**CLIC - Clarion Leadership & Innovation Connection, Clarion County’s Young Professionals**

Clarion Leadership & Innovation Connection, better known as CLIC, was created to help connect young professionals in the Clarion Area and provide them with opportunities for professional development, networking, leadership opportunities, community involvement, volunteerism, and more. All young professionals are welcome to join and include anyone under 40 living and/or working in the Clarion Area, no matter the profession.

CLIC’s kickoff event was held at Clarion River Brewing Company in June of 2017 and more than 50 young professionals attended. The group has followed up that event with other socials including a mixer at Deer Creek winery, a river float at Cook Forest Canoe Rentals, and a social at Elk Mountain Winery in Knox. They hosted a social and fundraising event at CRBC called Ales for Tales in which donations of food, cleaning supplies, toys, and money were donated to Tri-County Animal Rescue. They have held monthly socials over drinks, first as a Coffee Chat at Michelle’s Café and now as the newly rebranded Schmooze & Booze at CRBC. These socials have given CLIC the chance to bring in local business owners to share their stories and pass on wisdom to the young professionals in the Clarion area. CLIC has been lucky enough to host Jennifer Keth of Sapphire Moon and Jim Crooks of FL Crooks. The next Schmooze & Booze will be held on April 5th with Kathy Ellwood who will be speaking about mindfulness and her experience working and managing a team remotely.

One thing the CLIC Committee heard repeatedly from young professionals attending these events is that they desired more professional development. As a result, they worked with Don Morgan Consulting to put together a Positive Leadership Series that meets once a month for a total of six sessions. These sessions have allowed attendees to explore how to host effective meetings and how to communicate effectively. The next session will be held Wednesday, April 18th and will cover the topic of management styles.

CLIC’s main goal for 2018 is to formalize and drive membership. Currently, the group working to add a tab to the Clarion Chamber website that will provide visitors with more information and an easy way to register. All of their events can be found on Facebook. They are also launching a book club which will meet on a bimonthly basis to discuss a chosen book that is professionally relevant. The first book club meeting will be held at Michelle’s Café on Saturday, April 14th to discuss Creativity, Inc. by Ed Catmull which is available at Clarion Free Library. CLIC members are always looking for ways to get more involved with the Clarion community and volunteer where needed.

The CLIC committee is comprised of driven young professionals & Chamber board members who want to give back to the community. The current committee is comprised of: Joslyn Dechant, President; Miranda Spessard, Vice President & Marketing Coordinator; Tom McConnell, Secretary & Treasurer; Jim McConnell, Membership Chair; and Chamber board advisors: Tricia Pezzuti and Trina Hess.

The CLIC Committee meeting is held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Clarion Chamber office at 5:30 PM. Any young professional in the area is welcome to attend. If you have an interest in joining CLIC and would like to learn more, please contact the Chamber office or speak to any of the committee members.