

PROPOSED FMLA & MINIMUM WAGE

The Board of Directors of Northwest Connecticut's Chamber of Commerce voted unanimously to join a coalition of business organizations signing a letter to the State Legislative delegation regarding two proposals that will be considered during this legislative session. The following is the contents of the letter:

“As we enter this legislative session, you will be asked to consider at least two proposals that will significantly impact employees and employers. We ask that you review all of the facts, because voting for these proposals results in new burdens on every business in the state, and the loss of opportunities and wages for nearly every employee.

The proposals we are specifically referring to will seek to increase the minimum wage in Connecticut to \$15 per hour and create a program to provide paid family medical leave (FMLA) for employees.

Under the legislative proposal, businesses with two or more employees would be required to provide up to 12 weeks of paid FMLA each year to an employee to care for his or her own illness, or the illness or injury of an extensive number of blood and non-blood “relatives”.

Those supporting paid FMLA are quick to point to polls showing the favorability (nearly 80%) of such a program, stating that we need this to attract young workers to the state. However, when clarified to workers that employee wages will be deducted by an unknown percentage to pay for the program whether they use it or not, the favorability drops down to only 20%.

Migration data also shows that we get more workers to Connecticut from states that have paid FMLA, and our population is leaving most often for three states which do not have a paid FMLA program.

Continued on page 14.

CHAMBER OPEN HOUSE BRINGS TOGETHER NEW & FAMILIAR FACES

On January 23rd, over 130 businesspeople joined the staff and board for the Chamber's Open House at its facility on Kennedy Drive in Torrington. Well-seasoned members and brand new business owners mingled and learned about each other's enterprises. After networking and enjoying the creations of Ciesco Catering, Chamber President & CEO JoAnn Ryan provided attendees with a summary of the programs and services Chamber membership offers businesses in the region.



The Chamber is currently in the midst of a membership drive (see details on pages 4 and 8 of this newsletter) offering a bonus package worth over \$1,200 to new members. It also allows allowing current members the chance to earn a \$100 gift card and be entered to win one of three grand prizes.

Call us to find out more about getting involved!
860-482-6586.

*From the Chamber
President & CEO*
JOANN RYAN



“You’ve gotta have heart!” Chamber initiatives are possible through the extraordinary efforts of the Chamber staff and volunteers. Kudos to all who work tirelessly for the betterment of the business community.

“All you really need is heart.” What makes us distinct? It is the passion, enthusiasm and dedication we exhibit. You can be an influential part of making it stronger and better. There is still time to recruit a fellow business and earn a \$100 Visa gift card for yourself. So drop everything in a heartbeat and call us for information!

“When the odds are sayin’ you’ll never win, that’s when the grin should start!” The best testimonials come from small business owners who are working with SCORE. Positive results follow their suggestions so call us for an appointment.

“You’ve gotta have hope! Mustn’t sit around and mope.” Our lives have changed due to this challenging economy. However, there are opportunities and resources available to you. Plan on participating in the Job Fair on Thursday, March 28th at the Torrington City Hall Auditorium.

“When your luck is battin’ zero, get your chin up off the floor.” It is tough to do business in this economy. We have prepared the 2019 Legislative Agenda and will hand deliver it to Hartford at CT Business Day on March 20th. We will not let these challenges zap our efforts or our hearts.

“There’s nothin’ to it, but to do it.” From Manufacturers to healthcare providers, Leadership NW to WOW, Read Aloud, Chamber Travels and Financial Reality Fair, Young Professionals, the Leads Groups, Workforce Investment and Chamber Insurance Trust, we need to work together.

“You’ve gotta have heart! Miles and miles and miles of heart!” Send a card, drop off a canned good, hug your children and grandchildren and do it with heart. To all who are working with us...our heartfelt thanks. Happy Valentine’s Day!

Welcome
NEW MEMBERS

ARENA LOCKSMITH SERVICE

Locksmith
Paulie Arena
182 Belmont Drive • Torrington
860-459-5705 • arenalocksmith.com

**EDWARD JONES
KAREN T. LEONARD FINANCIAL ADVISOR**

Financial Planning, Investments
Karen Leonard
2 Bridge Street, Suite 1, P.O. Box 652 • New Hartford
860-379-2990 • edwardjones.com

FINE HOME CONTRACTING

Building & Remodeling Contractors
David Perrotti
70 Spruce Brook Road • Plymouth
860-733-2080 • finehomecontracting.com

NEW ENGLAND ACCORDIAN CONNECTION & MUSEUM CO.

Accordions, Museum
A. Paul Ramunni
17 Margret Lane, P.O. Box 943 • Canaan
860-833-1374 • neacmc.com

NEW OPPORTUNITIES, INC.

Non-Profit Organization
Jacob Diogostine
232 North Elm Street • Waterbury
203-575-4218 • newoppinc.org

SAWYER’S

Restaurant, Bar
Julian Sawyer
79 Center Street • Torrington
860-618-5411 • sawyerstorrington.com

TC COMPUTER CONSULTING, LLC

Computer Consulting
Ronald Trotto
16 Bird Street, Unit 2 • Torrington
860-482-9791 • tcubed.com



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, Dir. One-Stop Workforce Op. • pam@nwctchamberofcommerce.org
333 Kennedy Dr., Ste. R101, P.O. Box 59, Torrington, CT 06790 • p 860.482.6586 • f 860-489-8851
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Coming Up at
NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT'S CHAMBER




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, February 26, 8:00 a.m.

Hosted by  **REGALCARE**
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80 Fern Drive, Torrington



RSVP ONLINE AT NWCTCHAMBEROFCOMMERCE.ORG

Job Fair

Our 15th annual Job Fair will be held on Thursday, March 28th 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 nwctchamberofcommerce.org/events-programs/job-fair/ and email it to 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.


BUSINESS after HOURS

NW CT Chamber's premier network building event featuring opportunities to gain new contacts & build your lead base while enjoying delicious hors d'oeuvres & visiting our host's location.

BUSINESS after HOURS

Thursday
February 28th
 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Hosted by **H&R Block**
 76 Watertown Road,
 Thomaston



RSVP ON-LINE AT NWCTCHAMBEROFCOMMERCE.ORG.

See more 'Coming Up at the Chamber' on page 11.

**LAST CHANCE:
OFFER EXPIRES
FEB. 15TH**

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**WIN
GREAT
PRIZES**

**RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER
& GET A
\$100 VISA GIFT CARD**

And For Every New Member You Recruit, Your Name Will be Entered Into a Drawing to Win One of These Great Prizes:

**\$1,000+ VALUE
GOLF AND OVERNIGHT AT
MOHEGAN SUN**



On behalf of KOTA, a complimentary round of golf for you and three guests at the majestic Mohegan Sun Golf Club (including green fees & cart rental) as well as an overnight stay at one of the highest rated hotels in the country, Mohegan Sun.



**\$800 VALUE
WEEKEND AWAY FOR TWO AT
CASTLE HILL RESORT & SPA**

Escape to Castle Hill Resort and Spa in Proctorsville, VT to celebrate your anniversary in a luxurious room at the Castle mansion. Each room is individually



decorated and retains its historical charm while boasting modern amenities. Package includes: accommodations for two in a deluxe Castle Guest Room or One-Bedroom Condo, chilled champagne in your room upon arrival, a three-course gourmet dinner for two one night, and a 50-minute couples massage at Aveda Concept Spa.

**\$600 VALUE
WEEKEND GETAWAY IN A PRIVATE HOME
IN NARRAGANSETT, RHODE ISLAND**

Escape for the weekend and enjoy the use of this beautiful home on a saltwater pond. The newly renovated home features 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, a state-of-the art kitchen, living room with fireplace, dining room, bar/sitting area and laundry and is located just 1.2 miles from Scarborough State Beach.



What's Been Happening at NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT'S CHAMBER

RESTAURANT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Chamber's popular "Restaurant in the Spotlight" networking event resumed this past month with new member Rowley Grill & Tap hosting the January 7th event.

Owner Dimitri Karouta welcomed over 50 members of the Chamber to his newest restaurant. Rowley Grill & Tap is located at 19 Rowley Street in Winsted and is open seven days a week for lunch and dinners from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Happy Hours are held Monday-Friday from 3-6 p.m., and Tuesday Stump Trivia events begin at 7:30 p.m. For information, visit rowleygrill.com or call 860-238-4999.



Rowley Grill & Tap owner Dimitri Karouta and Tom Hill III of Tom Hill Realty & Investment LLC chat at the Restaurant in the Spotlight event on January 7th.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The Young Professionals Organization continued their monthly Meet-Up at Brewery Legitimus in New Hartford on January 30th with great attendance. The next one will be February 27th from 5:30-7PM, same location.

The Professional Development Committee is planning a panel discussion on "Positioning Yourself for a Promotion and Negotiating Salaries" on February 21st from 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM at the Chamber Office. Lunch will be provided and the cost to attend is \$10/person.

Thank you to Conquest for sponsoring the Young Professionals Organization.

MANUFACTURERS' COALITION

The Coalition's January 4th meeting was held at Dymax Corporation. Bob Dickson of Dale Carnegie Training spoke about the generation gap in the workforce. He provided some staggering statistics about the current workforce and great information about how different generations can work together more effectively. The group also learned more about Dymax and had a tour of the facility. The next meeting will take place on March 1st at 8 AM, location is TBD.

LEADERSHIP NW

The January 16th Leadership Northwest session focused on media and communications. The mission was to learn how to market their group projects to the community through effective press releases, how to get stories covered, creating a timeline for their project, and sharpening their networking skills.

The group met with their teams to finalize their project idea and then presented to a panel of Leadership Advisors for official approval. The Republican-American hosted the class and Greater Waterbury Chamber's Leadership class for lunch and a discussion on "The Making of a Story in a Changing Media Environment". The classes had a chance to network with each other and talk about their projects. In the afternoon, Cindy Donaldson, Red Barn Consulting, spoke about digital marketing and promotion and gave tips on writing press releases.

JUNIOR LEADERSHIP

Northwestern Connecticut Community College hosted the Junior Leadership Northwest class on January 28th in their Arts & Sciences Building. The topic of the session was career exploration. President Michael Rooke welcomed the class and gave an overview of the college. Other speakers included David Ferreira, Dean of Academic & Student Affairs; Samantha Palombizio, Student Services Specialist; Stacey Williams, Business Teacher; and Tara Jo Holmberg, Science Teacher. The class also toured the nursing lab and art studio and learned about many different careers.

The February session topic is careers in criminal justice. Thank you to Torrington Savings Bank for sponsoring the Junior Leadership Northwest program.

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Torrington, CT 06790

155 Hazard Avenue, Suite 12
Enfield, CT 06083

855 Sullivan Avenue, Unit C
South Windsor, CT 06074

CORPORATE PARTNER *Shout Outs*

Brandywine Living at Litchfield

Brandywine Living at Litchfield will be hosting an Epicurean Evening on February 13th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The event will feature exquisite bites from around the world to benefit the Greater Torrington Area Parkinson's Support Group. The event is sponsored by Brandywine, Hartford Healthcare at Home & Agile Life Mobility System. Tickets are \$15 and all proceeds will go directly to the charity. All entry fees (cash or check accepted) will be collected at the door, however, for planning purposes, please RSVP to achapman@brandycare.com or call 860-567-9500 to make a reservation.

Torrington Savings Bank

Torrington Savings Bank re-opened their Main Office at 129 Main Street on December 19, 2018 after the completion of an extensive building renovation – a particularly fitting project for the bank as they concluded 2018 celebrating their 150th year in business.



Plans for the extensive renovation were created with the help of Phase Zero Design. Burlington Construction, Inc. was engaged as the general contractor. The project included the restoration of the interior pendant lights, the dentil molding and other original architectural detailing. Other project highlights included a new teller area, as well as new customer service and residential lending offices, new lighting, and flooring. Red Thread, Inc. assisted with furniture layout. Mark Perbeck, Assistant Vice President at Torrington Savings Bank, acted as project lead on behalf of the bank.

Even if you are not a customer, the public is invited to come in and see the newly renovated offices, which is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays from 9am – 4pm, Thursdays from 9am – 6pm, and Saturdays from 9am – noon.

Litchfield Bancorp

Thomas Villanova, President & CEO of Litchfield Bancorp recently announced the appointment of Christine Bascetta-Gath as Senior Vice President and Commercial Lending Officer for the bank.

Christine Bascetta-Gath began her banking career in 2010 and since then has worked in multiple areas of commercial banking. Prior to Litchfield Bancorp, Christine was Vice President & Commercial/Wholesale Banker at United Bank. Earlier, Christine was responsible for determining the lending needs and banking services for existing and potential customers, as well as aiding in a \$30MM loan growth over a two year span at Torrington Savings Bank.

Christine graduated from the University of Chicago with a MA degree and a BA from Clark University. She is also a graduate of Connecticut School of Finance and Management.



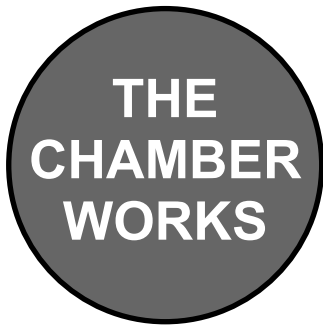
Thomaston Savings Bank

Food For Thought Student Food Pantry at Northwestern Connecticut Community College, was recently awarded a grant for \$1,500 from The Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation, Inc.

The Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation has established a new giving campaign called Act to Impact Employees Giving Grants. This initiative was developed to allow Bank employees to give back to the communities they serve. This award to Food For Thought was presented on behalf of the Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation, Inc. and the Thomaston Savings Bank employees.

Food for Thought Student Food Pantry was founded and is operated by Northwestern Connecticut Community College's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

More Corporate Partner Shout-Outs on Page 12



FOR EVERY TYPE AND SIZE BUSINESS

○ GAIN INSIGHTS INTO BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Take advantage of free business consulting, Chamber-sponsored professional workshops and training seminars. Learn from industry experts and peer groups in your field.

○ DEVELOP SKILLS AND MOTIVATE EMPLOYEES

Help your employees learn through training and skill-building programs and sponsored events – opportunities for new and seasoned employees to grow. Or have your own training programs in the Chamber's facilities. Employees can benefit from the member discount program – *and you support local businesses at the same time.*

○ BE INFORMED, MAKE CONTACTS

Our diverse membership provides connections to share news on our website, in our newsletter, by member emails, with social media and at our many professional programs and casual social events. Roundtables with local, state and federal leaders provide the forum for valuable dialog and a collective, stronger voice in government.

○ PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS

Both structured and informal networking gatherings – morning, noon and night – are opportunities to tell your story, make contacts, and create new partnerships. And if you can't get to events, you have the membership directory, website, newsletter, social media...or host your own event at your business. Membership connects you with representatives of over 800 businesses and organizations.

○ INVEST IN EDUCATION

Partnerships and Chamber initiatives educate employers, employees, residents and school children of all ages throughout the region.

○ MAKE THE CHAMBER YOUR OWN

The Chamber reflects the needs and interests of your local business community. If you don't see what you'd like to see, let's discuss how we can help you.

Company Name _____
 Contact Person _____ Title _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Mailing Address (if different) _____
 Phone _____ Email _____
 Website _____
 Type of Business _____ Number of Employees _____
 Description (25 words or less) _____

Annual Dues For Profit Business, Single Person Company \$300 per year
 For Profit Business, two FT employees \$350 per year (three or more, \$350 and \$9 per FT employee) \$ _____
 Non-Profit Organizations or Retired Professionals \$225 per year

Signature _____ Date _____

Membership automatically renews on your anniversary date and is continuous until a written resignation is received. For federal purposes, membership dues and contributions to the Chamber are deductible as a business expense. Lobbying expenses are not deductible for federal tax purposes. The Chamber uses approximately 4% of dues for lobbying expenses. This portion of your dues is therefore not deductible for tax purposes.



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

VALUED AT OVER \$1,200

LAST CHANCE: OFFER EXPIRES FEB. 15TH

BONUS PACKAGE

for New Members

In addition to all of your Chamber member benefits, you'll receive these bonus benefits...

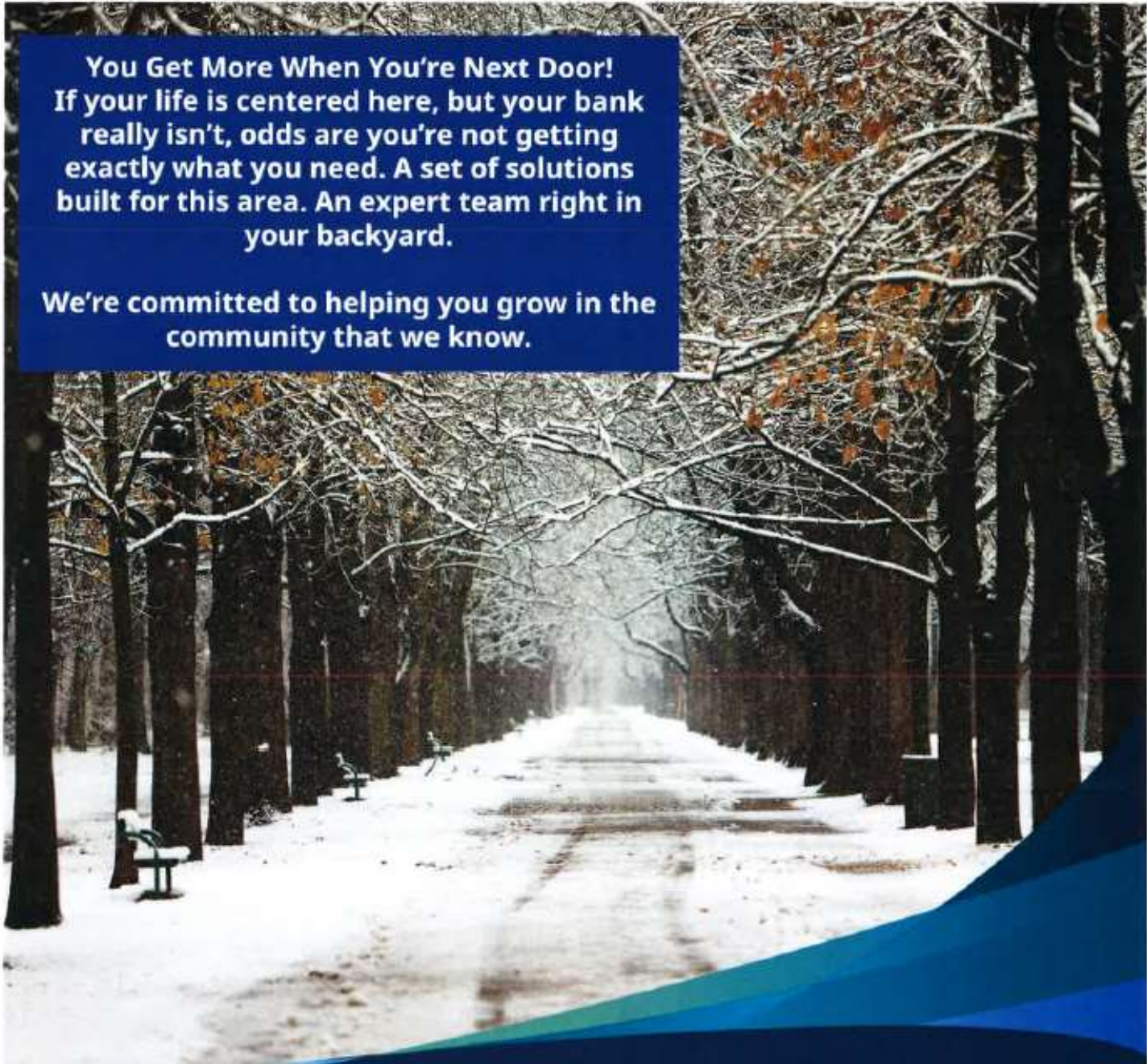
- ❑ **FREE ADS IN THE CHAMBER NEWSLETTER** You'll receive *two quarter page ads* (3.55" wide x 4.55" high) and *two business card size ads* (3.55" wide x 2.275" high) in upcoming Chamber newsletters. Send your PDF or JPG files to anita@nwctchamberofcommerce.org by the 15th of the month to be included. This is a \$250 value!
- ❑ **THREE FREE ADS ON THE CHAMBER EXCHANGE** The Chamber Exchange is an email blast to all members with special offers and advertisements each Thursday. Members are able to place one ad per month and can be linked to a website or Facebook page. Contact Anita Rosa at anita@nwctchamberofcommerce.org to schedule your free Exchange ad. This is a \$150 value!
- ❑ **50% OFF ADVERTISING IN THE REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN** up to \$500. A few restrictions may apply. Contact the Republican-American at 203-574-3636 for more information.
- ❑ **A 30% DISCOUNT ON ADVERTISING PACKAGES ON KBJB RADIO** Take advantage of a special 30% discount by contacting KJ at KBJB Radio. Save up to \$75!
- ❑ **RECOGNITION IN RADIO ADVERTISING ON WZBG RADIO** Listen for your company to be promoted on WZBG Radio FM 97.3 during the last week of the month. This is a \$120 value!
- ❑ **FREE TICKET TO THE 2019 CHAMBER ANNUAL MEETING** Attend the 2019 Chamber Annual Meeting in April and receive your first reservation free. This is a \$40 value!
- ❑ **TWO FREE TICKETS TO AN UPCOMING LEARN AT LUNCH WORKSHOP** Attend two upcoming Learn at Lunch workshops that are of interest to you. This is a \$20 value.
- ❑ **\$25 OFF EXHIBITOR SPACE AT THE GREAT GIVEAWAY BUSINESS SHOWCASE** Register to participate in the June 2019 Great Giveaway Business Showcase and you'll receive \$25 off the exhibitor fee.
- ❑ **A 50% DISCOUNT FROM COMCAST SPOTLIGHT** New NW CT Chamber members are offered an exclusive 6 month TV Everywhere advertising campaign at 50% off current published rates. Offer expires on January 31, 2019. Email Lauren Donnelly at lauren.donnelly@comcast.com for more information.
- ❑ **A 20% DISCOUNT FROM MINUTEMAN PRESS** New clients will receive 20% off their first invoice with Minuteman Press. Contact them at 860-496-7525 or stop by 257 Main Street, Torrington.
- ❑ **A 20% DISCOUNT FROM THE WARNER THEATRE** Receive 20% off on tickets to a Main Stage Musical in the 2018-2019 season.

QUESTIONS?

Visit nwctchamberofcommerce.org or call 860-482-6586.

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Coming Up at **NW CT'S CHAMBER** *Continued from page 3.*

Great Giveaway Business Showcase

Save the date for our very popular 3rd annual event- The Great Giveaway Business Showcase. The event will take place on Thursday, May 9th from 4-7 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 attracted people to visit their tables. This year, we're asking once again that each vendor provide an exciting giveaway and we'll raffle them off at the end of the event.

The event 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 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.

WOW! Forum Advisory Committee *Seeking New Members*

Each year, the WOW! Forum Advisory Committee works hard to plan the professional development event, taking place this year on October 4th. The committee is always looking for new members. If you've enjoyed the WOW! Forum women's conference in the past, and would like to be a part of the planning process, contact Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org for more information.

The committee will meet from February-November on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 4 PM at the Chamber office. The committee helps select the theme, choose the speakers, giveaway, lunch, decorations, and gets the auction items. They also volunteer to help the day of the event. This is a great way to network with other women in the area and have a voice in planning the WOW! Forum.

2019 Chamber Travel Program:

Greece - A Land of Gods and Heroes


Experience 9 days and 7 nights (April 6-14) in Greece, the land of gods and heroes. The Peloponnese is home to an extraordinary collection of archeological sites as well as stunning mountainous scenery and charming villages where a traditional way of life has remained unchanged for centuries. On this splendid cultural journey, trace 5,000 years of Greek history while exploring the country's archeological treasures. Walk in the footsteps of Socrates on the Acropolis and examine artifacts of Athens' Golden Age at the outstanding Acropolis Museum, sail through the scenic Corinth canal, and enjoy the insights of the local guest speaker on the contemporary Greek economic and social scene. Includes hotels, meals, day trips and airfare from JFK. There is also an optional extension to Santorini. April 6-14, 2019 (9 days, 7 nights), \$2,949.00 per person, double occupancy.




The Scandinavian Capitals: Copenhagen ■ Oslo ■ Stockholm

We invite you to join us on our exploration of Scandinavia's smart, modern cities and untamed natural beauty in the north from September 9-16, 2019. We start our journey in Copenhagen, a city that offers a perfect mix of playful spirit to stunning architectural design, from the royal castles to the pretty canals, and uniquely shaped brick buildings. Oslo, a city that grew from a sprawling country town into the sophisticated metropolis it is today. Surrounded by vast archipelago, Stockholm is a true Nordic beauty, where modern city shines next to the historic old town. Includes hotels, meals, day trips and airfare from JFK. There is an optional extension to Helsinki. Sign up before March 29, 2019 for the early bird special of \$3,399 per person, double occupancy for the 8 day, 6 night trip.

Visit www.nwctchamberofcommerce.org/events-programs/chamber-travel-program for more details.



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CORPORATE PARTNER *Shout Outs*
Continued from page 7

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

GoHealth Urgent Care, one of the country's largest and fastest growing urgent care companies, together with its partner Hartford HealthCare, Connecticut's most comprehensive healthcare network and affiliate of Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (CHH), announced the opening of the newly constructed Hartford HealthCare-GoHealth Urgent Care center in Torrington.

Open as of January 14th, the new Hartford HealthCare-GoHealth Urgent Care center is located at The Shops at Sky Top at 996 East Main Street in Torrington, less than a mile away from CHH's former urgent care walk-in center at 1598 East Main Street, which closed its operations on January 13th. All patients in need of urgent care services should visit the new Hartford HealthCare-GoHealth Urgent Care center.

The new Hartford HealthCare-GoHealth Urgent Care center in Torrington will offer the same convenient services as the CHH urgent care walk-in center. All Hartford HealthCare-GoHealth Urgent Care centers offer expanded hours and are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, and at least from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, including holidays.



Charlotte Hungerford Hospital
Connect to healthier.™

Quality Healthcare Services at CHH

Behavioral Health
540 Litchfield Street, Torrington.....(860) 496-6350

Blood Drawing Services
540 Litchfield Street, Torrington.....(860) 496-6620
115 Spencer Street, Winsted.....(860) 738-6658

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

Center For Cancer Care
200 Kennedy Drive, Torrington.....(860) 489-6718

Center For Healthy Aging
540 Litchfield Street, Torrington.....(860) 496-6240

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

Foot Center
540 Litchfield Street, Torrington.....(860) 496-6723

Lions Low Vision Center
1151 East Main Street, Torrington.....(860) 496-0046

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

MRI /Advanced Medical Imaging
540 Litchfield Street, Torrington.....(860) 489-7314

Radiology / X-ray Services
540 Litchfield Street, Torrington.....(860) 496-6550
115 Spencer Street, Winsted.....(860) 738-6664

HHC Rehabilitation Network
538 Litchfield Street, Torrington.....(860) 496-6875
1151 East Main Street, Torrington.....(860) 496-0046

Sleep Center
115 Spencer Street, Winsted.....(860) 738-6620

Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine
7 Felicity Lane, Torrington(860) 489-0418



CharlotteHungerford.org

MEMBER NEWS

Alzheimer's Association of CT

The 2019 Walk to End Alzheimer's will take place at White Memorial in Litchfield on September 8th. This year's co-chairs of the walk are Amber Chapman and Nanette Bergin of Brandywine Living at Litchfield. Chamber members and the public are invited to be a part of the walk.

An informational breakfast will take place at Brandywine on February 21st at 8:30 a.m. There are many ways to be a part of the event—both large and small—and members are invited to attend (and bring others) to the breakfast to learn more. Please RSVP by calling Nanette at 860-567-9500 or emailing Amber at achapman@brandycare.com. You may also register for the walk by visiting http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2019/CT-Connecticut?pg=entry&fr_id=12119.

KBJB Radio/TV

KBJB Radio/TV-Home of the Original Artist-located in New Milford, KBJB is a worldwide radio station streaming live 24x7 with all original music from around the globe. Currently, over 40 countries are downloading and listening with our free app or streaming live at kbjbradio.com. Just ask Google or Alexa to tune in! Check out all of the originally produced shows & programming.

Tune in to 'The Warped View' (talk show) Mondays 9am & 6pm and Saturdays at noon or 'CT Rocks' (music show) Sunday's at 7pm, and 'Nutmeg Junction' (radio play) Sunday's at 4pm - just to name a few! KBJB also produces live events, comedy, music, fundraisers, etc.

LIVE EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT: Friday, February 15th it's the Queens of Heart at Fast Eddies in New Milford. Enjoy lots of laughs & libations, door prizes & giveaways! Sponsored by Litchfield Distillery. For more information...check out all of their upcoming events on Facebook or Instagram! Special discounts apply for all NW Chamber members! To advertise or book a live event with KBJB, email kbjbradio@gmail.com or call 860-350-8152.

Salisbury Bank & Trust Company

Salisbury Bank is pleased to announce that Amanda Goewey, Vice President, Berkshire Regional Branch Manager was chosen as one of the select few as this year's "New Leader in Banking".

Over the last several months, the Connecticut Bankers Association (CBA) along with Connecticut Banking magazine asked bankers throughout Connecticut to nominate their peers for the leadership award. Nominees needed to work at a CBA Member Bank, be an outstanding employee, manager, or business leader, and be making a notable impact within their bank and community. 13 professionals were selected for the honor.

Barron & Company, LLP

Barron & Company, LLP of Torrington recently shared information regarding a scam targeting Limited Liability Companies (LLCs) in Connecticut.

Companies organized as LLCs are receiving a form requiring payment of a "\$110 annual report fee" relative to a "2018 – Annual Report Instruction Form (Connecticut LLCs)" from Workplace Compliance Services, 1022 Boulevard #243, West Hartford, CT 06110. The form has been received in the regular U.S. postal service in hard copy.

This is not legitimate and no payments should be made to Workplace Compliance Services. The hard-copy form Workplace Compliance Services is sending to LLCs looks deceptively like a real tax form from the state, so it is easy to understand how people could be fooled. CTCPA has been in contact with the Department of Revenue Services and they are aware of the issue, as are the Secretary of the State and the Attorney General. Annual report filings should only be made through the Secretary of the State website at <https://www.concord-sots.ct.gov/CONCORD/>.

Visit barronco.com for information on their accounting services.

Northwestern CT Community College

The Entrepreneurial Center of Northwest Connecticut located at Northwestern Connecticut Community College, is pleased to announce that Torrington Savings Bank will sponsor a Small Business Seminars Series.

The seminars will help business professionals gain knowledge and hands-on tools to be competitive in today's marketplace. Each topic is taught by industry leaders at no cost to small business owners or for those individuals interested in starting a business. The following topics will be covered in this upcoming seminar series:

- Taxation and Financing: 2/19, 2/21, 5:00-7:00 PM
- Marketing Strategies: 3/12, 3/14, 5:00-7:00 PM

Each topic runs for 2 sessions and the seminars will be held on the Winsted campus of Northwestern Connecticut Community College. Registration is required.

The Small Business Seminars Series, is offered in partnership with the Winchester Economic Development Commission, Northwest Connecticut's Chamber of Commerce and SCORE Northwest Connecticut.

To register, use eventbrite.com, or contact Jane Williams at jwilliams@nwcc.edu or 860-738-6444.

More Member News on page 14.

PROPOSED FMLA & MINIMUM WAGE From page 1

FMLA supporters also make the false claim that the program has no cost to employers. However, businesses are required to continue to provide non-wage benefits for those using the program. Employers and taxpayers will be on the hook to pay for the \$13 million in start-up costs and \$18 million in ongoing costs to run the program.

Given that the Connecticut proposal is so much more expansive and financially unsustainable than any of few other paid FMLA programs enacted nationwide, it is only a matter of time before businesses are forced to pay into the program as well.

The immense burden on employers needs to be considered. Employers will be responsible for complying with this program, transferring wage deductions to the state, and dealing with routine absences.

The enormity of these burdens is precisely why the state exempted itself from this new mandate they so willingly push on businesses. At any given time, up to 6% of the state workforce is out on unpaid FMLA leave, and they anticipate this number will vastly increase to a point that agencies will be unable to provide services if paid leave is enacted.

The proponents of a \$15 per hour minimum wage assert that past minimum wage increases have never significantly hurt businesses and that this increase wouldn't either, but that's simply not the case.

While no specific legislative language for 2019 has been proposed, prior year proposals have called for a \$1 increase per year for four consecutive years bringing the minimum wage to \$15 by 2023, nearly a 50% minimum wage increase in only four short years. Previous increase have been adopted at a much slower rate, allowing businesses to absorb the increased costs over time.

On the proposed accelerated schedule, increases of this magnitude may very well force some businesses to consider significant price increases, closures, layoffs, and/or automation. It will also result in less entry-level or low-skill employment opportunities.

The nonpartisan Office of Fiscal Analysis found last year's proposal would have cost taxpayers at least \$50 million annually through increased compensation and contract costs to state agencies and municipalities. Billion-dollar budget deficits will call for tough fiscal decisions ahead and these minimum wage implications must be considered before passing any legislation.

Our state is facing serious challenges and these proposals should not be considered lightly. These proposals add significant expense to our state budget at a time when you are faced with potentially cutting other programs. Connecticut's unsustainable fiscal path hurts our economic growth and makes the state less competitive. Our young people are leaving the state for jobs and opportunities, not paid medical leave or increased minimum wage.

The business community stands ready to work with lawmakers to find solutions to the state's real problems. Thank you for your consideration."

Further discussion on these and other proposed legislation affecting businesses will take place at the Chamber's Government Relations Committee meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 8 a.m. All members are welcome to attend. In addition, members are welcome to utilize the bill tracking website provided by the Chamber's lobbyist, International Government Strategies: <http://206.162.241.82/NWCCReport.html>. Our lobbyists attend each meeting of the committee.

MEMBER NEWS Continued from page 13.

Petrovits, Patrick, Smith & Company, LLC, CPAs

Petrovits, Patrick, Smith & Company LLC, CPAs is pleased to announce that Kariann McDougall, a staff accountant with the firm (and a member of the Chamber's Leads Group I), has recently completed all parts of the Uniform Certified Public Accountant examination and the AICPA Professional Ethics for CPAs exam to earn her CPA license.

To give one an idea of how big of an achievement this is, just imagine acquiring a master's degree (or equivalent 150 credit hours) before taking four, 3-4 hour long exams within an 18 month period in the areas of Auditing and Attestation, Financial Accounting and Reporting, Regulation, and Business Environment and Concepts. Each of those exams requires approximately 75 hours of studying. Following successful completion of those exams, candidates are required to pass a professional ethics exam with a score of 90 or better and gain two years of experience under the supervision of a CPA to qualify to be considered a licensed CPA.

Congratulations to Kariann from the Chamber and the PPSC, LLC team!

Thanks to Our

RENEWING MEMBERS

The following Chamber members renewed their memberships during the period of December 21st through January 25th. Thank you for your continued commitment to Northwest Connecticut's Chamber of Commerce. Companies listed in bold indicate a Corporate Partner. Milestone anniversaries are indicated in parentheses.

- ◆ Ackley Insurance Solutions
- ◆ Adams Samartino & Co., PC
- ◆ Air Compressor Engineering Co.
- ◆ All-Star Storage, LLC
- ◆ AssuredPartners *Northeast*
- ◆ BantamWesson
- ◆ Borghesi Building & Engineering Co., Inc.
- ◆ Borla & Associates, Inc.
- ◆ Law Offices of Debra A. Brown (10 years)
- ◆ CAL Business Solutions
- ◆ Gladys Cerruto
- ◆ Colavecchio Design, Inc. (35 years)
- ◆ Comcast Business
- ◆ Commercial Real Estate Group (20 years)
- ◆ Connect-Ability, BRS/DORS
- ◆ Connecticut Academy for the Arts (CAFTA)
- ◆ Connecticut Society of CPAs
- ◆ CONNSTEP (10 years)
- ◆ Cramer & Anderson (45 years)
- ◆ **Doyle's Medical Supply**
- ◆ Duralite, Inc.
- ◆ Eastside Electric, Inc. (15 years)
- ◆ Elyse Harney Real Estate
- ◆ Goulet Printing (15 years)
- ◆ Hart Building & Roofing Supplies
- ◆ **Herrington's**
- ◆ Howd, Lavieri & Finch, LLP
- ◆ Inspire Leadership Today
- ◆ Jacque Williams Entertainment
- ◆ Kelly Services
- ◆ Keystone Place at Newbury Brook
- ◆ King, King & Associates, CPAs, PC
- ◆ Lakeridge Association, Inc.
- ◆ Laquerre Audi, LLC
- ◆ Litchfield County Board of Realtors
- ◆ Maximummobilityct, LLC
- ◆ Moore & Alvord Insurance
- ◆ Northwest Hills Credit Union
- ◆ Northwestern Connecticut Community College (35 years)
- ◆ Northwestern Connecticut Transit District
- ◆ Northwestern Mutual Life, John Morris (35 years)
- ◆ Print Master
- ◆ Quality Lawn, Inc.
- ◆ Red Barn Consulting, LLC (5 years)
- ◆ Regional School District No. 6
- ◆ Republican-American
- ◆ The Roberts Tax Group
- ◆ SOC Construction, Inc.
- ◆ St. Francis Center for Occupational Health
- ◆ Stadium System
- ◆ Stefano Food Products, Inc.
- ◆ Summit Scaffold Services, LLC
- ◆ Superior Plus Energy Services, LLC
- ◆ Taylor Rental
- ◆ Theroux, Nowell & Stoughton, LLC
- ◆ Torrington High School
- ◆ Torrington Historical Society
- ◆ Torrington Library (20 years)
- ◆ Torrington Lumber Company, Inc.
- ◆ Torrington Savings Bank
- ◆ Torrington Water Company
- ◆ Traver, IDC
- ◆ Union Savings Bank
- ◆ United Way of Northwest Connecticut, Inc.
- ◆ Venetian Restaurant
- ◆ Wall, Wall & Frauenhofer, LLP
- ◆ Waterbury Symphony Orchestra
- ◆ Wisdom House Retreat & Conference Center
- ◆ The Workman
- ◆ Workshop, Inc.



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Conquest
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Eversource Energy
FuelCell Energy, Inc.
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Thomaston Savings Bank
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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. Dates and locations are subject to change. Please visit our website for up to date details. Thank you.

FEBRUARY 2019

- 13th - **Read Aloud Day** (snow date February 14th)
- 14th - **Government Relations Committee** Meeting, 8 AM
- 18th - **Chamber Closed in Observance of Presidents' Day**
- 20th - **Insurance Committee** Meeting, 8 AM
Health Council Meeting at Keystone Place at Newbury Brook, 1058 Litchfield Street, Torrington, 8 AM
Leadership Northwest
- 21st - **Young Professionals Organization** Panel Discussion
"Positioning Yourself for a Promotion and Negotiating Salaries"
11:30 AM
- 26th - **Business with Breakfast** at RegalCare, 80 Fern Drive, Torrington, 8 AM
- 28th - **Board of Directors** Meeting, 8 AM
Business After Hours at H&R Block, 76 Watertown Road, Thomaston, 5-7 PM

MARCH 2019

- 1st - **Manufacturers' Coalition** Meeting (location TBD), 7:30 AM
- 6th - **WOW Advisory Committee** Meeting, 4 PM
- 7th - **Membership Committee** Meeting, 8 AM
- 13th - **Business After Hours** at Atria Senior Living (co-sponsored by Regal Care Torrington), 376 Goshen Road, Torrington, 5-7 PM
- 14th - **Government Relations Committee** Meeting, 8 AM
- 20th - **Connecticut Business Day** at the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, 9 AM
Insurance Committee Meeting, 8 AM
Leadership Northwest
- 26th - **Business with Breakfast** at the Chamber, 333 Kennedy Drive, Torrington, 8 AM
- 28th - **Board of Directors** Meeting, 8 AM
Annual Job Fair at Torrington City Hall Auditorium, 140 Main Street, Torrington, 10 AM—3 PM

SAVE THE DATE

May 9th - Great Giveaway Business Showcase

RSVP on-line at nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar