



DECEMBER 2023

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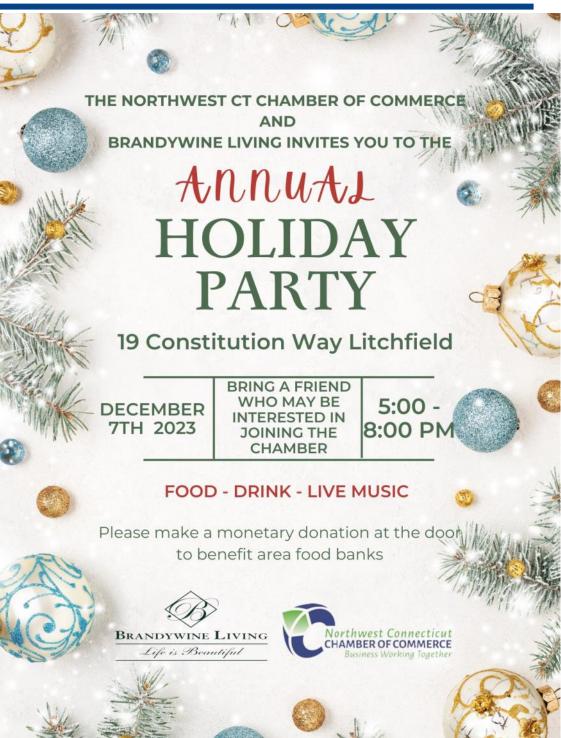
The Register Citizen

Republican-American

Thomaston Savings Bank

Torrington Savings Bank

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Click HERE to Register

From the Desk of Our President & CEO JOANN RYAN



Chamber Gift Ideas for You!

What gifts would benefit the business community? Opportunities abound if we stay focused and committed to working together to address the concerns. Without giving away our secrets, here are some gift ideas for you from the Chamber:

Action: It is easy to talk...we are acting! The seminars hosted at the Chamber featuring keynote speakers helps to encourage the audience to work together seeking solutions.

<u>Board of Directors</u>: We all are lucky to have the leadership of Jacque, Maria, Gina, Ted, Carolyn, Todd, Evan, Joanne, Kathy, Moe, Chris, Sandy, Pat, Joyce, Stephen, Matt, Jade, George, Chris, Maura, Stephen, Christina, Vanessa, Art, Ida, David, Rob, Mike, Erick, Greg and Bob.

Conversation: An important goal is to communicate good news through all forms of the media. We love to hear from you so stay in touch.

<u>Dedication</u>: Our mission is to promote economic growth while enhancing the quality of life in NW Connecticut. We are committed to fulfilling this charge.

Economic Development: The NW CT Economic Development Corporation represents the public and private sector, determined to make a

<u>Friendship</u>: We continue to make friends and introduce you to new friends. We are always here if you need us.

Gaiety: Laughter is the best medicine. Can't beat our enthusiastic spirit.

<u>Hopefulness</u>: Despite our challenges, we continue to highlight the hidden secrets of our region and deal with the troublesome issues.

<u>Ingenuity</u>: With pleasure and pride, we promote the outstanding companies who succeed because of their inventiveness and resourcefulness.

<u>Jubilation</u>: Please read the Chamber's Newsletter. We appreciate the opportunity to keep you informed. We are upbeat due to your involve-

Kindness: Compassion and goodness of heart add to the enhanced

quality of life. You continue to display this gift in support of many needs throughout the non-profit community.

<u>Leadership Northwest</u>: Congratulations to 2023-2024 class of brilliant leaders and to their companies who believe in their potential. You will be hearing from them.

Meaningfulness: Each program has a significance that creates positive economic results such as the recent presentation from Ken Gronbach, the renowned demographer. He shared lessons that were meaningful and humorous.

Negotiation: Bringing together the business community through the Manufacturer's Coalition, Health Council and Small Business Coalition allows us to deal with challenging topics and find solutions.

Organization: Since building a vibrant business is everyone's business, this Chamber needs your participation and input.

Participation: The Chamber's involvement with outstanding business organizations, arts and cultural initiatives, and non-profit entities will bring attention to these worthwhile projects and endeavors.

Quintessence: Our Business Plan is the roadmap since we strive to increase the awareness of the economic, educational, cultural and civic opportunities.

Realization: We have succeeded if we all reach the conclusion that there are jewels hidden among us that need to be uncovered and encouraged.

<u>Service</u>: One would have to search far and wide to find this staff more dedicated to fulfilling the Chamber's mission.

Tenacity: We are steadfast in our goal to support and promote northwest CT.

<u>Unanimity</u>: We may not agree on all subjects but it is a universal belief that we live in this region of Connecticut with its superior quality of life.

<u>Vision</u>: We continue to look forward as we prepare for the 2024 Legislative Agenda, the Business Showcase, Annual Meeting, and WOW! so much more.

Watchfulness: Have no fear...we are keeping an eye on the issues so pertinent to the success of our business community.

X-traordinary: Yes- we have wonderful people who surround us!

Yearning: We will not rest until we have achieved our goal to improve economic conditions.

Zest: With passion, renewed enthusiasm and optimism, we wish you a season of good health, happiness and peace.

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> nwctchamberofcommerce.org Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/nwctchamber

Corporate Partner NEWS



NEDS Rose Bowl Parade Vial Signing

John Capobianco, Senior Vice President Northwest Region and Erinne Houton, Regional Vice President for Patient Care Services join colleagues at Hartford HealthCare Health Center Emergency Department at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Winsted to celebrate the hospital's partnership with New England Donor Services (NEDS). The group signed a rose vial that will be included on the Donate Life float as part of the Rose Bowl parade in Pasadena, California on New Year's Day. The float is the world's most visible campaign to encourage organ, eye and tissue donation and inspire viewers to help over one million people in need of transplants each year by registering to become an organ donor. The 2024 float theme is Woven Together: The Dance of Life and will highlight the love and caring for one another that makes transplantation possible and will include donors, recipients and living donors on or walking with the float.





Chamber Member IN THE SPOTLIGHT



SANTA ENERGY EXPANDS COMMERCIAL ENERGY SERVICE WITHIN NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT

Santa Energy is a family owned company that has been serving the energy needs of businesses and residents in Connecticut for 85 years.

As a leading fuel provider, we take pride in providing exceptional customer and technical services. Our expert staff is attentive to the needs of all customers.

Santa Energy is proud to announce that we have expanded our commercial energy service within Northwest Connecticut. We offer a wide variety of fuels, including: Propane, Heating Oil, Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel, Off-Road Diesel, Kerosene, BioDiesel, DEF and Marine Fuel.

Our bulk rail propane terminal, located in Terryville, is the largest propane facility in the Northeast. Unlike any fuel company in Connecticut, Santa Energy offers propane delivery directly to businesses from our bulk rail terminal. This allows for substantial savings and a secure fuel supply to the end user.

Santa Energy helps businesses, both large and small, reduce energy costs, secure a steady and reliable fuel source by providing best in class services.

Let's talk about how we can serve the energy needs of your business. Contact us for a free energy consultation at 203-216-2615.



Testimonials







Member Testimonial

"In my 30 years of working with various organizations throughout Connecticut I am the most impressed with the way the Northwest Chamber brings people and businesses together. The staff is professional and always willing to help. Your connection to the community inspires folks to get involved. I look forward to being a member for years to come."

<u>Bob Twombly | Account Executive</u> Brooks, Todd & McNeil Insurance

Facility Usage

Our Chamber office has rooms available for private meetings. Available space includes a conference room, library, and reception area.

- Our Conference Room seats up to 28 people in the usual Rectangle Configuration, and 20-25 people in the Classroom Configuration.
- Our Library seats up to 6 people at a round table.
- Our Reception Area seats up to 8 people.

Member Room Rates:

8 am - 5 pm, \$35 for the 1^{st} hour, \$20 per hour thereafter 5 pm - 10 pm, \$45 for the 1^{st} hour, \$35 per hour thereafter

Non Member Room Rates:

8 am - 5 pm, \$80 for the 1st hour, \$55 per hour thereafter 5 pm - 10 pm, \$125 for the 1st hour, \$100 per hour thereafter

Projector, Whiteboard, and Flipchart are available at no extra charge

Corporate Partners of the Chamber may utilize the space at no charge.

Premier Members of the Chamber may utilize the space at half price.

Click **HERE** to see the photos

To reserve a space, contact Sharon Kunay at 860-482-6586 or at info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org



Premier MEMBERS

Brandywine Living at Litchfield

Commercial Sewing, Inc.

Cook Funeral Home

Eversource Energy

Keystone Place at Newbury Brook

Seitz, LLC

Senior Advocate Services

T&M Building Company, Inc.

and Torrington Downtown Partners

UCE Fine Builders

Webster Bank

Welcome New Members

Dutema Life Institute, LLC

www.dutemalifeinstitute.com

Industrial Management & Training Institute

www.imti.edu

Payhub Payments

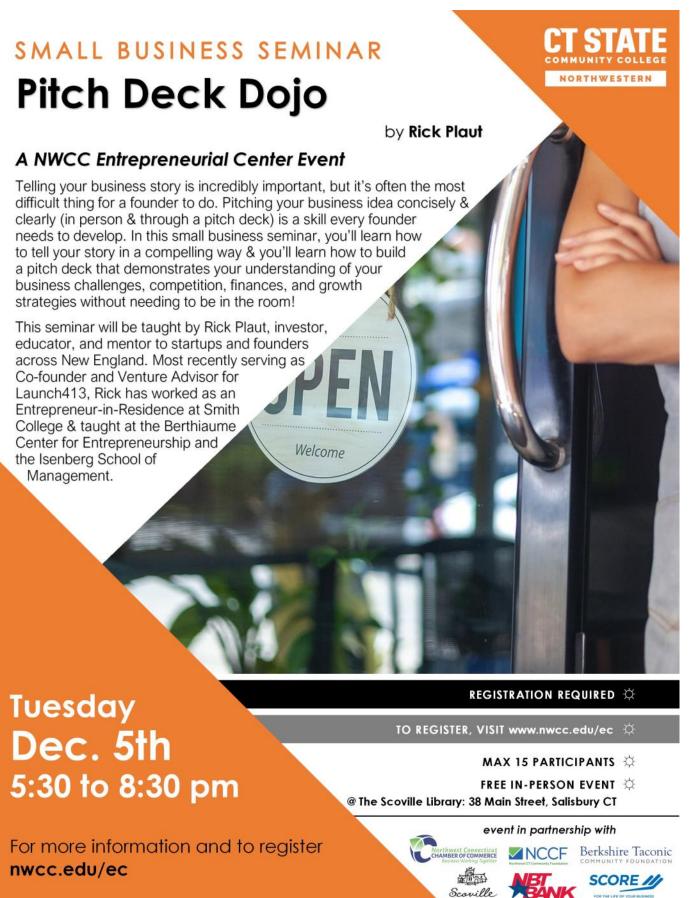
www.payhubpayments.com

Showcase Realty, Inc.

showcasect.com/agents/amanda-nemense/

Village Market & Gas

www.facebook.com/GoshenVillageMarket/



Outsourcing Your Business Needs



Are there certain processes in your company that are slowing down efficiency and productivity and negatively impacting your business's bottom line? One solution may be to consider The Arc of Litchfield County's (LARC) Outsourcing Services.

Administered through our agency's Vocational Program, the outsourcing option provides revenue generation for workers at our vocational facilities. The work is performed using strict quality control guidelines under the watchful eye of staff, either off-site, or on-premises if preferred.

According to Forbes, nearly 80% of companies are using some form of outsourcing to increase efficiency and maximize their profits.

We provide fixed pricing on various tasks, including bag sealing, labeling, heat sealing, packaging and packing, kit assembly, collating/sorting and much more. We ensure on-time delivery of customer products and services and have a proven history of providing zero-defect quality.

LARC's Vocational Department has been assisting corporate partners throughout the region for nearly 60 years through direct hire, on-site group support and outsourced work. We modify our processes and procedures to meet a business's specific product requirements and match workers' experience and strengths to individual projects.

For more information on how outsourcing may benefit your business, contact:

Debra Aleksinas, Assistant Worksite Manager at (860) 496-0063, Ext. 308 (daleksinas@litchfieldarc.org) or

David Chamberlain, Community Worksite Coordinator at (860) 496-0063, Ext. 013.



WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

Come to Litchfield Community Center for our Wreath Making Workshop on Tuesday, Dec 5, 2023 from 10:00 am - 11:30 am. Includes everything you need from Flanders property or provide their own decorations. Space is limited / * Preregistration and Pre-payment required. The cost is \$25.00. Visit www.thecommunitycenter.org to register.

NEW YORK CITY DAY TRIP

Experience the Magic of NYC during the holiday season. Join the Litchfield Community Center for a "Do as you please" Day Trip on Wednesday, Dec 6, 2023. Travel on a Coach Bus. Departing at 8:00 AM. One Central Drop-off and Pickup: 52nd & Broadway. Pick up at 6:00pm, arriving back to LCC approx. 8:30pm. Cost is \$60.00 / seats limited / * Preregistration & Pre-payment required by visiting www.thecommunitycenter.org.

*Registration & Cancellation apply.

FRIDAY FEAST & DANCING FEET

Join us for good food and good company at Litchfield Community Center on Friday, Dec 8, 2023
From 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm. Menu: Baked Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Dessert
Band: NorthEast Country with a special Holiday performance by The CT Yuletide Carolers. Cost is \$7.00pp/payable at door. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY WEDNESDAY, DEC 6th by visiting www.thecommunitycenter.org. Don't forget your dancing shoes!

FAMILY HOLIDAY PARTY

Join us for a Magical Afternoon on Sunday Dec. 10 from 12:00pm – 3:00pm at Litchfield Community Center for a Family Holiday Party. Come meet Santa, enjoy Holiday Crafts & Delicious Snacks! Free, Donations Appreciated. * Preregistration is required by Thursday, December 7th at NOON by visiting www.thecommunitycenter.org





KIDSPLAY AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS MUSEUMS FOR AMERICA GRANT



KidsPlay Children's Museum is thrilled to announce that they have been awarded a prestigious Museums for America grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This grant is a testament to the Museum's commitment to informal learning and positive outcomes for children and f a m i l i e s i n t h e c o m m u n i t y.

KidsPlay is honored to be among the 122 recipients of this highly competitive and prestigious grant. It will enable the Museum to enhance its work and impact on the community.

With the generous support of the IMLS Museums for America grant, KidsPlay will launch an exciting new initiative, The Hub@KidsPlay, which is a designated space within the Museum's facility and a program initiative that convenes partners who possess skills and resources that support the collective success of children and families.

The concept of the Hub@KidsPlay started to take shape during the Museum's 2020 Community and Audience Engagement Assessment, a process administered by the American Alliance of Museums. During the museum assessment, KidsPlay worked with a peer reviewer, Dr. William Sudduth. Dr. Sudduth recently visited the museum to meet with stakeholders and advise KidsPlay's Board and leadership on preparing for this project. In his follow-up report to the American Alliance Museum, Dr. Sudduth stated: "KidsPlay has emerged from the pandemic as a vibrant leader, an anchor for downtown Torrington, and through its community collaborations and planning as a convener of programs and activities for youth-serving groups and families with children. The museum's planning efforts involving the community in the planning resulted in the Hub concept which could become a model best practice for other children's museums."

Cheryl Kloczko, Vice President of the Museum's Board of Directors says: "The idea and groundwork of this grant remain consistent with the vision of KidsPlay Children's Museum, to provide a sustainable anchor institution, preparing a diverse community of children to thrive intellectually, socially, and emotionally. This grant will allow KidsPlay and its community partners to implement an innovative and collaborative program that will have a profound impact on our ability to serve children and families resulting in a stronger and more viable future for the overall community."

"KidsPlay is an extremely valuable resource for young children living in the Fifth District. The Museums for America grant will allow KidsPlay to further their mission to create positive outcomes in science, arts and literacy," said Congresswoman Jahana Hayes. "The new program, Hub@KidsPlay, partners with community stakeholders to uplift low-income families by giving them access to a space to learn and grow together. I look forward to seeing the positive impact this funding has on our communities."

Eileen Marriott, Museum Director, says: "On behalf of Kids Play's Board and Staff, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for their support and recognition of our commitment to excellence in the museum field."

We invite you all to join us in celebrating this remarkable achievement. Stay tuned for updates on the exciting developments that the investment from this IMLS Museums for America grant will bring to KidsPlay in 2024.



KidsPlay recently welcomed potential partners for the Hub@KidsPlay initiative for a conversation and tour of the space that is under construction and dedicated to the Hub. In the photo above from Left: Eileen Marriott, Bethany Frasco, Kristin Ercoli, Dr. Mac Sudduth, Mary Guilfoile, Cathy Coyle, Tasha La Viera, Michelle Anderson, Patty Cassella, Pamela Tino, Judy Kobylarz-Dillard.





2024 Membership Directory

We are working on updating our 2024 Membership Directory. Please take a look at your online listing and let us know if there are any changes to be made. You can find your listing by clicking on the link below and searching for your company name.

Check My Listing



May your days be filled with peace, hope, and joy this holiday season.

As always, thank you for your friendship, loyalty, and support.

SINCERELY,
ALL OF US AT THE NORTHWEST CT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE







Join us at our morning roundtable discussion

BUSINESS with BREAKFAST

Enjoy easy networking over a light breakfast. Each attendee will then give a 30-second "commercial" for their business followed by a brief presentation by our host.

Tuesday, December 12, 8:00 a.m.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall 837 Charles St, Torrington



RSVP at https://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar/

Members of Northwest Connecticut's
Chamber of Commerce:
In appreciation for your commitment
to enhancing the quality of life
in Northwest Connecticut,
we invite you to an exclusive
Business After Hours
opportunity to shop and network
at our pop-up store

PRIME FINDS

Home for the Holidays

Presented by



Wednesday, December 13, 2023 5 - 7 pm Lourdes of Litchfield 50 Montfort Road, Litchfield CT

All sales support the programs at



Prime Time House

RSVP to karen@nwctchamberofcommerce.org







Young Professionals Organization

The NWCT Chamber Young Professionals Organization invites local young professionals, ages 21-40, to our next free networking event:

Wednesday, December 13th, 5-7 PM Little Red Barn Brewers 32 Lake Street, Winsted, CT 06098

Bring a coworker!

If possible, please RSVP at nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar

For more information, contact the Chamber at 860-482-6586 or Info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org

YPO is sponsored by



Conquest creativity. marketing. technology.

Interested in hosting a Business with Breakfast?





Join us at our morning roundtable discussion

BUSINESS with BREAKFAST

Enjoy easy networking over a light breakfast. Each attendee will then give a 30-second "commercial" for their business followed by a brief presentation by our host.

Tuesday, Month Date, 8:00 a.m.

YOUR LOGO

Your Company Name

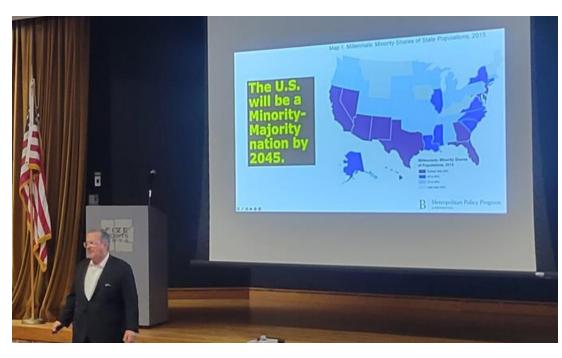
Your Address

Your company name, address, and logo could be listed here.



Send us an email to schedule a date: info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org
Or Call: 860-482-6586.

ECONOMIC C



S U M M I T

This year's Economic Summit was held on November 17th at Five Points Art Center on University Drive in Torrington. Our guest speaker, Kenneth W. Gronbach, gave an outstanding and encouraging presentation on the effects of demographic change and how we can benefit from it. His charming granddaughter from CT introduced him.

We extend a huge thank you to our sponsor, O&G Industries, for helping to make this event possible. Thank you also to Five Points Art Center for allowing us to use their auditorium and lobby. The delicious continental breakfast was provided by Ciesco Catering Company from Goshen.

Business with Breakfast



Our Chamber held the November Business with Breakfast meeting at The Cottage at Litchfield Hills, an assisted living and memory care community in Torrington. We had a great conversation about employment opportunities, hous-

ing, and spiritual life & strategy coaching to name a few. A delicious hot breakfast was served upon everyone's arrival. Thank you to our friends at The Cottage!

CT Tourism





Chief Marketing Officer, Anthony M. Anthony, from the CT Office of Tourism gave us an update on the changes being made to improve CT's brand to help drive traffic to CT. We will be able to custom tailor a program or project specifically for our region through this new marketing campaign. We can play to our strengths and highlight our assets to continue our mission at the Chamber to enhance the quality of life for our residents. For more information, visit www.ctmakeithere.com.

Valuable connections were made among the attendees at this meeting, and Anthony welcomes your comments and suggestions. He wants to know what's happening in our corner of the state. Anthony can be reached at Anthony@ct.gov.

CTVISIT.com has some updates planned over the next couple of weeks. For more information, please contact Robert.Damroth@ct.gov.

Leadership Northwest



The 2023 -2024 Leadership Northwest participants and advisors kicked off the term with a meet and greet evening at Rowley Grill on November 1, 2023. See photo above. It was a wonderful way for everyone to meet each other before heading into the first session on November 15, 2023.

The Leadership Development & Team Building session was led by Gail Kulas, CEO & Owner of "Leading to Unlock". She is a "LEGO Serious Play" Facilitator and is currently a

full-time business instructor at CT State Community College, Northwestern . The purpose of this session was to introduce leadership behaviors and how they can be incorporated into individual and team leadership practices. The next class will cover social services and will be held on December 13, 2023. The mission of this session is to expose the attendees to some of the many social service organizations in Northwest CT and to gain knowledge and understanding of issues affecting our region.

Committee Reports

Governance Committee:

This newly formed committee will be lead by committee chair, David Oliver from Ebner Camps, Inc.

Government Relations Committee:

This month's Government Relations meeting was very beneficial in regards to setting up our legislative agenda for the upcoming house session. In attendance was our state lobbyist Mike Rell, 65th district state rep Michelle Cook, 76th district state rep John Piscipo, and C.B.I.A. representative Eric Gjede.

One of the main topics we discussed was the homeless issue that is dire in our region. Michelle was reaching out and having conversations with the Mayor of Torrington but, much more support is needed from the community to make this a higher priority in our region.

The general economic forecast in our state is favorable especially on the news of the governor's policy on tax cuts for the residents of the state. Bipartisanship seems to be the pathway to getting more things done. We continue to be proud of the contributions our delegation has demonstrated in those efforts.

Our committee meets every 2nd Thursday of the month. We encourage you to attend and get the information you need to make more informed decisions for your businesses, your family, and your community.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!!

- Jacque Williams

Health Council:

The health council shared a presentation that demonstrated the collaborative nature of the northwest corner and how Community Health and Wellness Center, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, New Opportunities and the Torrington Area Health Department worked together, with the office of Rural Health to address vaccine equity and eliminate barriers for homebound residents of the community, keeping our region safe, healthy and strong. Partnering to solve solutions at its best!

- Joanne Borduas

Manufacturing Coalition:

The Manufacturing Coalition is focusing on letting students know about manufacturing jobs in the area.

Membership Committee:

The Membership Committee had a productive first meeting in November. Their next meeting will be at our Chamber on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 8 AM.

Regional Educational Partnership:

The Regional Educational Partnership held its first regional meeting of school district leaders, business leaders and the college on Nov 1st. The group is defining our collective needs and ways that we can partner through the spring.

- Dr. Michael Rooke

Small Business Council:

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and time spent with family and friends. I am honored to continue to meet and work with the local business in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut. The Chamber of Commerce provides incredible resources for all business owners, no matter the size. Working at Northwest Community Bank, I've learned that one size does not fit all - every business has a story and unique challenges. I invite you to join our Small Business Council meetings. I look forward to helping and providing a platform for business owners to share success and strategies.

-Moe Chislum

Strategic Planning Committee:

This newly formed committee is being spearheaded by committee chair, Stephen Mazzarelli from Commercial Sewing.

To join a committee, please contact Sharon Kunay at 860-482-6586 or email Info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org.



Upcoming CHAMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS

Dec. 5 - Small Business Council - 8 AM

Dec. 7 - Membership Committee - 8 AM

Dec. 7 - Annual Holiday Celebration @ Brandywine Living at Litchfield, 19 Constitution Way, Litchfield, 5-8 PM

Dec. 11 - Leads I - 12 PM

Dec. 12 - Business with Breakfast @ St Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 837 Charles St, Torrington,

Dec. 13 - Leadership NW (Session 2), 8:30 AM-1:00 PM

Dec. 13 - Leads II - 12 PM

Dec. 13 - Business After Hours—Prime Finds Pop-Up @ Lourdes of Litchfield's Pilgrim Hall, 50 Montfort Road, Litchfield, 5-7 PM

Dec. 13 - Young Professionals Networking Night @ Little Red Barn Brewers, 32 Lake St, Winsted, 5-7 PM

Dec. 14 - Government Relations Committee - 8 AM

Dec. 20 - Health Council - 8 AM

Dec. 21 - Board of Directors Meeting- 8 AM

Dec. 23—Jan. 1 - CHAMBER CLOSED for the Holidays

Save the Date

Jan. 18 - Mental Health First Aid Training @ NW Chamber, Torrington, 8 AM - 4 PM

Feb. 7 - Young Professionals @ Da Capo Restaurant, Litchfield, 5-7 PM

Feb. 21 - QPR & Narcon Training @ NW Chamber, Torrington, 8:00 - 10:30 AM

Apr. 18 - The Great Business Showcase, Venue: TBD, 4-7 PM

Newsletter Submissions:

Please send us your newsletter submissions by the 15th of the month. Beyond that date, we cannot guarantee that it will be in the following month's edition.

Thank you.

