

## 2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: Balance & Stability

The Chamber's Government Relations Committee plays a vital role as the group that develops our annual Legislative Agenda. The committee, chaired by Christina Emery, 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 December meeting to approve the following 2019 Legislative Agenda:

### Fiscal Principals *Government as Usual Will Not Solve Connecticut's Fiscal Crisis*

- ◆ Fiscal predictability and reducing the increases 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 reformed with sustainability as the goal.
- ◆ Cost effective public-private partnerships or privatization should be encouraged for state and local services.

### Workforce Development and Education

- ◆ Achieve efficiencies in education. Address mandate relief and consolidation in areas such as administration, minimum budget requirements and binding arbitration.
- ◆ Adopt a new Education Cost Sharing formula that

effectively addresses the needs of all students while maintaining funding for small towns.

- ◆ Support course offerings and programming by Northwestern Connecticut Community College that are crucial to our region's workforce.
- ◆ Support the growth and expansion of Oliver Wolcott Technical High School, which is vital to area businesses and serves the largest geographic region of any technical school.

### Transportation

- ◆ Explore public/private partnerships to improve transit options throughout Northwest Connecticut.

### Economic Hub

- ◆ Recognize Torrington's designation as a micropolitan area. The City is the economic and social center of Litchfield County despite having a population less than 50,000 while serving 180,000.

*Continued on page 15.*

*Please join us for a*

## CHAMBER OPEN HOUSE

**Wednesday, January 23, 2019**

(Snow Date, Thursday, January 24th)

333 Kennedy Drive, Suite R101, Torrington

**It's Your Chamber. It's Your Investment. Get the Most Out of It.**

Light refreshments will be served.

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EVENT FOR  
NEW AND  
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MEMBERS

5-7  
PM

*From the Chamber  
President & CEO*

**JOANN RYAN**



"If I were to wish for anything, I should not wish for wealth and power, but for the passionate sense of the potential, for the eye which, ever young and ardent, sees the possible."

*Anonymous author*

Let's do this together:

Major events to help grow your business

- Membership Drive
- Job/Career Fair
- Health Care Summit
- Manufacturing Summit
- CT Business Day
- Annual Meeting
- Read Aloud
- Chamber Open House

Exciting initiatives

- A most effective Chamber focusing on you
- Enhanced presence on social media with far-reaching effects
- Ways to introduce you to your new best friends –  
Business With Breakfast  
Restaurant in the Spotlight  
Business After Hours
- Chamber leadership role as Director of the Workforce Investment Board's One-Stop Operation at American Job Center
- Small Business Executive Roundtable
- More Leads Groups

Strong Collaborations

- Northwest Hills Council of Governments
- Northwestern CT Community College (NCCC)
- SCORE and NCCC Entrepreneurial Center
- Burlington Chamber and retail organizations in our area towns such as the Litchfield Area Business Association, New Hartford's Business Association and Friends of Main Street in Winsted

Visibility

- [www.nwctchamberofcommerce.org](http://www.nwctchamberofcommerce.org)
- Chamber Directory
- From the desk of JoAnn Ryan in Register, Republican
- Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram
- TV, WSNG, WAPJ, Videos

Words of Wisdom

- Always ask if there is a better way to build on positives rather than challenges
- Measure the value of actions in terms of service rather than benefit to self
- Life is short. Let us all resolve to make it healthy, happy and worthwhile

With your support, it's all possible! Happy 2019.

*Welcome*

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**JoAnn Ryan, President & CEO** • [joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)

**Anita Rosa, VP Finance/Operations** • [anita@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:anita@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)

**Lauren Zordan, VP Programs/Events** • [lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)

**Pamela LaRosa, Dir. One-Stop Workforce Op.** • [pam@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:pam@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)

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19 Rowley Street, Winsted

**Monday, January 7th, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

Cash bar. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres.



**Read Aloud 2019**

We are seeking volunteers to spend two hours of their day sharing their love of reading with elementary school students. For the 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, our Chamber is excited to host Read Aloud Day on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> (snow date- Feb.14) at elementary schools around the region. After attending a short orientation and reviewing the book, a student will escort you to the classroom for your Read Aloud experience.

Participating schools include: Barkhamsted, Colebrook, Cornwall, Falls Village (Kellogg), Goshen, Hartland, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield (Center & Intermediate), Morris, New Hartford (Ann Antolini, Bakerville, New Hartford Elementary), Norfolk (Botelle), North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Torrington (East, Forbes, Southwest, St. Peter/St. Francis, Torrington, Vogel-Wetmore), Thomaston, Warren, Winsted (St. Anthony, Batcheller, Pearson).

To sign up to read, email [Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org) with your school, grade and teacher preference, if any. Please register with the Chamber, not the school. Placement in requested classrooms is made on a first-come, first-served basis. Read Aloud is a program of the Northwest Connecticut Chamber Education Foundation sponsored by the Draper Foundation Fund, a fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation.



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**Tuesday, January 22, 8:00 a.m.**

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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

### MANUFACTURERS' COALITION

The Coalition hosted a Manufacturing Bus Tour on December 5th for area high school students. Nine schools in total spent the morning visiting manufacturers in the area. The students saw first-hand what a manufacturing facility looks like and learned about the different careers available. Thank you to the following companies for hosting students: Altek Electronics, Inc., BD, Bicorn, Commercial Sewing, Dymax Corporation, Fuel Cell Energy, RBC Bearings, Seitz, Stepcraft, Sterling Engineering, and Technical Industries, Inc.

In the evening on December 5th, the Coalition partnered with Oliver Wolcott Technical School to provide a Manufacturing Expo in their cafeteria during their annual Open House for 8th graders and their families. Fourteen companies in total exhibited at the event, displaying all the incredible things that are made right here in the Northwest corner of CT. Over 700 students and their families attended the event and the Oliver Wolcott Tech culinary students provided dinner for the exhibitors. Thank you to Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board for providing funding for the Expo.

The Coalition's January 4th meeting was held at Dymax Corporation and Bob Dickson of Dale Carnegie Training spoke about the generational gap in the workforce and gave some great information about how different generations can work together more effectively.

### JUNIOR LEADERSHIP

The December Junior Leadership Northwest session was held at Valerie Manor Health Care Center in Torrington. The class made crafts and delivered them to residents as part of their community service project. They also had a tour of the facility and heard from the Administrator, Marisa Jones and Therapeutic Recreation Director, Tracy Hoskins, about the different career opportunities available in assisted living facilities.

The January session will focus on "career exploration" and will be held at Northwestern CT Community College. The college will have professors, guidance counselors, and staff speak about each career cluster represented at the college and what future steps are recommended to secure jobs in those fields.

Thank you to Torrington Savings Bank for sponsoring the Junior Leadership Northwest program.

### LEADERSHIP NW

The December session of Leadership Northwest included a Corporate Leadership Panel, a discussion on evaluating employees, and a Board Participation Panel. The mission of the class was to further develop leadership skills through communication with corporate leaders, to gain insight on cultural sensitivity in the workplace, as well as evaluating employees, and to learn the expectations when serving on local boards and committees.

In the morning, the groups had time to meet to discuss their group projects. Each group presented their project idea to the entire class and Leadership Advisors to get feedback and ideas as they move forward with finalizing their projects.

The Corporate Leadership Panel was moderated by Paul McLaughlin, Executive Vice President and COO of Litchfield Bancorp. Panelists included: Susan Atkins, President & Owner, Bradshaw Chrysler Jeep; Elinor Carbone, Mayor, City of Torrington; Lynn Gelormino, Executive Director, The Warner Theatre; Susan Suhanovsky, President, Torrington Water Company; and Lance Leifert, CEO, Conquest. Panelists answered questions about their leadership styles and gave the class advice on being successful leaders.

After lunch, Beth Dupont, Human Resources and EEO Officer at O&G Industries, spoke to the class about evaluating employees and cultural sensitivity in the workplace. After a quick holiday gift exchange exercise, JoAnn Ryan moderated a panel on board participation. Our hope is that the future leaders in this program will give back to the community in which they live and work by getting involved with local non-profit organizations. Some of our community's most dedicated board members served on the panel including: Kimberley Brown, VP, Residential Lending, Torrington Savings Bank; Jeff Geddes, Senior VP, Torrington Savings Bank; Gayle Moraski, VP, Northwest Community Bank; Victor Muschell, Partner, Victor M. Muschell, LLC; and James Steck, Partner, Ebersol, McCormick, Reis & Steck, LLC.

The January session will take place on January 16th and will focus on media and communications and will feature a trip to the Republican-American in Waterbury and a chance to network with the Greater Waterbury Leadership class.

Thank you Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board for sponsoring this year's Leadership program.

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# CORPORATE PARTNER *Shout Outs*

## O&G Industries

O&G Industries continued its support of the Torrington Fire Department's Holiday Toy Drive. In 2018, over 300 toys were donated through the drive, an event O&G has been a supporter of for over 25 years. Pictured below are members of the Torrington Fire Department and members of the O&G Industries staff.



## Litchfield Bancorp

Litchfield Bancorp recently donated \$1,000 to the Friends of the Litchfield Community Greenway. The group was originally created in 2003 to propose a system of recreational trails linking various parts of the Town of Litchfield, allowing people to explore scenic areas. Thanks to their continued efforts, the development of Greenway trails for recreational use, including walking, bicycling, running and cross-country skiing was a dream that became a reality. The first phase of the Litchfield Community Greenway is approximately two miles that begins on Russell Street, continues along the Bantam River, throughout the White Memorial Foundation to the Plum Hill Playing Fields.



## Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital will present a Free "Stop The Bleed" training course on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> to educate and equip healthcare providers and members of the public on how to help reduce the loss of life due to traumatic bleeding. The help given by an immediate responder can often make the difference between life and death, even before professional rescuers arrive.

The course will be held twice on January 15, 2019, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. and repeated from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. It will be held in the conference hall at the Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, memorial building, 540 Litchfield Street, Torrington, CT.

Specially trained local first responders and hospital personnel will be on hand to train participants to recognize and respond to life-threatening bleeding and take the appropriate measures to control it through the immediate application of pressure, dressings, and tourniquets.

This Stop the Bleed Course was developed by The American College of Surgeons to teach the lay public the fundamentals of how to recognize and intervene upon severe bleeding. The sessions are part of a national campaign meant to cultivate grassroots efforts that encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. For more information, visit [www.bleedingcontrol.org](http://www.bleedingcontrol.org)

Admission is free and refreshments will be served.



Chamber Members paused during the Holiday Celebration at KidsPlay Children's Museum to listen to welcoming remarks from Chamber President JoAnn Ryan and KidsPlay Chairman of the Board Ken Merz.



## 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.



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- ❑ **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](mailto: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!
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- ❑ **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](mailto: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](http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org) or call 860-482-6586.

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## CHAMBER MEMBER *In the Spotlight*

### SPORTINGACAUSE.COM

Northwest Connecticut SCORE recently recognized Northwest Connecticut Chamber member SportingAcause.com with its Small Business Success Story of the Year for 2018. The volunteer mentoring organization, which operates in partnership with the Chamber, presented the award to SportingAcause publisher Willie Hallihan at SCORE's annual meeting held this fall at Fairview Farm Banquet Facility in Harwinton.

Hallihan expressed his gratitude to the SCORE Board of Directors for the honor. "I am grateful to SCORE for recognizing SportingAcause as its 2018 Small Business Success Story, and, although it is technically for-profit, for recognizing the importance of its social mission."

SportingAcause.com promotes sports-related fundraisers in the Tri-State area with calendars, blogs and profiles about running races, walkathons, golf tournaments and other events that are raising funds for area charities. The site promotes these events for free. By promoting sports fundraisers, hopefully the benefiting charities will receive more awareness and funds.

Hallihan also acknowledged those who have helped him along the way. "Without the help of my ongoing mentors Mark and Lauren Trager, Lance Leifert, CEO of Conquest and our tech assistant Matthew Murray, sportingAcause.com would never have been born."

SportingAcause.com is based in Canaan, CT.



### 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](http://www.nwctchamberofcommerce.org/events-programs/chamber-travel-program) for more details.

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*Oliver Wolcott Technical School's Health Technology students hosted the Chamber's Health Council on December 19th. Members of the Council heard a presentation on the program from two of the students who then provided a tour of the learning space.*

## Charlotte Hungerford Hospital



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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  
1151 East Main Street, Torrington.....(860) 496-0046
- CHH Sleep Center**  
115 Spencer Street, Winsted.....(860) 738-6620
- CHH Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine**  
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- MRI /Advanced Medical Imaging**  
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[CharlotteHungerford.org](http://CharlotteHungerford.org)

# MEMBER NEWS

## **RDA - Resource Development Associates**

Rich DuPont, president of Resource Development Associates (RDA) in Watertown, announced RDA's opening of a notably-enhanced certification training facility for the electronics-related industry. RDA provides companies with the tools, techniques, and skills to improve operations efficiencies and reduce operating costs. The training programs improve the skills of employees seeking advancement or employment. RDA's newly-redesigned training lab supports industry-needed skills in IPC Certifications, J Standard, PCB Fundamentals and Design, Hand Soldering, Rework and Repair, Inspection, Assembly, Cable & Wire Harness Technology and more. The comprehensive programs attract employers across CT, MA, NY, and NJ. RDA services are often provided at no cost due to RDA's relationships within the private sector and agencies RDA represents including Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, CT Department of Labor, CT Department of Community and Economic Development, Departments of Education, Community Colleges and Universities, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and more. For information, contact Rich DuPont at 860-417-2267, rich@rdanow.com, or visit <http://www.rdanow.com>.

## **Branagan Communications Consultants**

Barbara Branagan-Mitchell, owner of Branagan Communications Consultants LLC (BCC) in New Milford, announced that her public relations, publicity placement, and marketing communications services have been secured by Angelo Paul Ramunni, author of "Accordion Stories from the Heart". BCC will launch a New England-wide publicity placement campaign for both the book and Mr. Ramunni's New England Accordion Connections & Museum Company in Canaan, Connecticut (<http://www.neacme.com>) that houses 500+ accordions. BCC will also schedule and publicize book signings/mini-accordion concerts across Connecticut, Massachusetts and northeastern New York.

## **EdAdvance**

The EdAdvance Driver Education program offers a variety of instruction courses. Each course includes detailed information, enabling students to understand and safely execute driving tasks, and be prepared to complete their CT-DMV road test. Program choices include:

- **Full Program:** Includes 30 hours of Connecticut DMV approved classroom instruction and 8 hours of behind-the-wheel driver training. The fee is \$475.
- **Classroom Instruction Only:** Includes 30 hours of Connecticut DMV approved classroom instruction. The fee is \$250.

- **Drug, Alcohol, and Safe Driving Practices:** Includes 8 hour course. Students learn safe driving skills and the consequences of impaired driving. The fee is \$140.
- **Additional Driving Instruction:** Additional behind-the-wheel training by appointment. The fee is \$70.

For more information, contact Driver Education at [driveredinfo@edadvance.org](mailto:driveredinfo@edadvance.org) or 860-361-9374.

## **Geer Village Senior Community**

Geer Village is pleased to announce Geer Nursing and Rehab has been rated a 5-Star Facility by U.S. News and World Report. Their ratings can be found online at [www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare](http://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare) and includes their above average Health Inspection Rating, most recent survey showing it is deficiency free, and their above average staffing rating.

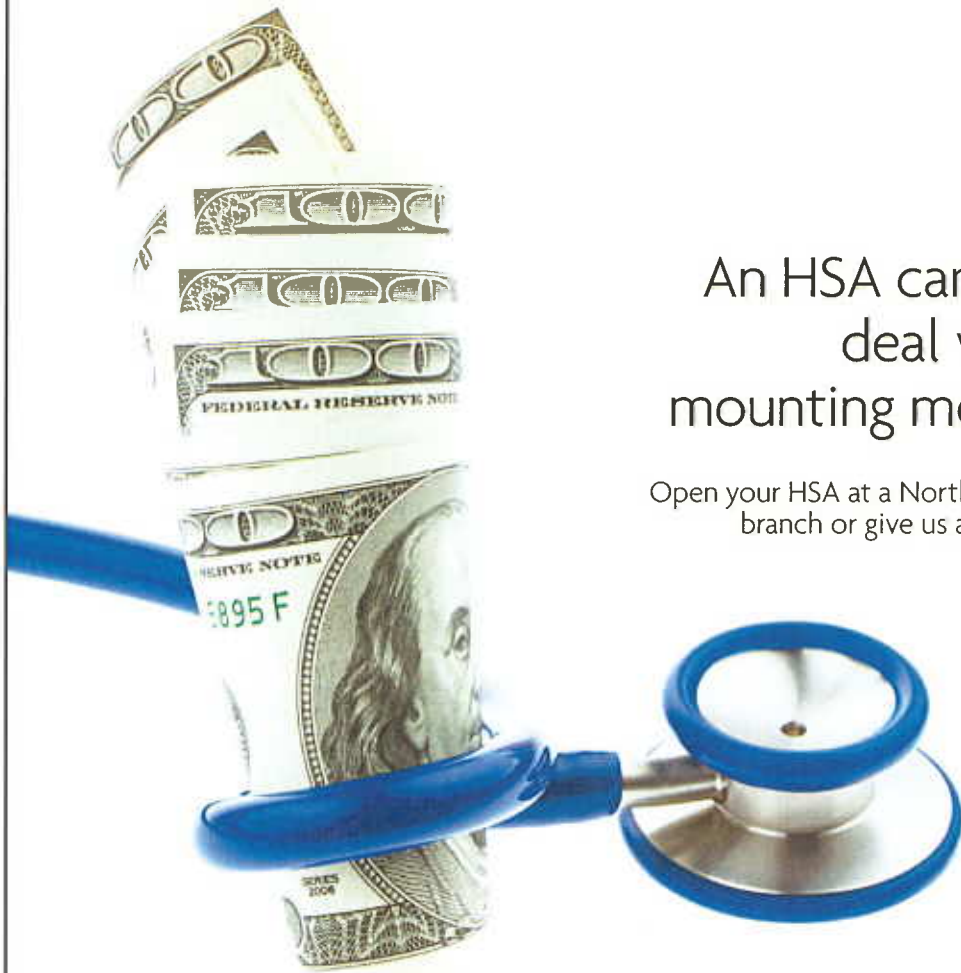
In addition, Geer's readmission rate - which are unplanned readmissions to the hospital regardless of the cause within 30 days of discharge from a hospital - was 10.2% in 2017 compared to the national average of 22.4%. Geer also did better than average for 2016 and 2017 for: Discharge to the Community (measures whether a beneficiary remains in the community without re-admission to a hospital or skilled nursing facility and does not die for 30 days post discharge from the skilled nursing facility), for Medicare Spending Per Beneficiary (measures total Medicare dollars spent during the skilled nursing facility stay and for 30-days post discharge), and for Potentially Preventative 30-day Post-Discharge Readmission Measure (measures potentially preventable unplanned hospital readmissions for Medicare beneficiaries within 30-days of prior proximal acute care, critical access or psychiatric hospital stay).

## **Northwestern CT Community College**

Northwestern Connecticut Community College's (NCCC) Veterinary Technology Program was recently granted full continued accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). NCCC's program, which started in 1995, is the oldest accredited Veterinary Technology program in the state. Their program offers a 2-year Associate in Science (A.S.) degree in Veterinary Technology, as well as the opportunity for students to transfer into UCONN's Animal Science or Pathobiology programs.

In addition, NCCC's Veterinary Technology Program, which is ranked by [TheBestColleges.org](http://TheBestColleges.org) as the 40th best Veterinary Technician Program in the U.S., collaborates with area animal shelters and veterinarians in order to provide training opportunities for students while serving the community.

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## RENEWING MEMBERS

The following Chamber members renewed their memberships during the period of November 21st through December 20th. 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.

- ◆ Aetna, Tracey Goulet
- ◆ Boulder Ridge Day Camp & The Village at Boulder Ridge (15 years)
- ◆ Carmody & Torrance, LLP
- ◆ Center for Human Development
- ◆ Championship Turf Services
- ◆ CMHA Northwest Center for Family Service
- ◆ **Conquest**
- ◆ Coutant, Sederquist, Nebor & Clauss Dentists, PC
- ◆ Da Capo Italian Restaurant
- ◆ Edward Jones Investments, Torrington & Thomaston
- ◆ Executive Glass, LLC
- ◆ Fairchild Auto-Mated Parts, Inc.
- ◆ Golden Insurance Group, LLC
- ◆ H.R. Madeux Agency, Inc.
- ◆ Christopher J. Morrison, Attorney at Law
- ◆ National Iron Bank
- ◆ Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation
- ◆ Northwest Hills Dealerships (20 years)
- ◆ Prindle Insurance Agency
- ◆ The Rotary Club of Torrington & Winsted Areas
- ◆ Jackie Scoville (5 years)
- ◆ Torrington Business Park, LLC
- ◆ Weigold Floor Covering
- ◆ Winchester Industries, Inc.
- ◆ Winvian Farm - Relais & Chateaux (10 years)

## 2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

*Continued from page 1.*

### Arts & Culture

- ◆ Support cost effective culture and tourism initiatives in Northwest Connecticut that generate a return on investment.
- ◆ Reform the funding distribution formula for local economic drivers such as the Warner Theatre.
- ◆ Maintain the Connecticut Office of the Arts and encourage a collaboration with the Northwest CT Arts Council.
- ◆ Support plans by Five Points Gallery to develop a visual arts education complex at the former UConn campus.

### Energy and Communications

- ◆ Continue capital and maintenance improvements to increase energy supply, capacity and transmission.
- ◆ Support NW CT's companies that create fuel cell, wind, solar, bioheat and other alternative energy innovations.
- ◆ Support efforts to increase the supply of natural gas in Connecticut.
- ◆ Support a new fiber-optic network for NW CT which is critical to the region's economic development, education & safety.

### Healthcare

- ◆ Further support community-based mental health services that address the growing demand for treatment, and in particular, measures that effectively counter the opioid crisis.
- ◆ Phase out the hospital provider tax and provide adequate funding through Medicaid to ensure financial viability of our hospitals, which are major employers and economic drivers.
- ◆ Adopt policies to assist recruitment and retention of skilled healthcare workers at all levels including primary care providers, CNAs and nurses to cover the current and projected shortage.

### Business Growth

- ◆ Oppose mandates and regulations that increase both the cost of living and the cost of doing business.
- ◆ Support policies that attract and retain businesses.
- ◆ Create policies that will result in a pro-business environment to encourage growth.
- ◆ Adopt common sense unemployment compensation reforms that will restore trust fund solvency.



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Brooks, Todd & McNeil Insurance  
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital  
Chatterley's Banquet Facility  
Commercial Sewing, Inc.  
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.  
Pequot Health Care  
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. Dates and locations are subject to change. Please visit our website for up to date details. Thank you.

### JANUARY 2019

- 1st - **Chamber Closed in Observance of New Year's Day**
- 3rd - **Membership Committee Meeting, 8 AM**
- 4th - **Manufacturers' Coalition Meeting at Dymax Corporation, 318 Industrial Lane, Torrington, 8 AM**
- 7th - **Restaurant in the Spotlight at The Rowley Grill, 19 Rowley Street, Winsted, 5:30-6:30 PM**
- 10th - **Government Relations Committee Meeting, 8 AM**
- 16th - **Insurance Committee Meeting, 8 AM**  
**Leadership Northwest**
- 21st - **Chamber Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- 22nd - **Business with Breakfast at Advanced Physical Therapy, 881 New Harwinton Road, Torrington, 8 AM**
- 23rd - **Chamber Open House, 5-7 PM**
- 24th - **Board of Directors Meeting, 8 AM**  
**Snow Date for Chamber Open House**

### FEBRUARY 2019

- 5th - **School to Career Pathways Meeting, 7:30 AM**
- 6th - **WOW Advisory Committee Meeting, 4 PM**
- 7th - **Membership Committee Meeting, 8 AM**
- 13th - **Read Aloud Day**
- 14th - **Government Relations Committee Meeting, 8 AM**  
**Snow Date for Read Aloud**
- 18th - **Chamber Closed in Observance of Presidents' Day**
- 20th - **Insurance Committee Meeting, 8 AM**  
**Health Council Meeting (location TBD), 8 AM**  
**Leadership Northwest**
- 22nd - **Business with Breakfast at RegalCare, 80 Fern Drive, Torrington, 8 AM**
- 28th - **Board of Directors Meeting, 8 AM**

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