at

the chamber chambers at noon and everyone was invited to attend. She said the committee would be working on setting up a facebook page.

Guest speaker for the meeting was Dwayne Alexander, an account executive from Business Resource Network (BRN) who talked briefly about

how BRN can help regional businesses survive, grow and create jobs in a collaborative and strategic effort.

"The BRN was developed in 2008," Alexander said. "The Department of Labor created the Workforce Innovation Grant for a three year term from July 1, 2012 to July 1, 2015. It was expanded to 16 counties in Ohio and targeted growth and at-risk businesses."

Alexander went on to explain the process and goals of the BRN.

Elliott later reminded everyone about the date change for the 2015 Business Breakfast where the Drucker Award and Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony would be held.

Elliott said that the Drucker Award winner for 2015 is Ohio Valley Manor and that retired Judge Margaret Clark will be the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The event is set for Monday Feb. 23 at the Georgetown Church of Christ Fellowship Hall. Tickets are only \$17 for members, or \$30 for non-members.

The next chamber meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Feb. 19 at the Ohio Veterans Home in Georgetown.