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Alexandria woman joins insurance startup

By Chris Mayhew • cmayhew@nky.com • April 14, 2009

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After decades of selling insurance for others, Janine Bleha of Alexandria has joined in a startup business venture known as Buckeye Insurance Associates.

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Currently the company has two employees, including owner Sherry Hoskins and Bleha. Bleha has worked in the insurance industry for about 25 years, including the last 12 years selling property and casualty insurance for companies and independent agents.

They're selling a full range of insurance products including auto, home, life, health and financial services throughout Northern Kentucky and the greater Cincinnati area. They also sell commercial policies for businesses and work with multiple companies including the Travelers Group, MetLife Auto/Home, Progressive, and Ohio Casualty Group.

"Buckeye Insurance is two women working together creating their dream of business ownership and even though things are tough economically right now, they are growing and surviving and having a blast doing it," said Sue Orth, Regional Sales Manager for MetLife Auto/Home, who was once Bleha's supervisor. "I believe very strongly in the entrepreneurial spirit and it inspires me to see and hear these types of stories."

The company shops for the best rates and policies for customers with multiple insurance providers.

Much of what Bleha does is working with people trying to insure their high value homes and possessions.

Bleha said she often goes clients' homes to help them catalog their possessions for insurance quote purposes. Often she even makes a photo album of their insured valuables that they can keep in a secure place.

That kind of service often surprises people she said, but it's what Buckeye Insurance is all about.

Bleha said she picks up her phone even if she's at her children's baseball games when a client is calling.

"Basically what we offer is a personal touch," she

said.

Bleha is married to her husband Bob, and has five children and three grandchildren. She is a graduate of Campbell County High School.

Hoskins keeps an office in Hamilton, Ohio and Bleha serves Campbell County and other areas by appointment out of her home.

"Our plan is to expand to a storefront in Northern Kentucky as we grow," Hoskins said.



Chris Mayhew/Staff
Sherry M. Hoskins, left, owner of Buckeye Insurance, with Insurance Advisor Janine Bleha of Alexandria.

Contact information

To contact Janine Bleha at Buckeye Insurance Associates call (859) 630-5453 ore e-mail Janine_Buckeyeins@buckeyeinsurance.net. The company's Web site includes a section to request a quote, visit www.buckeyeinsurance.net.

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