# The Chamber Scene HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

40 E. Franklin Street • Huntington, Indiana 46750 • (260) 356-5300 • www.huntington-chamber.com • March 2025

# Mettler Agency Inc. celebrates 75 years

As an independent insurance agency located in Huntington, the Mettler Agency Inc. has served its clients for 75 years. Founded by Joseph and Theresa Mettler in 1950, the agency is now headed up by grandsons Tom and Dave Mettler. Tom serves as president while Dave is vice president.

Joseph "Joe" Mettler had been in the insurance business

for many years and was connected with the Western & Southern Life Insurance Company. According to the November 14, 1950 edition of the Huntington Herald-Press, Joe purchased The Russell Beeler Agency and formed his own insurance agency. Located at 48 E. Franklin Street, Room 207, in the U.B. Building, the Joe Mettler Agency began. In 1953 Joe moved the business to 432 Warren Street, and in 1957 to its current location, 616 N. Jefferson Street.

A long-time leader in local Democrat politics, Joe was the former chairman of the Huntington County Democrat Party and the Fourth District Democrat Party. He was named a Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Matthew Welsh, was a Kentucky colonel and served as a field secretary for



**Joseph Mettler** 

former U.S. Rep. J. Edward Roush. He served as the chairman of the Governor's Advisory Committee for Insurance in the administrations of Governor Matthew Welsh and Governor Roger Branigin. Joe also founded the Huntington Jaycees, October 14, 1944, beginning with 84 members who joined in the Hotel Lafontaine ballroom.

In 1961 Joe's son John F. "Jack" Mettler joined the firm and his brother Patrick J. Mettler came in 1962. The name of the agency changed to Mettler Agency Inc. in 1966. Joe retired in 1978, and Jack and Pat ran the business for 40-plus years. The sons of Jack, Tom and Dave Mettler, became a part of Mettler Agency Inc. in the early 1990s. The brothers purchased the business in the early 2000s when Jack and Pat retired. Health and life insurance were part of the beginnings of the agency which today is a full-service operation.

The mission statement of the Mettler Agency states it is committed to the principles of service, integrity and education. They endeavor to treat all people as individuals with their own unique set of experi-



Shown above is the Mettler Agency billboard depicting 2025 as the agency's 75th year of service to their customers.



Pictured above are Dave Mettler, left, vice president, and Tom Mettler, president of the Mettler Agency Inc.

ences and needs. They strive to place the needs of their clients above their own, understanding that the only way they may benefit from the client/agent relationship is through the satisfaction of the client. It is their commitment to perpetuate their successful traditions by continuously seeking improvement as they face demands of change.

Mettler Agency has perpetuated these successful traditions for 75 years by offering comprehensive insurance plans from many insurance companies. Individual needs are considered, and professional and personalized service surrounds the final product for auto, homeowners, business, life, health, watercraft, aviation and more. Multi-policy discounts are offered when insurance is packaged.

Offering quality service, custom-designed coverage and fair pricing to fit the customer's insurance needs are part of the Mettler Agency. When the time comes for a claim settlement, the company is by the

(Story Continued on Page 2)

# Board of Directors 2025

Chairman of the Board Bob Caley Bob Caley Realtor RE/MAX Results

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**Rick Doering** Teijin Automotive Technologies

Russ Degitz Huntington County Community School Corporation

**Trisha Abbott** Mazie's Flowers

#### STAFF

Steve Kimmel Executive Director

Angie Garcia Office Administrator

## **Mettler Agency Inc. continued**

(Story Continued From Page 1) client's side.

Mettler Agency Inc. is licensed in the states of Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota, South Carolina and Forida.

Tom Mettler graduated in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree in insurance at Ball State University, earning his Indiana Personal lines of life, health, disability and aviation insurance are his areas of focus. Tom is married to Lisa Mettler and has three adult children. He can be reached at tmettler@mettleragency.com.

Dave Mettler studied at Vincennes University, graduating with an Associate of Science degree in Business Administration, and earning his Indiana insurance license in 1992. Writing commercial lines, municipalities, school corporations, bonds and aviation insurance are Dave's areas of concentration along with managing the agency's information technology. Dave is married to Therese Mettler and has three children. Dave can be reached at dmettler@mettleragency.com.

Tom and Dave also believe in serving their community. Tom enjoys volunteer work for the Optimist Club and serves on the Board of Aviation Commissioners for the Huntington Muncipal Airport. Dave volunteers with his children's activities and is involved with the Knights of Columbus.

Mettler Agency currently has eight employees with a long dedication to the firm. They are all licensed agents, and according to Tom the team prides itself on assisting customers secure the right solutions for their unique situations.

The team conducts their work with the ideal of treating all people – employees,

The team conducts their work with the ideal of treating all people – employees, clients, insurance company personnel and prospects – respectfully and professionally.

clients, insurance company personnel and prospects – respectfully and professionally. They have a moral obligation always to do what is right for the people they serve, and allow their needs to dictate their actions and



The Mettler Agency Inc. has been located at 616 N. Jefferson Street since 1957.

decisions. Further, they wish always to work in an atmosphere of trust and friendship so the workplace is an enjoyable place for all.

The Mettler Agency adheres to a pledge of ethics addressed to the public they serve: We pledge to continuously strive to maintain the expertise necessary to protect our client's interest and to live day by day with the thought that our needs will be met only after we have placed the needs of others first.

To the companies they represent: We pledge truth and the desire to fulfill our commitments to the greatest extent. To their competitors: We pledge to compete in the same manner as we would like others to compete against us.

The community support and trust over the years to service their needs has meant a lot to the agency. Celebrations are scheduled by the Mettler Agency for the 75th Anniversary of the firm. Throughout 2025 community events are planned, billboards have been erected, donations will be given to the charity of choice of their employees, surprise gift cards for employees and clients are arranged.

For more information about the Mettler Agency Inc. visit the website at www.mettleragency.com. An open-door policy invites visitors to call, stop in or make an appointment at Mettler Agency Inc., 616 N. Jefferson Street, Huntington; phone (260) 356-4400; email at mettleragency@mettleragency.com. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday by appointment.

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce congratulates the Mettler Agency on the long history of serving the insurance needs of the residents of Huntington County and the surrounding areas.



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### Chamber to hold annual dinner on March 18

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual dinner on Tuesday, March 18 at the Faith Community Church of God, 3615 N. Norwood Road, Huntington. Social hour will begin at 5:45 p.m. with dinner at 6:15 p.m. Deadline to RSVP is Tuesday, March 11.



**Craig Tornguist** 

As the Chamber celebrates its continuing service to Huntington County, those attending will be

treated to dinner prepared by Holmestyle Catering. The dinner will be buffet-style and will include Aussie Chicken and Beef Tips.

After dinner the Chamber plans a short program to honor the outgoing board members and welcome new board members. Immediately following the program those in attendance will be entertained by Craig Tornquist. Tornquist is a comedian that lives in Mishawaka, Indiana and has done thousands of shows over the Midwest.

Guests are asked to dress casually in slacks, dress shirts and sweaters, but no ties. Tickets for the event are \$45 per person which includes dinner and entertainment.

Those interested in attending the annual dinner should email skimmel@huntington-chamber.com. You may also call the office at (260) 356-5300. Chamber office hours are Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m



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# Taste of Warren to be held Saturday, March 1

The 2025 Taste of Warren is going to be another amazing event filled with great food, drinks, entertaining music, a memorable raffle and more. The event is scheduled for Saturday,



March 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Dash 90 Wines, 6750 W 900 S-90, Warren.

The event will showcase the local food and drink establishments, including East of Chicago Pizza, El Guerro, Son-Rise Bakery and Wagon Wheel Café. In addition, Dash 90 Wines will offer wine and slushy tastings.

Mark your calendars. You won't want to miss this. Tickets are on sale through our Eventbrite event link and are now on sale at Bippus State Bank in Warren.

Ticket purchase includes food and wine or slushy tastings. You may purchase wine. There will be water and pop available. Visit them on Facebook for more information.

# Early bird tickets, sponsors have until March 31

The countdown has begun. Early bird tickets for the highly anticipated Huntington Trails Beer and Wine Festival on Friday, June 6, at the Huntington County Fairgrounds, 631 E. Taylor, Huntington, are on sale now – but only until March 31. Secure your spot for just \$30 and enjoy an unforgettable night of



wine, craft beer, spirits, delicious food and live music while supporting a great cause.

**Get Your Early Bird Tickets Today!** \$30 – Available online through March 31 only. Prices increase to \$35 after April 3, and \$45 at the gate. Purchase your tickets online.

**Sponsors Needed** – Join HARTA in Making a Difference! Want to be part of something amazing? HARTA is seeking sponsors to help make this year's festival a huge success. By sponsoring, you will gain visibility, support local trails and be a key player in an event the community loves.

**Sponsor Deadline: March 31** – Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your business.

Why Support? Proceeds from the festival benefit Huntington County trails, along with funding much-needed wayfinding and kiosk signs to enhance trail navigation and exploration. Interested in sponsoring? Contact HARTA today to learn more about sponsorship levels and benefits. Let's make this year's event bigger and better together.

For tickets, sponsorship details, and more information, visit harta-gotrails.org or follow them on social media.



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## Official logo, colors set for Heritage Days 2025

The official logo and colors of Heritage Days 2025, "A Heritage of Caring," have been selected and will help celebrate the people of Huntington, and how they care for one another. The logo depicts clasped hands as a symbol of unity in our community, and the caring colors are sky blue and rose. The events of



Heritage Days will take place in various locations from Wednesday, June 11 through Sunday, June 15. The official sponsor is Heartland REMC.

The Chamber of Commerce thanks Devon Henderson of the Huntington City-Township Public Library for her help with the logo. A design request was sent to Henderson and she created the official Heritage Days 2025 logo, shown at right, which will be printed on all Heritage Days information and the button for purchase.

Steve Kimmel is the current executive director of the Chamber and Angie Garcia is the office administrator. Information about or those interested in Heritage Days 2025 can contact the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce at (260) 356-5300 or email skimmel@huntington-chamber.com.

# First Merchants funds \$5,000 to Brightpoint

Brightpoint Development Fund has received \$5,000 from First Merchants Bank to fund a series of courses called Personal Financial Foundations. The series focuses on providing opportunities and tools to help individuals reach their financial goals.

"First Merchants Bank is proud to partner with Brightpoint in their vital work serving Northeast Indiana," says Scott McKee, Chief Corporate Social Responsibility Officer for First Merchants Bank. "We believe in their mission and are committed to supporting their efforts to make a positive impact on our community. We're honored to play a role in their success."

"First Merchants Bank's sponsorship enables Brightpoint to bring this critical financial education to more individuals and families," says Matt Crouch, Vice President of Community Economic Development for Brightpoint. "Their support underscores the dedication to our shared values of empowering individuals to take control of their financial futures."

The Personal Financial Foundations series is free and open to the public. The courses will be held at the main branch of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne on March 17, April 21, May 19 and June 16. For more information or to sign up, visit www.my-brightpoint.org.





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# HCCS presents student transfer data, plans

#### Source: HCCS

At the January 27 Huntington County Community Schools (HCCS) board meeting, Director of Secondary Education Chuck Brimbury presented detailed data on student transfers, shedding light on where districtenrolled students are attending school and how the district



compares with neighboring areas. Superintendent John Trout provided additional insights and commentary, emphasizing the importance of addressing transfer trends proactively.

The presentation revealed that 15% of students living within HCCS boundaries choose alternative educational options, including online schools, religious schools, or other public schools. While this figure positions HCCS favorably compared to some neighboring districts, such as Southern Wells at 19% and Wabash at 31%, both Brimbury and Trout acknowledged the need to reduce this percentage further. "We want every child in our district to choose Huntington schools," Brimbury stated, citing the district's strong academic programs, dedicated teachers, and positive culture.

Trout highlighted the district's commitment to leveraging this data for future planning: "We are doing well compared to many of our neighbors, but our goal is continuous improvement. By spring, we'll present actionable plans to reduce the 15% transfer rate before the next school year."

Key points from the data include:

• Religious Schools: A significant portion of students transfer due to religious preferences.

• Online Education: Some students opt for online schooling, a trend HCCS is analyzing to enhance its virtual education offerings.

• Proximity to Other Public Schools: Geographical factors also influence transfer decisions.

Looking ahead, HCCS plans to explore new programs to meet students' needs and attract families who currently look elsewhere for educational opportunities. The administration is committed to ensuring HCCS remains "the best choice in town" for students and families.



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## First Federal supports Parkview Huntington Y

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First Federal Savings Bank has been a longtime proud supporter of the Parkview Huntington Family YMCA.

The bank recently made contributions to the YMCA for improvements in the gymnasium which included two much-needed new scoreboards.

Michael Zahn, president and CEO of First Federal Savings Bank, states, "Our relationship with the Y goes back decades. We appreciate the opportunity

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to support the Y as they execute their mission to build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all in our community."

Shown in the photo at right, from left, are Todd Latta, CEO and executive director of the Parkview Huntington Family YMCA; Shanon Spaulding, sports director, Parkview Huntington Family YMCA, and Michael Zahn, president and CEO of First Federal Savings Bank.

# Share your information with the community

The Chamber is asking our members to keep us in mind when you want to share your business information with the community. There is no cost to you as a member.

Whether it's exciting news about your business, new hire or a noteworthy promotion,

we have the perfect way to showcase your team members. Are you involved with an event and have a flyer you would like to share? Send them our way and we can promote the event for you. Reach a wide audience not only in Huntington County, but the entire region.

All we need from you is the employee's name, a photo if you have one and the employee's title. Give us a brief description of what you would like to share, and we will be happy to place your news in our weekly Chamber Notes. Send your news to skimmel@huntington-chamber.com by Thursday noon to be included in the Friday Chamber Notes.

For more information, feel free to call the Chamber office at (260) 356-5300 with questions.



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# Metzger selected as Main Street Director

Sharon Metzger has been hired as the new Director of Huntington Main Street. She began her duties this week.

Metzger moved to the Huntington community in 2006 to attend Huntington University, where she received her Bachelor's degree in Communication Studies. Sharon and her husband, Kyle, chose to stay in Huntington following her graduation and have been raising their formily or d investing in the sec



Sharon Metzger

their family and investing in the community ever since. Metzger comes with 8-plus years of nonprofit administration, including the establishment of a local nonprofit, Place of Grace. She also brings four years as a small business owner in downtown Huntington.

"The success of downtown Huntington has been a passion of mine for a long time, even before we opened our bakery. This is often the place we bring our family to eat and shop and a place we love to share with visitors from out of town. It's easy to point out the flaws and complain, but that's not my style. I see how hard the people of Downtown Huntington are working to help it reach its full potential and I want to remain a part of that momentum. I believe with the right resources and focused direction; this central part of our community will become a vibrant space that is unique to Huntington and welcoming to all," said Metzger.

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# Mark Your Calendars

#### **Free Lunch**

Saturday, March 1, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Trinity United Methodist Church, 530 Guilford Street

### **Taste of Warren**

Saturday, March 1, 2025 Dash 90 Wines, 6750 W 900 S-90, Warren

#### **Chamber Coffee Connections**

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 Habecker Dining Commons, Huntington University, 8 a.m.

### **Chamber Annual Dinner**

Tuesday, March 18, Social: 5:45 p.m.; Dinner: 6:15 p.m. Faith Community Church of God, 3615 N. Norwood Road

### Heritage Days

Wednesday, June 11 to Sunday, June 15 Around Huntington

### For A Complete Calendar of Events

Visit our website at www.huntington-chamber.com



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