



Center for Rural Pennsylvania

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*\*Photos for release are attached.*

### **Center for Rural Pennsylvania Hosts December Board Meeting in Mifflinburg**

**MIFFLINBURG** – The Center for Rural Pennsylvania Board of Directors hosted their December Board meeting in Mifflinburg, Union County. Board members visited various locations and discussed a variety of issues with local officials and stakeholders, developing and furthering ideas to help rural communities in the Commonwealth.

“It was great to visit businesses driving the economy of Mifflinburg and surrounding rural areas, as they create work opportunities and generate place-based tourism,” said Board of Directors Chairman, Senator Gene Yaw. “The Center is thrilled to see the ways rural communities like Mifflinburg are thriving.”

The Center first stopped in downtown Lewisburg for a meeting and tour with local officials and Bucknell University staff. Upon arrival in Mifflinburg, the Center received a tour of the Rusty Rail Brewing Company and Ritz-Craft Corporation subsidiaries, and visited the 34th-annual Mifflinburg Christkindl Market, the oldest outdoor Christmas market in the United States.

The location for the Board meeting was the historic Mifflinburg Buggy Museum, where the Center received a tour. The museum complex is preserving the only intact 19th-century carriage factory in the United States, as its purpose is to highlight the region’s buggy manufacturing heritage.

“Mifflinburg is a phenomenal example of a community preserving its social and economic culture while driving tourism,” said Board of Directors Vice Chairman, Representative Eddie Day Pashinski. “The Mifflinburg community’s preservation of this historic area is a success and is needed in other rural areas of Pennsylvania.”

“My brother Eric and I were pleased to host the Center for Rural PA during their visit to Union County,” said Ritz-Craft Corporation President/CEO, Paul D. John. “We appreciate the interest the Board of Directors showed during a tour of our facilities at the Rusty Rail Brewing Company and Legacy Crafted Cabinets. Whether it was the trophies in the Game

Room, the charm of the Great Room, the history of the Pardee Room and the Cage, our unique brewing process, the extent of our 90,000 square foot cabinet factory, or our 70-year company history, the visiting delegation of legislators, professors, and government officials were shown the dedication the John family has to the Borough of Mifflinburg. We are excited about the exceptional support offered by the Board of Directors towards the John family's continuous investment in the economic development, historic restoration, and tourism of the Borough of Mifflinburg."

"We were pleased to host the group from the Center for Rural PA, while showcasing our buggy museum and increasing awareness of the unique history of our town," said Mifflinburg Buggy Museum Tour Guide/Volunteer, Dr. Mary Sullivan. "After touring our museum complex, the members were delighted by this 'gem' of a museum and expressed continued support for our mission."

To watch video from the Mifflinburg Christkindl Market, visit [www.SenatorGeneYaw.com/AudioVideo](http://www.SenatorGeneYaw.com/AudioVideo).

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*The Center for Rural Pennsylvania pictured at the Mifflinburg Buggy Museum.*

