



News & Views Highlights

The Monthly Newsletter of Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce

Serving the Business Community Since 1901

~

March, 2011

Business Day at the Capitol Sees Record Attendance



Sue O'Connor,
President

If you attended Business Day at the Capitol last week, you discovered that the main hearing room was SRO (standing room only). And you found that the over-flow room was also full. This year saw more than 500 business people turn out to hear from Governor Malloy and legislators.

Our legislators heard from business owners whose utility costs cause them to consider shutting their doors. Others will reduce or cancel benefits in place in their businesses if they are forced to provide paid sick

leave, and more. Many benefits currently provided were at the request of employees.

For the most part, our legislators have never run a business of their own. They have never had to “sweat out” making a payroll. They’ve never not taken a paycheck so that they could be sure to pay their employees that week. We need to help them understand.

And we need to be relentless in our efforts. Several of the legislators stated on Wednesday that if they get an email or a

phone call on a particular issue, it’s not a big deal. But if they get a few emails or calls, it gets their attention. And if they were to get, say a dozen or so, they start to think they should be paying attention.

Correspondence can be as simple as a few sentences describing your issue, how it’s affecting your business, and if you have a solution to offer, all the better. At all times, however, correspondence should be respectful of the office these folks hold, whether you agree or disagree with their view. You can contact your legislators by email at:

Sen. Steve Cassano: Cassano@senatedems.state.ct.us
Rep. Jack Thompson: Jack.Thompson@cga.ct.gov
Rep. Jason Rojas: Jason.Rojas@cga.ct.gov
Rep. Geoff Luxenberg: Geoff.Luxenberg@cga.ct.gov

For additional contact information for your legislators, log onto CBIA’s website, www.cbia.com, click on “Government Issues & Policies,” then “Elected Officials,” and then on “State Legislators.” Scroll through the list of Connecticut Towns to find yours, and “search.”

Thank you to our businesses who attended Business Day at the Capitol this year. And thank you to our legislators for your efforts.

Webster Bank Sponsors Series of Three Seminars for Business Owners

Webster Bank, in conjunction with Manchester Community College and the Chamber, is the Corporate Sponsor for a series of three seminars aimed at small to medium sized businesses.

The first, “Hiring and Retaining the Right People,” is scheduled for Tuesday, March 29, at Adams Mill Restaurant & Banquet Facility, 165 Adams Street, in Manchester. Registration and breakfast is at 7:30 am, and the program begins at 8 am.

Presented by Ryan McEleney, Program Manager and Vice President of Human Resources; Becky Lowry, HR Business Partner, and Lynn Thompson, Senior Recruiter for Webster Bank, this seminar will provide research, best practices and insights applicable to businesses of all sizes and in any industry. Discussions will center on building, marketing and reinforcing an employee value proposition to attract the right people and keep them actively engaged in your company.

Future seminars, scheduled for April 26, and May 24, will cover access to capital, and the rising cost of health care.

These breakfast seminars are offered free of charge to area employers, but reservations are required and must be made prior to each seminar, by contacting the offices of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce at 860 646 2223, or via email, amy@manchesterchamber.com.



GMCC Board of Directors

Officers

- Mike Downs, GMCC Chairman
Brescome Barton
Kathy Kamerer, Chairperson Elect, Katherine's Hair Design
Rich Cohen, Past Chairman
Ed Epstein, Financial Benefits
Marty Fins, Silk City Print Shoppe
Abby Jewett, at&t
Tom Machuga, Treasurer Machuga Financial Services
Sue O'Connor, President

Directors

- Peg Aldrich, New York Life
William Broneill, Law Offices of William Broneill
Laurie Brooks, Rockville Bank
Dotti Cannon, Brown Sugar Catering
Bruce Chamberlin, Flo-Tech
Cliff Ferguson, American Business Telephone
Gena Glickman, MCC
Harold Harris, Plastics & Concepts of CT
Joan Hunt, Reminder News
Stan Kontogiannis, ECHN
Anne Miller, Anne Miller Real Estate
Nancy Murray, The Shoppes at Buckland Hills
Bob Pagani, Colliers, Dow & Condon
Renee Pasay, Cox Media
Mary Rossettie, Attorney at Law
Linda Wieleba, New England Bank

Ex Officio

- Marc Montminy, Police Chief
Kathleen Oullette, Superintendent of Schools
Scott Shanley, Town Manager

What's Happening in Our Members' Businesses

Congratulations to Beth Stafford, CEO of the Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC), who was recently named one of Eight Remarkable Women in Business by the Hartford Business Journal.

Imran Balouch, MD of Eastern Connecticut Health Network (ECHN) earned Board of Certification in Gastroenterology from the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Always Best Care Senior Services of Central CT, Inc. has a new website, www.ABCCentralCT.com. Always Best Care Senior Services of Central CT, Inc. is pleased to announce their participation in this year's 2011 Walk to End Alzheimer's as a National Sponsor as well as being on the Chair Committee for this year's walk in Enfield in October 2011.

Kathy Kamerer owner of Katherine's Hair Salon has told us the salon now has art work from Manchester Art Association on display.

Stay informed about events happening in the Town of Manchester, by receiving periodic emails with news about voting, taxes, leaf collection, committee meetings, road construction, fire safety, Town jobs, dog licensing, special events, and programs offered by the libraries, schools, health and recreation departments. Residents and those who work in town are invited to sign up online at www.townofmanchester.org or call 860-647-5235.

Congratulations to Anne Miller as Anne Miller Real Estate celebrates their 25th year in business

Tell us what's happening in your business. Add "News & Views Highlights" to your media list. Send announcements to Amy Belske, Editorial Assistant, News & Views Highlights, GMCC, 20 Hartford Rd., Manchester, CT 06040, or via e-mail, amy@manchesterchamber.com.

110th Annual Meeting of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
Sponsored by NewAlliance Bank
Thursday, April 28, 11:45 am - 2:30 pm
Maneely's Banquet & Catering
65 Rye Street, South Windsor
Reservations required, contact the Chamber at 860 646 2223.
\$30/person

Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union Sponsors Business-to-Business Expo

