

## 2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA APPROVED

Christina Emery, chairman of the Chamber's Government Relations Committee, presented the 2020 Legislative Agenda titled "Attract, Train & Retain" to the Chamber's Board of Directors on January 23, 2020. At that time, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to adopt the Agenda as presented. The Agenda will be presented to the Connecticut General Assembly at the start of the 2020 Legislative Session. The following are the areas of concern and specific points pertaining to each.

### **Promote Workforce Development** *Provide a framework to attract, train and retain the next generation of workers.*

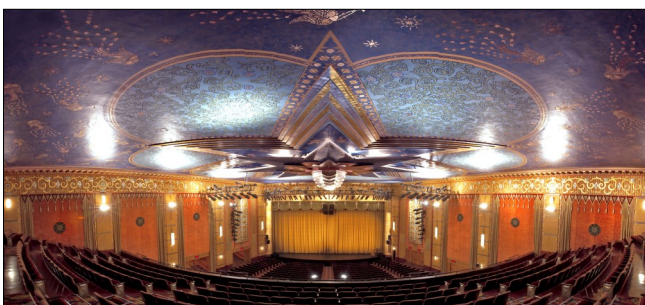
- Support policies that address the high cost of living to attract skilled labor, college graduates and young professionals to Northwest CT.
- Recognize the importance of Northwest CT's manufacturing sector and foster relationships to allow the industry to thrive in a global climate. Promoting workforce development is at the heart of the sector's commitment to job creation.

### **Promote Business Growth** *Support pro-business policies that encourage growth and attract and retain businesses.*

- Oppose mandates and regulations that increase both the cost of living and the cost of doing business.
- Repeal the indexing of minimum wage after reaching \$15/hour.
- Support legislation to hold employers harmless for unemployment compensation rates when a replacement worker is dismissed due to permanent employee's FMLA status.

### **Arts & Culture**

- Support culture and tourism initiatives in Northwest CT, such as the Warner Theatre, Five Points Gallery and American Mural Project, that serve as economic drivers and generate a return on investment.
- Maintain the CT Office of the Arts and encourage a collaboration with the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council.



### **Economic Hub**

- Recognize Northwest CT's designation as a micropolitan area. Support Torrington with adequate funding in recognition of the city providing services for many.
- Advocate for representation from Northwest Connecticut on the Governor's Workforce Council.
- Help to leverage the \$1.2 M grant from the Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Hartford Healthcare Building Healthier Communities Fund with public and private partnerships in Torrington & Winsted.

### **Education**

- Achieve efficiencies in education with mandate relief, minimum budget requirements, and binding arbitration.
- Support course offerings and programs by Northwestern Connecticut Community College that are crucial to our region's workforce.
- Support ways to reduce financial barriers to college for this region's students.
- Improve collaboration among vo-ag and vo-tech schools with local public schools to ensure adequate funding.



### **Energy & Communications**

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

# We've Got Business Banking

Lending / Deposits / Cash Management



**Torrington Savings Bank**

(860) 496-2152 TorringtonSavings.com     
 TORRINGTON | TORRINGFORD | BURLINGTON | FALLSVILLAGE | GOSHEN | NEWHARTFORD

Equal Housing Lender | Member FDIC | NMLS#404919

**Don't let insurance scare you!**  
**Let our team help shed some light on the matter.**



*Auto & Home*

*Business Insurance*

*Life, Health & Long Term Care*

*Medicare Plans*

*Long Term Planning*



Call us at 1-800-448-4567 or stop by for a personal and professional insurance review.

Trusted Insurance Advisors Since 1839



*Brooks, Todd & McNeil*

www.BrooksToddMcNeil.com

69 Water Street  
 Torrington, CT 06790

155 Hazard Avenue, Suite 12  
 Enfield, CT 06083

855 Sullivan Avenue, Unit C  
 South Windsor, CT 06074

## Premier MEMBERS

Brandywine Living at Litchfield ▪ Chatterley's Banquet Facility ▪ Commercial Sewing, Inc.  
 Eversource Energy ▪ Keystone Place at Newbury Brook ▪ Litchfield Woods Health Care Center  
 United Construction & Engineering, Inc. ▪ Valerie Manor ▪ Webster Bank

### 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. Please drop everything in a heartbeat and call me with the name of a potential member. Special treat for you if they join!

“When the odds are sayin’ you’ll never win, that’s when the grin should start!” The best testimonials come from the enthusiastic members of the three Chamber Lead Groups. Positive results follow their suggestions so call us to join one of them.

“You’ve gotta have hope! Mustn’t sit around and mope.” Our lives have changed due to this challenging economy. However, there are opportunities, resources and new contacts available to you. Plan on participating in the Great Giveaway on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Lauren is waiting for your registration.

“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 2020 Legislative Agenda and will hand deliver it to Hartford at CT Business Day on March 4th. 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 Group, Workforce Investment, Chamber Insurance Trust and the new Chamber Seminar Series, 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

### CT CHAPTER OF THE APPRAISAL INSTITUTE

860-482-9992 • ai-ct.org  
 Jacqueline Beauchaine  
 P.O. Box 509 • Torrington  
 Non-Profit Organization

### FIX-ALL COMPANY

860-435-0207  
 Peter Becket  
 P.O. Box 589 • Lakeville  
 Type of Business: Handyman Services

### PFK O’CONNOR DAVIES, LLP

203-929-3535 • pfkod.com  
 Samantha Kijonka  
 4 Corporate Drive, Suite 488 • Shelton  
 Type of Business: Accountants

### WEST WIND REALTY LLC

860-878-7629 • westwindct.com  
 Diana Lepore  
 278 Spielman Highway • Burlington  
 Type of Business: Real Estate - Residential & Commercial



333 Kennedy Dr., Ste. R101, PO Box 59  
 Torrington, CT 06790  
 p 860.482.6586 • f 860-489-8851

**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.  
 pam@nwctchamberofcommerce.org  
**Sharon Kunay**, Receptionist • info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org

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

# 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



Northwest Connecticut  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Business. Growing Together  
SEMINAR SERIES

## MANAGING STRESS AND MULTI-TASKING

Working smarter and effectively managing time in today's ever-changing work environment is essential to an employee's success and continued growth. In a business climate of constant change, employee stress is a growing problem. Unmanaged stress in the workplace often leads to employee frustration, diminished commitment, and lower productivity.

"Managing Time and Stress" teaches participants how to safeguard against being overwhelmed by the changing priorities in today's business world. Participants learn how to effectively organize their daily priorities so productivity and adaptability accelerate. The program offers practical, workable guidelines for effective stress management and optimum results.

### TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE:

- Managing Time through Personality Awareness
- Planning and Prioritizing
- Urgency versus Importance
- Time Robbers
- Using Phone and e-mail Effectively
- Stress Signals
- Natural Responses to Stress

**WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 4TH**

8:15 Registration  
8:30-Noon Seminar

\$119 Chamber Members  
\$149 Non Members

At Northwest Connecticut  
Chamber of Commerce  
333 Kennedy Drive, Torrington

Presented by:



Learning Dynamics  
Investing in People™

Reservations are required.

RSVP online at  
nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar  
or call 860-482-6586

# OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE

~ 350 sq. ft. ~

Plenty of Parking

Centrally Located to Town & Courthouse Area



Call  
**(860) 485-6744**

*Coming Up At*  
**NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT'S CHAMBER**

**JOB FAIR**

Our 16<sup>th</sup> annual Job Fair will be held on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</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 [nwtchamberofcommerce.org/events-programs/job-fair/](http://nwtchamberofcommerce.org/events-programs/job-fair/) and email it to [Lauren@nwtchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:Lauren@nwtchamberofcommerce.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](http://ctjobs.com).



Join us at our morning roundtable discussion

**BUSINESS *with* BREAKFAST**  
*at* **THE CHAMBER**

Enjoy easy networking over a light breakfast. Each attendee will then give a 30-second “commercial” for their business.

**Tuesday, February 25, 8:00 a.m.**

Hosted by  Northwest Connecticut  
**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
*Business Working Together*

333 Kennedy Drive, Suite R101, Torrington

*RSVP online  
[nwtchamberof-commerce.org/calendar](http://nwtchamberof-commerce.org/calendar)*

**GREAT GIVEAWAY BUSINESS SHOWCASE**

This year’s highly anticipated Great Giveaway Business Showcase is filling up fast! The event will take place on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 4-7 PM at Chatterley’s Banquet Facility, 371 Pinewoods Road, Torrington.

Last year, the event drew hundreds of people throughout the evening. We also created a vendor only networking hour from 4-5 pm last year, which was a big hit, so it’s back again this year. Exhibitors will have the opportunity to network with other businesses in the room and enjoy some complimentary food before the event opens up to the public. 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@nwtchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:Lauren@nwtchamberofcommerce.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.



SEMINAR SERIES

## MANAGING A MULTI-GENERATIONAL WORKFORCE

Multi-generational work environments are commonplace today. In order to bring out the best in each generation, managers will need to adjust their management styles accordingly. This workshop focuses on the different work habits of each generation: Traditionalists, Baby Boomers, Gen X and Gen Y workers - and how management can effectively “mesh” those styles for optimum organizational success.

Customized case studies provide managers with challenging supervisory scenarios and allow for practical open discussions and applications.

### TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE:

- Understanding Generational Traits
- Avoiding Conflict
- Triangle of Motivation
- Leading a Multi-Generational Team
- Techniques for Engagement
- Theory X and Theory Y
- Attributes and Challenges of Each Generation

Presented by:



## TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11TH

8:15 Registration  
8:30-Noon Seminar

\$119 Chamber Members  
\$149 Non Members

At Northwest Connecticut  
Chamber of Commerce  
333 Kennedy Drive, Torrington

Reservations are required.  
RSVP online at  
[nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar](http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar)  
or call 860-482-6586

*Coming Up At*

## NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT'S CHAMBER

*Continued from page 5.*

### MANUFACTURERS' COALITION

The Manufacturers' Coalition will have their monthly meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> at Altek Electronics. The meeting is only open to manufacturers this month. Roger Dickinson, Aavid, Thermal Division of Boyd Corporation, will be the keynote speaker. The topic for the meeting is "Design for Manufacturing for Low Labor Content in a High Labor Rate Environment". Roger Dickinson was a founder of Torrington Research Company, serving as Chairman until its sale in 2006. Currently owned by Boyd Corporation, Torrington designs and manufactures motorized fans for high volume OEM applications. Mr. Dickinson continues to consult on the company's business development activities including marketing and creation of technical concepts.

The March meeting will be held on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 8 am and will be open to the full Coalition.

### SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION TRAINING

Connecticut's Time's Up Act Requires: employers to provide all existing employees with two hours of training by October 1, 2020, employers to provide two hours of training and education to new employees hired on or after October 1, 2019 within six months of their start date, employers to provide two hours of training and education to all existing supervisory employees by October 1, 2020 or within six months to new supervisory employees, employers to provide periodic training not less than every ten years.

The Chamber is now hosting Sexual Harassment Prevention Trainings to fulfill these requirements. The next available date is **March 10<sup>th</sup>** from 8-10 am. Limited space is available so reserve your space today.

This Sexual Harassment In the Workplace seminar will cover all aspects of the new statutory requirements for employers, including, information about what has changed, what new obligations exist for employers and where employers can find additional resources to ensure compliance. The presentation and discussion will also focus on understanding the spectrum of workplace conduct that constitutes sexual harassment, best practices in appropriately addressing sexual harassment and, in understanding the legal implications employers should be aware of when dealing with harassment issues in the workplace.

This seminar will satisfy Connecticut's two (2) hour sexual harassment training requirement and is being provided by Secor, Cassidy & McPartland, P.C. Only 40 spots available at each class. The cost is \$50/person to attend. Sign up your employees online at [nwctchamberofcommerce.org](http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org) or by calling the Chamber at 860-482-6586.

### FINANCIAL REALITY FAIR

We are still in need of more volunteers on April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7:30-noon for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Financial Reality Fair 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 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 purchased all the items necessary to live on their own, they 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.

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.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
*The Great Giveaway*  
**BUSINESS SHOWCASE**



**Wednesday, April 1st - 4 to 7 p.m.**

(4-5 p.m. Exhibitors Only Networking Reception)

at Chatterley's Banquet Facility, 371 Pinewoods Road, Torrington

GET IN FRONT OF **HUNDREDS** OF POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS!

THIS ONE NIGHT EVENT WILL BE HEAVILY PROMOTED IN ALL MEDIA!

DON'T MISS OUT!

MULTIPLE VENDOR **GIVEAWAYS** WILL CREATE EXCITEMENT AND DRAW TRAFFIC TO THE EVENT— AND TO YOUR BOOTH!

**EXHIBITOR NETWORKING RECEPTION**

**FREE FOOD & CASH BAR • FREE PARKING**

For questions, call the Chamber at 860-482-6586 or email [Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)



Chamber member Ski Sundown in New Hartford is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. In recognition of this very special milestone, State Senator Kevin Witkos recently presented a citation on behalf of the Connecticut General Assembly to Bob Switzgable, Owner and General Manager of Ski Sundown. We are lucky to have this gem in our corner of the state and congratulate Bob and his entire team on their 50 years of success!

The Chamber partnered with Northwestern Connecticut Community College on January 31st for a Legislative Breakfast featuring the majority of the legislative delegation representing Northwest Connecticut. Primary on the agenda was a discussion on Pledge to Advance Connecticut (PACT), Connecticut's free community college program. In addition to the legislators, CSCU President Mark Ojakian spoke to attendees.





## Corporate Partner SHOUT OUTS

### TORRINGTON SAVINGS BANK

Torrington Savings Bank recently announced the appointment of Lesa A. Vanotti as the institution's new President & COO. She is the 14<sup>th</sup> president in the Bank's 150 year history. The announcement came as part of a 9-month transition plan that will see John E. Janco, Sr., who has been President & CEO since 2014, retire as CEO as of September 30, 2020, with Vanotti becoming the President & CEO on October 1, 2020.

"After 46 years at Torrington Savings Bank, John Janco earned the utmost respect of our employees, Corporators, and Trustees; the residents of the greater Torrington area; and fellow bankers", stated Chip Booth, Chairman of TSB's Board of Trustees. "His integrity and work ethic are second to none. As CFO and President & CEO, John helped navigate the Bank through years of a tough rate environment, and the Bank remains strong and well capitalized. His daily presence and knowledge will be greatly missed after his retirement."

The Board of Trustees of Torrington Savings Bank began its search for a successor earlier this year upon the retirement decision by Mr. Janco. Booth noted, "after a comprehensive CEO search process, we are pleased our only internal candidate, Lesa Vanotti, rose to the top of the field. Her accounting background and her last six years as CFO helped groom her skills in many different areas of the Bank. As a seasoned Trustee, it is very gratifying to watch an employee grow and excel over the years..."

Vanotti, who most recently held the role of Senior VP, Treasurer & CFO, joined Torrington Savings Bank as an Accounting Assistant in 1996. During her tenure she's held titles of Accounting Officer, Assistant Treasurer, and VP & Controller. She is a graduate of Torrington High School and Post College and holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Connecticut.

Vanotti is a Torrington native who is active in the community. She currently serves as a Trustee of the Torrington Library and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors at Community Health & Wellness Center of Greater Torrington. She has served as a member of the St. Peter's School Board & Finance Committee, Asst. Treasurer of the United Way Board of Directors and Secretary & Treasurer of the Women & Girls Fund of Northwest Community Foundation. Lesa is a member of the Institute of Management Accountants and the Financial Manager's Society and is actively involved in the Connecticut Bankers Association School of Finance & Management. She currently resides in Torrington with her husband, Tom. They have two grown children, Justin and Morgan.



## Chamber Member NEWS

**A&A OFFICE SYSTEMS, INC.** *FREE Business Technology Assessment!* Do you fully understand the workflow going on in your office? We start by assessing your current situation through a Business Technology Assessment. A baseline of your current needs, usage, and the unique workflow of your office. From here, we can move forward in building an optimized solution that supports your company's goals and initiatives. Contact Jerry Poulin at 860-704-3616 or 203-598-6960 or via email at [jpoulin@ubeo.com](mailto:jpoulin@ubeo.com) to set up your free assessment today!

**COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER** Community Health and Wellness Center recently unveiled its new behavioral health group therapy room. The large, well-appointed room features padded chairs, artwork, incandescent lights, and plants displayed on window sills. It was especially designed for sessions conducted by CHWC's therapists, including relapse prevention, anxiety and depression, and managing insomnia groups, as well as a trauma, recovery and empowerment group for women.

**NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE** Northwestern Connecticut Community College (NCCC) will host Fresh Check Day - a concept created by The Jordan Porco Foundation and designed to bring the whole campus community together to "check-in" on the mental health and wellness of college students. NCCC's Fresh Check Day will take place on February 11th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Greenwood Hall Multipurpose Room will be transformed into an expo-like atmosphere to bring together interactive exhibits combined with food, prizes and giveaways. The booths will feature peer-to-peer messaging in a positive, community-focused setting. The event is free and has been organized by the Campus Assessment, Response and Evaluation (CARE) Team, Support and Resource Team (SART), Center for Student Development and Department of Student Activities with collaborating NCCC departments, student volunteers, and representatives from The Jordan Porco Foundation.

# 2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA Continued from Page 1.

## Healthcare

- CT hospitals and health systems are important community partners, generating more than 200,000 jobs and contributing over \$28 billion to the state and local economies each year. Safeguard their contributions by supporting measures that strengthen these vital organizations.
- Adopt policies and practices to assist recruitment and retention of skilled healthcare workers at all levels including primary care and behavioral health, CNAs and RNs to cover the current and projected shortage.
- Support community-based mental health services that address the growing demand for treatment, and in particular, measures that effectively counter the opioid crisis.

## Transportation

- Improve public transit options throughout Northwest CT to help low-income individuals access jobs and educational opportunities that exist beyond the limited bus routes.
- Recognize that tolls will impact the cost of doing business in CT; look for alternative ways of lowering costs to maintain highways.

---

## *What's Been Happening* AT THE CHAMBER

### LEADERSHIP NORTHWEST

The January 15<sup>th</sup> Leadership Northwest session focused on media and communications. The mission was to learn how to market their projects to the community through effective press releases, how to get stories covered, create 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. All groups are off to a great start and may be reaching out to local businesses in the upcoming months for support.

Deene Morris, Leadership Advisor and owner of Inspire Leadership LLC, taught the morning session on Assertive Communication, the 4 Types of Feedback and the Consequences of No Feedback.

The Republican-American hosted the class, along with Greater Waterbury'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, Wilbur Pike, Learning Dynamics, taught the class The Communication Loop and how their message is perceived by the receiver. The class also had the opportunity to learn more about public speaking and practiced public speaking and listening skills, as well as networking skills.

Thank you to our sponsor Torrington Savings Bank and to Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board for their support of the program.

### READ ALOUD

We are partnering with the Y Literacy Volunteers this year to put together the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Read Aloud Day on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> (snow date- Feb.13) at elementary schools around the region. A huge thank you to the Draper Foundation Fund, a fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, for sponsoring the program.

The program also would not be possible without the over 400 volunteers who will be reading to more than 7500 students in grades pre-k through 6. After attending a short orientation and reviewing the book, a student will escort the reader to the classroom for their Read Aloud experience. Each grade level will read the same book that was selected by a group of Library Media Specialists back in December. The books will be donated to the classroom library for the students to enjoy.

Throughout the 29 years of this program, the Northwest CT Chamber Education Foundation, with support from the program sponsors, has donated over 10,500 books to classroom libraries around the region.

This year, 28 schools will participate in Read Aloud Day. 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 (Forbes, Southwest, St. John Paul the Great Academy, Torrington, Vogel-Wetmore), Thomaston, Warren, Winsted (Batcheller, Pearson, St. Anthony).

Read Aloud is a partnership of the Northwest CT Chamber Education Foundation and Y Literacy Volunteers of Northwest CT, sponsored by the Draper Foundation Fund, a fund of the Northwest CT Community Foundation.

*Thanks to Our*

# RENEWING MEMBERS

The following Chamber members renewed their memberships during the period of December 21st through January 28th. Thank you for your continued commitment to Northwest Connecticut's Chamber of Commerce. Companies listed in bold, underlined capital letters signify a Corporate Partner. Companies listed in bold signify a Premier Member. Milestone anniversaries are indicated in parentheses.

- ◆ Adams, Samartino & Co., PC
- ◆ Aetna, Tracy Goulet (10 Years)
- ◆ All-Star Storage, LLC
- ◆ Andritz, Inc.
- ◆ **ASSURED PARTNERS**  
**NORTHEAST**
- ◆ Borla & Associates, Inc.
- ◆ Law Office of Debra A. Brown
- ◆ Bozzuto Associates
- ◆ Brooker Memorial
- ◆ **BROOKS, TODD & MCNEIL**  
**INSURANCE**
- ◆ CAL Business Solutions
- ◆ Gladys Cerruto
- ◆ CMHA Northwest Center for Family Services & Mental Health
- ◆ Colavecchio Design, Inc.
- ◆ Barry Cone's Heating & A/C, Inc.
- ◆ CONNSTEP, Inc.,  
a CBIA Affiliate
- ◆ Connecticut GI
- ◆ Connecticut Society of Santas
- ◆ Cramer & Anderson, LLP
- ◆ Doyle's Medical Supply, LLC
- ◆ The Law Offices of Robert F. Dwyer, Jr.
- ◆ **EASTSIDE ELECTRIC INC.**
- ◆ Duncan Ebersol
- ◆ EdAdvance
- ◆ Expert Rental
- ◆ Express Employment Professionals
- ◆ Hart Building & Roofing Supplies (35 Years)
- ◆ Hatfield & Co. Jewelers
- ◆ Howd, Lavieri & Finch
- ◆ Innovative Health Concepts
- ◆ Inspire Leadership, LLC
- ◆ Jaci Carroll Personnel Services
- ◆ Jacque Williams Entertainment
- ◆ Joyful Noise, Inc.
- ◆ King, King & Associates, CPAs,  
P.C.
- ◆ The Lakeville Journal Co.
- ◆ Lakeridge Association (35 Years)
- ◆ Lime Rock Park
- ◆ Litchfield County Promotions
- ◆ Mount Claire Water
- ◆ Mountainside Treatment Center
- ◆ Northwest Hills Credit Union
- ◆ Northwestern Connecticut Community College
- ◆ Northwestern Connecticut Transit District
- ◆ Northwestern Mutual, John Morris
- ◆ Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts (30 Years)
- ◆ **O&G INDUSTRIES, INC.**
- ◆ One Eleven Group
- ◆ Prime Time House, Inc.
- ◆ Print Master (30 Years)
- ◆ Quality Lawn, Inc.
- ◆ **REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN**  
**RESOURCE**  
**DEVELOPMENT**  
**ASSOCIATES, LLC**
- ◆ The Roberts Tax Group
- ◆ Root Center for Advanced Recovery
- ◆ The Rotary Club of Torrington & Winsted Areas (10 Years)
- ◆ Rowley Grill & Tap
- ◆ Sharon Health Care Center
- ◆ Stefano Food Products, Inc.
- ◆ TC Computer Consulting, LLC
- ◆ Tents Unlimited
- ◆ Theroux & Nowell, LLC
- ◆ Tom Hill Realty Investment LLC
- ◆ Torrington Dental Care (30 Years)
- ◆ **Torrington Downtown Partners**  
**(10 Years)**
- ◆ Torrington Historical Society, Inc.
- ◆ Torrington Housing Authority
- ◆ Torrington Library
- ◆ Torrington Lumber Company, Inc.
- ◆ Torrington Public Schools
- ◆ **TORRINGTON SAVINGS**  
**BANK**
- ◆ **UNION SAVINGS BANK**
- ◆ United Way of Northwest Connecticut
- ◆ Venetian Restaurant
- ◆ Vinny's Restaurant & Pizzeria
- ◆ West State Mechanical, Inc.
- ◆ Winsted Area Day Center
- ◆ The Workman





PRSRSTD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 90  
Torrington, CT

333 Kennedy Drive, P.O. Box 59  
Torrington, CT 06790-0059

## Corporate Partners

Altek Electronics, Inc.  
AssuredPartners Northeast  
AT&T  
BantamWesson Energy  
BD  
Borghesi Building & Engineering Co.  
Brooks, Todd & McNeil Insurance  
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital  
Conquest  
Cook Funeral Home  
Dymax Corporation  
Eastside Electric, Inc.  
FuelCell Energy, Inc.  
Litchfield Bancorp  
National Iron Bank  
Northwest Community Bank  
Nuvance Health - Sharon Hospital  
O&G Industries, Inc.  
The Register Citizen  
Republican-American  
Resource Development Associates  
TD Bank  
Thomaston Savings Bank  
Torrington Savings Bank  
Union Savings 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 2020

- 4th - **Small Business Council** Meeting, 8 AM
- 5th - **WOW! Forum Advisory Committee** Meeting, 8:30 AM
- 6th - **Membership Committee** Meeting, 8 AM
- 7th - **Manufacturers' Coalition** Meeting at Altek Electronics, Inc., 89 Commercial Boulevard, Torrington, 8 AM
- 11th - **"Managing a Multi-Generational Workforce"** Seminar, 8:15 a.m.
- 12th - **Read Aloud Day**
- 13th - **Government Relations & Health Council** Combined Meeting, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Memorial Conference Room, 540 Litchfield Street, Torrington, 8 AM
- 17th - **Chamber Closed** in Observance of Presidents' Day
- 19th - **Insurance Committee** Meeting, 8 AM  
**Leadership Northwest**
- 25th - **Business with Breakfast at the Chamber**, 8 AM
- 27th - **Board of Directors** Meeting, 8 AM

### MARCH 2020

- 3rd - **Small Business Council** Meeting, 8 AM
- 4th - **"Managing Stress & Multi-Tasking"** Seminar, 8:15 AM  
**Connecticut Business Day** at the State Capitol.
- 5th - **Membership Committee** Meeting, 8 AM
- 6th - **Manufacturers' Coalition** Meeting at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, 8 AM
- 10th - **Sexual Harassment Prevention Training**, 7:45 AM
- 12th - **Government Relations Committee** Meeting, 8 AM
- 18th - **WOW! Forum Advisory Committee** Meeting, 8:30 AM  
**Insurance Committee** Meeting, 8 AM  
**Business After Hours** at NCCC Draper Conference Center and co-sponsored by the NW CT Arts Council, Park Place East, Winsted, 5-7 PM
- 24th - **Business With Breakfast** at Brooker Memorial, 157 Litchfield Street, Torrington, 8 AM
- 26th - **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

- April 1st - **Great Giveaway Business Showcase** at Chatterley's Banquet Facility, 371 Pinewoods Road, Torrington - 5-7 PM
- April 6th - **Chamber Annual Meeting & Hall of Fame Luncheon** featuring guest speaker Governor Ned Lamont.