

## 2018 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: Government As Usual Won't Solve Connecticut's Fiscal Crisis

The Chamber's Government Relations Committee plays a vital role as the group that develops our annual Legislative Agenda. The committee, chaired by Timothy Waldron, is comprised of dedicated individuals who are committed to ensuring the concerns of the business community are heard by our representatives in Hartford.

The Chamber's Board of Directors voted unanimously at the January meeting to approve the following 2018 Legislative Agenda:

Northwest Connecticut's Chamber of Commerce members recognize that our state is faced with a historic fiscal crisis that threatens our quality of life. Neither government nor employers can continue to do business as usual if we are to solve this problem.

Consequently, the [Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce 2018 Legislative Agenda](#) is different. The following sets forth principles that our members believe are essential for Connecticut to begin digging out of the ongoing fiscal nightmare. Additionally, it identifies specific issues that are important to our Northwest Connecticut region.

### Principles

- ◆ Fiscal predictability and reducing the increase in both the cost of living and doing business in Connecticut are essential to reviving our economy.
- ◆ Government must prioritize services and deliver them more efficiently. Our spending policies must distinguish between wants and needs.
- ◆ The process for setting public sector employee contracts, including pensions and benefits, must be improved. Without change to existing contract approval and arbitration procedures, we will bankrupt our state, municipalities and future generations.
- ◆ Re-examine the State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition agreement to achieve savings that will reduce the state budget deficit.
- ◆ Whenever essential state and local services can be provided more efficiently and cost effectively, public-private partnerships or privatization should be supported.
- ◆ Reduce transportation administrative costs prior to increasing taxes and spending related to the Special Transportation Fund.
- ◆ Support balanced unemployment compensation reform to reduce costs.

- ◆ A new Education Cost Sharing formula that cost effectively addresses the needs of all students throughout Connecticut must be adopted.
- ◆ Continue to improve the provision of mental health and opioid abuse services.

### Northwest Connecticut Issues

- ◆ A member from Northwest Connecticut should be added to the State Board of Regents.
- ◆ Meaningful course offerings and programming by Northwestern Connecticut Community College are crucial to our region and must be supported.
- ◆ Torrington should be reimbursed for the state reduction to its' motor vehicle taxes.

## CHAMBER TEAMS UP WITH CBIA FOR CONNECTICUT BUSINESS DAY

The Government Relations Committee will, once again, attend Connecticut Business Day on March 14th and invites all members of the Chamber to join them. Connecticut Business Day, organized and sponsored by the Connecticut Business & Industry Association, is held annually at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

Hundreds of business leaders attend the event. Legislators need to hear from the business community as they look to help employers grow the economy and create more jobs. The morning begins with a plenary session, followed by breakouts that offer the opportunity to meet with lawmakers to discuss issues that impact you as a business owner in Connecticut.

For more information or to register, please contact Adam Ney at 860-244-1933 or [adam.ney@cbia.com](mailto:adam.ney@cbia.com).

*From the Chamber  
President & CEO*  
**JOANN RYAN**



Welcome to the newest Chamber Corporate Partners, Eastside Electric, Inc. and United Construction & Engineering, Inc.. Greg Mele and Jack Baer have been tremendous supporters of the Chamber throughout the years so we congratulate them on this decision to join a select group of businesses who commit to the Chamber on an elevated financial level. We appreciate their dedication as corporate citizens that enables us to successfully achieve our mission of promoting economic growth while enhancing the quality of life throughout our twenty-one town region.

You may not be aware of the advantages received by this esteemed group of business leaders. Below are some of the benefits to them:

- ◆ A seat at the Executive Roundtable held quarterly to present updates and generate ideas in creating and executing the strategic plan
- ◆ An invitation to the Annual Corporate Partner Reception with a keynote speaker
- ◆ Enhanced access to the Chamber's state lobbyist
- ◆ Ongoing exposure and visibility through the Chamber's website; custom sign displayed in the Chamber's main lobby; recognition at all chamber events, including distinctive badges with ribbons; highlighted listing in all Chamber material; recognition plaque displayed at their business location
- ◆ Financial advantages that include complimentary seminar attendance; Leadership NW tuition discount; complimentary use of the Chamber conference rooms; 20% discount on all Chamber advertising

We appreciate and value all of you but do consider ourselves very fortunate to have the support, generosity and dedication of our Corporate Partners who prove that "Business Leaders Working Together" is the key to our success.

*Welcome*  
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*Chamber Board Member, Lydia Babbitt of O&G Industries, Inc. participates in the 2018 Read Aloud Day as Torrington Elementary School teacher Kate Reinert listens along with her class.*



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Like us on Facebook:  
www.facebook.com/nwctchamber

**JoAnn Ryan, President & CEO** • joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org

**Anita Rosa, VP Finance/Operations** •  
anita@nwctchamberofcommerce.org

**Lauren Zordan, VP Programs/Events**  
lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org

**Pamela LaRosa, Director, One-Stop Workforce Operations**

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT'S CHAMBER

## Leadership Northwest

"Connect with Local Businesses" was the theme of the February Leadership session. The mission was to learn about the successes and challenges facing business owners in this region and to hear the plans for economic development in Torrington.

The class started their day with a tour of the new Courthouse in Torrington. Eric Groody, Deputy Chief Clerk took the class behind the scenes of the gorgeous new facility that is home to the former Litchfield Courthouse, Bantam Courthouse and Juvenile Court. Judge Danaher addressed the class and spoke about the importance of the Courthouse being in downtown Torrington and how they hope it will drive the economy in the area and bring more businesses to Field Street and Main Street.

From there, the class walked across the street to Stepcraft, where they met with Owner, Erick Royer. Erick showed the class the different machines sold at Stepcraft and all of the different products that can be made with them. He talked about how his business started, why he chose that location, and what his plans are for the future.

The class met with Samantha Wald, Office Manager at Elevator Service Company on Water Street and learned about a small business that operates all over New England installing residential and commercial elevators. Samantha touched on how they find and train their employees and why it's important for them to be part of downtown Torrington.

After a delicious lunch at Hanq's, the class walked to The Roberts Tax Group to meet with Owner, Kris Roberts. After a tour of the beautifully renovated building, Kris talked about the importance of small business to the downtown area and the need for the community to support these businesses. She talked about the culture at The Roberts Tax Group and how they find and retain their employees.

Later that afternoon, the group went to the auditorium at City Hall for a panel discussion about economic development, trails, and blight in Torrington. Panelists included: Erin Wilson, Director of Economic Development, Rista Malanca, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Tim Waldron, Mayoral Aide, and Martin Connor, City Planner. They spoke about the Brownfield Area Revitalization Program, the Naugatuck River

Greenway plans, and the new blight ordinance being enforced.

In March, the class will attend Connecticut Business Day at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

## Working Cities Challenge

We are disappointed to share with you that Torrington was not one of the communities selected to receive the Working Cities Challenge grant by the Boston Federal Reserve. The co-leads, the City of Torrington and the Chamber, are extremely grateful to all who gave selflessly of their time and talents to work on this project. Those efforts were not in vain; as we discovered many areas for further collaborations. Stay tuned.

## Network Building

The weather was almost like a roller coaster ride during February, but thankfully, it did not impact our network building events. Special thanks to Hanq's in Torrington for hosting Restaurant in the Spotlight on February 5th. Kris and his crew opened up especially for our event and treated attendees to a sampling of their appetizer selection.

Dr. Michael Rooke and his colleagues at Northwestern Connecticut Community College (NCCC) hosted the February Business After Hours in their Learning Resource Center on February 22nd. As always, the college made us feel at home and members learned about the resources available through NCCC.

## Read Aloud

The 27th Annual Northwest Connecticut Read Aloud Day was held on February 14th in 26 area elementary schools. The Chamber is grateful to the 406 volunteers who visited the classrooms and read aloud beautiful, library quality books to over 8,000 children. Special thanks to the Draper Fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation for sponsoring the event and allowing the NW CT Chamber Education Foundation to purchase the books. In the last 27 years, over 10,000 books have been donated to elementary schools through the Read Aloud program.

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855 Sullivan Avenue, Unit C  
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## COMING UP AT THE CHAMBER

### Manufacturing Summit

The Chamber's Manufacturers' Coalition will host a Manufacturing Summit on Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM at Torrington Country Club, 250 Torrington Road, Goshen. The event is open to anyone and breakfast will be served.

Commissioner of Labor, Scott Jackson and Todd Burch, Director of Apprenticeship at CT Department of Labor are the keynote speakers for the event. There will also be a panel discussion on workforce/hiring needs and training. Panelists will include Cathy Awwad, Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, Michelle Caffè, CT Department of Labor, Matt Koehler, BD, Larry Pomerleau, Department Head, Manufacturing shop at Oliver Wolcott Technical High School, and Alain Malcolm, a recent high school graduate who took a soldering class at Altek Electronics that led to a full time position there.

The event is sponsored by CONNSTEP and the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board. Admission is \$20/person for Chamber members and \$30/person for non-members. Attendees can RSVP at [nwctchamberofcommerce.org](http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org) or by calling 860-482-6586.

### Annual Meeting & Hall of Fame Luncheon

The Chamber's Annual Meeting and Hall of Fame Induction luncheon will take place on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM at Chatterley's Banquet Facility, 371 Pinewoods Road, Torrington.

Keynote speakers will be Jeffrey Flaks, President & COO, Hartford Healthcare and Dan McIntyre, Senior VP & Northwest Regional President, Hartford Healthcare. Jeffrey and Dan will give attendees an overview of the new collaboration between Hartford Healthcare and Charlotte Hungerford Hospital.

Since 2008, the Chamber has been recognizing dedicated volunteers of the organization by inducting them into the Chamber Hall of Fame. This year's inductees are Larry Cassella, John Lavieri and Frank Finch. All three men have recently retired from their organizations and deserve our upmost praise for their years of service to our Chamber. Please join us as we honor these wonderful pillars of our community.

More information and invitations will be forthcoming. The cost is \$40/Chamber members and \$50/non-members.



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**Thursday, March 8, 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

RSVP online at [nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar](http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar)

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**LARC** Spring Wine Tasting

*a fundraiser to benefit individuals with intellectual & developmental disabilities*

**Friday, April 6th, 2018**

**Chatterley's Banquet Hall**  
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Advance General Admission \$25  
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**BURLINGTON**  
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
 SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES



**WHEN**

Thursday, March 15, 2018 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 EDT  
 [Add to Calendar](#)

**WHERE**

West Wind Realty  
 278 Spielman Highway  
 Burlington, CT 06013



[Driving Directions](#)

**CONTACT**

Jerry Burns, Secretary  
 Burlington Chamber of Commerce  
 860-506-7789  
[secretary@burlingtonctchamber.org](mailto:secretary@burlingtonctchamber.org)

**Burlington Chamber of Commerce**  
**Business After Hours**

March 15, 2018 | 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm



We invite all our Burlington, Northwest CT and Central CT Chamber members to join us on **Thursday, March 15, 2018** for a Business After Hours networking event.

Our host will be **West Wind Realty** from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm.

We look forward to meeting our Chamber members and for yet another successful networking event.

[BurlingtonCTChamber.org/Mar18\\_BAH](http://BurlingtonCTChamber.org/Mar18_BAH)

[Register Now!](#)

## COMING UP AT THE CHAMBER Continued from page 5.

### Great Giveaway Business Showcase


We've changed the date of our annual Great Giveaway Business Showcase. The new date is Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 PM at Chatterley's Banquet Facility, 371 Pinewoods Road, Torrington.


Last year, the event drew hundreds of people throughout the evening. Each vendor had a giveaway at their booth which created tons of excitement and drew people over to their tables. This year, we're asking once again that each vendor provide an exciting giveaway that you may win at the end of the event.

The event is free for the public and includes free parking, free food and a cash bar.

Booths will sell fast, so sign up today. Reservations include an 8' skirted, covered table, 2 chairs and a company sign. The fee for Chamber members is \$200, non-members is \$300. Contact [Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org) or call 860-482-6586 to reserve your table today.

Sponsorships are also available at varying levels- gold, silver and bronze. If you're interested in sponsoring the event, contact the Chamber today.






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### Job Fair

Our 14<sup>th</sup> annual Job Fair will be held on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10 AM-3 PM at Torrington City Hall Auditorium. We are currently looking for employers with job openings to exhibit at the event. All industries and businesses are welcome. Every year, the event is attended by hundreds of job seekers from all over the region. The fee to exhibit is \$100 for Chamber members and \$150 for non-members. Reservations include a 6' table and 2 chairs.

To reserve your table, complete the form online at <http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/events-programs/job-fair/> and email it to [Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org) or fax to 860-489-8851.

The Job Fair is sponsored by the City of Torrington, the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, FM 97.3 WZBG, Connecticut Department of Labor, The Register Citizen, Republican-American, and ctjobs.com.

*See more of Coming Up at the Chamber on Page 13.*

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## Announcing a Community Arts Project

# TAILS OF NW CT

The Northwest Connecticut Arts Council, Northwest Connecticut Chamber Education Foundation and Prime Time House are pleased to announce a collaborative public art project called *Tails of NWCT* which will build a sense of community in the region, promote tourism, and enhance the exposure of local artists. *Tails of NWCT* will also beautify the business districts and towns, encourage foot traffic into local businesses, and celebrate the uniqueness of the area.

Local artists are invited to create unique works of art by painting or decorating fiberglass dogs. Businesses and community members are encouraged to foster dogs for the event by sponsoring a dog, of which there are four types. The completed art dogs will be on display throughout Northwest Connecticut from mid-August through Columbus Day weekend. A regional map of all the display locations for the completed *Tails of NWCT* art dogs will be available to residents and tourists. Dogs that are not purchased back by their sponsors will be available for bid at the *Tails of NWCT* Auction on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at Chatterley's Banquet Facility in Torrington.

"We are elated to have another opportunity to collaborate with Prime Time House and the Chamber's Education Foundation. Our success last year with *Over the Edge* was largely due to our nonprofit partnership," said Amy Wynn, executive director of the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council. "*Tails of NWCT* is yet another opportunity for the three organizations to truly engage the region's citizens in a variety of ways. We chose dogs as the theme because 2018 is the Chinese Year of the Dog. Dogs are very much a part of our

lives, whether you own one or not. We can't wait to see the amazing designs that our region's professional and amateur artists will propose and certainly the completed *Tails of NWCT* dogs are sure to capture our hearts."



All proceeds will benefit the three collaborating organizations, enabling them to strengthen arts and culture, provide scholarship opportunities, and improve the mental health of those living in Northwest Connecticut.

"We look forward to another outstanding public art project through this collaboration with Prime Time House, the NW CT Arts Council and the Chamber's Education Foundation, said JoAnn Ryan,

President & CEO of the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce. "This gives us the opportunity to showcase our special northwest Connecticut region to residents and visitors alike and highlights the participants, artists and community."

For more information about the project, including sponsorship opportunities and information for prospective artists, visit [www.TAILSofNWCT.org](http://www.TAILSofNWCT.org) or call the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce at 860-482-6586.

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# MEMBER NEWS

## Barron & Company, LLP

Barron and Company, LLP would like to share some of the changes in deductions due to the recent tax reform that may affect your business.

You likely know that the recent reform did away with business tax deductions for prospect and client golf. Did you know that charity golf is gone too? Buried in tax reform is the elimination of the 100% business deduction for charity golf and other special charitable sporting events.

To put this into perspective, let's say you are going with three clients to a charity golf event that's put on by a registered 501(c)(3) organization such as a school, church, or civic group. Your package cost for the foursome is \$1,000. Before tax reform, your tax deduction was \$1,000, assuming you discussed business before, during or after the event. The event was considered a business event not subject to the business entertainment tax deduction cut of 50%. Further, the deduction was not a charitable contribution for tax purposes, and thus you did not have to reduce your deduction under the charitable rules. This stopped January 1, 2018.

Now, you have no business deductions for participating in or attending such a charitable sporting event. You have to claim charitable deductions instead, and that gives you a far smaller deduction than before.

Tax reform also did much damage to tax deductions for business entertainment and meal expenses. Meals served at business presentations survived the entertainment and prospect and client meal bloodletting. Not only did presentation expenses survive as deductions, but they also continue as 100% business expense deductions. You likely have heard conflicting information on the deductibility of business meals with clients and prospects. Barron & Company has spent time researching the issue, and their conclusion is that tax reform eliminated tax deductions for business meals with clients and prospects.

There are more details that can be shared on these and other tax reform issues and they can be found in Barron's February newsletter. Barron & Company would be happy to assist you with your professional accounting needs. Please call them at 860-489-1994.

## Forever Kitchen Cabinets

Daniel Scheerer of Forever Kitchen Cabinets invites all Chamber members to a Pasta Supper to support Torrington resident Denise French in her fight against colon cancer. The dinner will be held on March 21st from

5-8 PM at Chatterley's Banquet Facility, 371 Pinewoods Road, Torrington. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door (kids 5 & under eat free). Tickets are available at the Torrington Police Department and Summit Insurance. For more information, contact Will Quarles at 860-480-2695 or Jessica at 860-489-9692.

## Branagan Communications Consultants

Barbara Branagan-Mitchell, owner of Branagan Communications Consultants LLC (BCC) in New Milford, announced that in 2018 she is celebrating 25 years of success as a sole proprietor public relations, publicity placement, marketing communications and writing/editing consulting agency. In 2004, BCC moved her services from Westchester County, NY and has been successfully providing awareness-building PR and marketing campaigns for small to medium-sized businesses primarily in the Litchfield, New Haven and Fairfield Counties of Connecticut. BCC's services also include writing and editing of content for websites, branding and sales materials, newsletters, brochures, and presentations. In 2010, Branagan-Mitchell received the Waterbury Regional Chamber's highly-prestigious Volunteer of the Year Award and was named Ambassador of the Year in 2016. For more information, and a free consultation, call 860-210-0149, email [barbara@branagancommunications.com](mailto:barbara@branagancommunications.com), or visit <http://www.branagancommunications.com>.

## Northwestern CT Community College

Northwestern Connecticut Community College (NCCC) is offering a *Safe Boating & Personal Watercraft* course on March 13, 15 and 20 from 6-9 PM. This Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Certificate course is taught by boating professionals sponsored by the Connecticut DEEP Boating Division.

The course fee of \$25 does not include the license fee. For more information or to register for this class, contact Jane Williams, Program Coordinator, Continuing Education, Center for Workforce Development, at [jwilliams@nwcc.edu](mailto:jwilliams@nwcc.edu) or call (860) 738-6444.

## Friends of Main Street

Friends of Main Street thanks everyone who attended and participated in this year's Bubbles and Truffles Wine and Chocolate Tasting. Hosted by John Roller and Crystal Peak, the event was the most successful to date with a portion of the proceeds going toward new playground equipment for Pearson School. Thank you to Chris Batista and Ledgebrook Spirit Shop and all of the volunteers for making this so successful. Visit [foms.org](http://foms.org) for more info.

# Community Representatives March Report

## Burlington– Janet Schwartz

- ◆ **St. Patrick's Day Dinner** on March 10th at the Burlington Men's Club, Covey Road. The event is open to the public.
- ◆ **Garden Club Meeting** on March 15th at 7 p.m. at The Elton Tavern. Hands-on workshop-make your own kokedama (small plants, planted in string wrapped balls of moss). Business meeting at 6:30 p.m. Open to the public.
- ◆ **Homeschool Day** on March 15th at Imagine Nation, a Museum Early Learning Center (a division of the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol Family Center) from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Located at One Pleasant Street, Burlington. Homeschool families are invited to connect during a day of hands-on learning. Admission is \$7 per person and advanced registration is required. To register, call 860-314-1400 or visit [www.imagenation.org/calendar](http://www.imagenation.org/calendar).

## Canaan – Wendy Eichman & Karen Kuhl

- ◆ **St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner** at 5 p.m. on March 17th at NW CT Rod & Gun Club, Route 7 South, Canaan. Coffee, soda & water included. Take-outs available. Ham will also be available. Live Band. BYOB. \$25 per person. Tickets available at the door. Information-call 860-824-7478.
- ◆ **Bunco** at the Canaan VFW Post 6851 on March 3rd. \$20 per person. Doors open at 6 p.m. Call 860-671-0627 for more info.
- ◆ **Ham Shoots** at the NW CT Rod & Gun Club on Sundays in March. Register at 10 a.m., shoots begin at 11 a.m.
- ◆ **Bingo** at North Canaan Elementary School, March 17th at 5:30 p.m. Great prizes! 25 cents per card. For information, call 860-671-0627.
- ◆ **Two Guys and Suits and Ties** live music at the Canaan VFW Post 6851 on March 24th. \$10 per person. Refreshments, cash bar. Doors open at 7 p.m., music begins at 8 p.m.
- ◆ **Free Lecture** on "Conservative Pain Management Options with Trigger Point Dry Needling" at Geer Village on March 29th at 3:30 p.m. Presented by Dr. Mike Mangini. Free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP to Deana at 860-824-3820 or [dwellnitz@geercares.org](mailto:dwellnitz@geercares.org) by March 27th.

## Cornwall – Dianne Heiny

Please visit our website at [cornwallct.org](http://cornwallct.org), Facebook page and Cornwall Chronical's Facebook page for more info.

- ◆ **The Souterrain Gallery** of The Wish House will feature Gail Jacobson All Over the Map from March 31st to May 20th. A reception will be held on March 31st from 3-6 p.m. For more info, please visit [wishhouse.com](http://wishhouse.com).
- ◆ **The Toll House Gallery** in West Cornwall will feature the works of Donald Bracken, Lennart Swede Ahrstrom, Scott Zuckerman and Susan Rand through the month of March. Open Monday-Friday 9-5 and Saturdays 10-4.
- ◆ **Community Contra Dance** on March 3rd at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.
- ◆ **Cornwall Historical Society** will be open Saturdays through March 10th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- ◆ **Recycled Art Workshop for Kids** at UCC Parish House on March 10th from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon.
- ◆ **Town Players Open Mic & Pot Luck** at Town Hall on March 24th from 5-7 p.m.
- ◆ **Cornwall Library Programs**: "A Face in the Crowd" will be shown on March 10th at 4 p.m. (an early work of "On the Waterfront's" director Elia Kazan and writer Budd Shullberg). "Allegro non Troppo" will be shown on March 24th at 4 p.m.

## Harwinton – Carol Kearns & Harry Schuh

- ◆ **Harwinton Public Library Program** Seed Library Open House on March 10th from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A seed library is a way of collecting and sharing seeds to encourage biodiversity and to produce better local plants and produce. Spring is around the corner! Join us to learn about this new program and get the first selection of seeds.
- ◆ **Harwinton Historical Society Program** "Newspapers in the Civil War" by Hamish Lutris on March 18th from 2-4 p.m. at the Harwinton Library. Free & open to the public.

## Morris – Rhonda Detlefsen

- ◆ **Story & Music Time** at Morris Public Library, Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Stories, songs & games for ages 0-4. Call 860-567-7440 to register.
- ◆ **7th Annual Art Around the Box** - An auction of fine art to benefit the Morris Public Library will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 PM in The White Barn at South Farms in Morris. Sponsored by the Friends of Morris Library & the Library Board, the event will feature live music, wine, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. Admission is \$15 per person or \$25 for two people. Tickets are available at the library and at the door.

## Winsted/Winchester – Fran Delaney

- ◆ **Whiting Mills 3rd Sunday Open House** continues through the winter with over 30 resident artists, photographers, craftspeople, businesses & specialty shops. See [whitingmills.com](http://whitingmills.com) for details.
- ◆ **American Mural Project** construction is well underway and moving along with renovations to the mill building. Watch for updates on the anticipated spring completion.
- ◆ **Farmers' Market** continues its winter schedule at the Gaylord-Tiffany playground building from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. See FOMS website for details [foms.org](http://foms.org).
- ◆ **Pet Parade** Watch for updated information on the 82nd annual Pet Parade coming on May 19th and sponsored by the Rotary Club. Details will follow on Winsted's oldest running parade.

# COMING UP AT THE CHAMBER Continued from page 7.



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*with*  
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Join us at our morning roundtable discussion

## BUSINESS *with* BREAKFAST

Chamber members, bring your brochures and business cards along with any leads you would like to share.

**Tuesday, March 27th at 8:00 a.m.**

Hosted by



376 Goshen Road, Torrington

[RSVP online at nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar.](http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar)

## Financial Reality Fair

We are still in need of more volunteers for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Financial Reality Fair on April 25<sup>th</sup> at Torrington High School. The Chamber is once again partnering with the Connecticut Credit Union League and Northwest Hills Credit Union to provide a hands-on budgeting experience to high school students. Participating students gain practical knowledge about personal financial management in a one day “real world” environment.

The Financial Reality Fair is a 4 hour (approximate time), hands on experience where students, after identifying their career choice and starting salaries, are provided a budget sheet requiring them to live within their monthly salary while paying for basics such as housing, utilities, transportation, clothing and food. Of course, there are many temptations for additional spending and students must learn to balance their wants and needs to live on their own. After they have visited all the booths, students will balance their budget, and then sit down with a financial counselor to review their standing. The Fair is a unique opportunity for each student to experience some of the financial challenges they will face when they start life on their own.

An important component to a responsible financial lifestyle is saving. In the Financial Reality Fair experience, students are encouraged to save a minimum of 10% of their income, placing 3% in a long term retirement investment, and 8% in a shorter term investment. The Financial Counselors explore the importance of planning for future needs and preparing for future financial challenges through savings. The Fair will tempt students to spend their income on “fun”, and the Financial Counselors will bring the focus back to saving and thrift practices.

Chamber members volunteer to make this event possible. No experience is necessary. If you’d like to be involved, please email [Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org) or call 860-482-6586.



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115 Spencer Street, Winsted.....(860) 738-6658

### CHH Cardiac Rehabilitation Services

780 Litchfield Street, Torrington.....(860) 496-9512  
115 Spencer Street, Winsted.....(860) 738-6660

### CHH Center For Cancer Care

200 Kennedy Drive, Torrington.....(860) 489-6718

### CHH Emergency Services

540 Litchfield Street, Torrington.....(860) 496-6650  
115 Spencer Street, Winsted.....(860) 738-6650

### CHH Lions Low Vision Center

1151 East Main Street, Torrington.....(860) 496-0046

### CHH Mammography Services

220 Kennedy Drive, Torrington.....(860) 496-0826  
115 Spencer Street, Winsted.....(860) 738-6665

### CHH Medical Walk-In

1598 East Main Street, Torrington.....(860) 489-8444

### CHH Primary Care

220 Kennedy Drive, Torrington.....(860) 496-6884  
76 Watertown Road, Thomaston.....(860) 880-8091

### CHH Radiology / X-ray Services

540 Litchfield Street, Torrington.....(860) 496-6550  
115 Spencer Street, Winsted.....(860) 738-6664

### CHH Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine

538 Litchfield Street, Torrington.....(860) 496-6875  
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### CHH Sleep Center

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### CHH Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine

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### CONTACT US

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*Tom is an announcer, emcee & entertainer at LIME ROCK PARK ([www.limerock.com](http://www.limerock.com)) for the "IMSAA Weather Tech/Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge," July 20 & 21 & "Historic Festival 35," August 30th to September 3rd, featuring authentic vintage car*

# Thanks to Our Renewing Members

The following Chamber members renewed their memberships during the period of January 23rd through February 21st. Thank you for your continued commitment to Northwest Connecticut's Chamber of Commerce. Companies listed in bold indicate a Corporate Partner.

- ◆ Allumé Home Care
- ◆ American Cancer Society
- ◆ Blondin Shea Eye Care
- ◆ Bozzuto Associates
- ◆ Brooker Memorial
- ◆ The Cancer Care Fund of the Litchfield Hills
- ◆ Catholic Cemetery Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford, St. Francis & St. Peter Cemeteries
- ◆ Celtic Consulting, LLC
- ◆ Center for Human Development
- ◆ Comcast Spotlight
- ◆ Connecticut Society of CPA's
- ◆ Dale Carnegie Training
- ◆ Robin Denny & Associates Consulting, LLC
- ◆ DRT Power Systems, LLC - BNB
- ◆ Duncan Ebersol, Residential Staff
- ◆ ECO Home Comfort Systems
- ◆ Forman School
- ◆ Friendly Hands Food Bank
- ◆ **FuelCell Energy, Inc.**
- ◆ Geer Village Senior Community
- ◆ Goulet Printing
- ◆ Greenwood Trails
- ◆ Grunder's Farm Equipment, Inc.
- ◆ Housatonic Valley Association
- ◆ Jaci Carroll Personnel Services
- ◆ JTM Travel Services
- ◆ Lakeridge Association, Inc.
- ◆ The Lions Club of Harwinton
- ◆ Litchfield Distillery
- ◆ More Than Words, LLC
- ◆ Mountainside Treatment Center
- ◆ Northwest CT Arts Council
- ◆ Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board
- ◆ Northwestern Connecticut Community College
- ◆ Northwestern CT Transit District
- ◆ Northwestern Connecticut YMCA
- ◆ Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts
- ◆ Print Master
- ◆ Progressive Paving & Construction, Inc.
- ◆ Quinoco, Inc.
- ◆ **Republican-American**
- ◆ RKL & Associates, LLC
- ◆ Roraback & Roraback
- ◆ Secor, Cassidy & McPartland, P.C.
- ◆ Tents Unlimited
- ◆ **Thomaston Savings Bank**
- ◆ Toce Bros., Inc.
- ◆ Torrington High School
- ◆ Torrington Little League Softball
- ◆ Torrington Lumber Company, Inc.
- ◆ The Torrington Water Company
- ◆ United Way of NW CT
- ◆ West State Mechanical, Inc.
- ◆ Winsted Area Child Care Center



Our bank has deep roots in the communities that we serve, after all, we've been here since 1850. We have the perks of a big bank, but the heart of a community bank. That's why we support our local businesses – when you win, we win!

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- Bank of America
- Bantam Wesson
- BD
- Borghesi Building & Engineering Co.
- Brandywine Living of Litchfield
- Brooks, Todd & McNeil Insurance
- Charlotte Hungerford Hospital
- Chatterley's Banquet Facility
- Conquest
- Cook Funeral Home
- Dymax Corporation
- Eastside Electric, Inc.
- Eversource Energy
- FuelCell Energy, Inc.
- Litchfield Bancorp
- Litchfield Woods Health Care Center
- Northwest Community Bank
- O&G Industries, Inc.
- People's United Bank
- The Register Citizen
- Republican-American
- Sharon Hospital
- TD Bank
- Thomaston Savings Bank
- Torrington Savings Bank
- Union Savings Bank
- United Construction & Engineering, Inc.
- Valerie Manor
- Webster Bank

## Chamber Calendar of Events

All events listed below will be held at the Chamber offices at 333 Kennedy Drive, Torrington unless otherwise noted.

### March 2018

- 1st - **Membership Committee Meeting**, 8 AM  
**Young Professionals Organization Networking Workshop** at Hanq's, 131 Water Street, Torrington, 3-5 PM
- 7th - **WOW! Forum Advisory Committee Meeting**, 8 AM
- 8th - **Government Relations Committee Meeting**, 8 AM  
**Business After Hours** at Brooker Memorial, 157 Litchfield Street, Torrington, 5-7 PM
- 14th - **Connecticut Business Day & Leadership Northwest**
- 15th - **Burlington Chamber Business After Hours** at West Wind Realty, 278 Spielman Highway, Burlington, 5-7 PM
- 21st - **Insurance Committee Meeting**, 8 AM
- 22nd - **Board of Directors Meeting**, 8 AM  
**Job Fair** at City Hall, 140 Main Street, Torrington, 10 AM - 3 PM
- 27th - **Business With Breakfast** at Brookdale Litchfield Hills, 376 Goshen Road, Torrington, 8 AM
- 28th - **Manufacturing Summit** at Torrington Country Club, 250 Torrington Road, Goshen, 8 AM
- 30th - **Chamber Offices Closed** in observance of Good Friday.

### April 2018

- 2nd - **Restaurant in the Spotlight** at Tavern Off the Green, 432 Bantam Road, Litchfield, 5:30 PM
- 4th - **WOW! Forum Advisory Committee Meeting**, 8 AM
- 5th - **Membership Committee Meeting**, 8 AM
- 10th - **Annual Meeting & Chamber Hall of Fame Luncheon** at Chatterley's Banquet Facility, 371 Pinewoods Road, Torrington, 11:30 AM
- 12th - **Government Relations Committee Meeting**, 8 AM
- 18th - **Health Council Meeting** at Brandywine Living of Litchfield, 19 Constitution Way, Litchfield, 8 AM  
**Insurance Committee Meeting**, 8 AM  
**Leadership Northwest**
- 19th - **Business After Hours** at Brookdale Litchfield Hills, 376 Goshen Road, Torrington, 5-7 PM
- 23rd - **Business With Breakfast** at Wisdom House Retreat & Conference Center, 229 East Litchfield Road, Litchfield, 8 AM
- 25th - **Financial Reality Fair** at Torrington High School
- 26th - **Board of Directors Meeting**, 8 AM

### Save the Dates For These Major Chamber Events

- May 10th - Great Giveaway Business Showcase
- September 15th - Torr. House Tour
- June 27th - Celebration of Success
- October 5th - WOW! Forum

RSVP on-line at [nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar](http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar) or call 860-482-6586.