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# Annual Meeting

Chamber Hall of Fame Induction

*Please Join Us*

**Friday, April 1, 2022**

11:30 a.m.

Litchfield Inn, 432 Bantam Road, Litchfield

**Keynote Speaker**



**Terrence Cheng**  
*President, Connecticut State  
Colleges and Universities*

**Hall of Fame Inductees**



**Jade Athas**  
*Berkshire Hathaway  
Home Services*



**Kevin O'Connell**  
*Geer Village*

**Election of Directors**

Maura Malo, *Northwest Community Bank*  
 David Oliver, *Ebner Camps*  
 Rob Phillips, *Council of Elected Officials*  
 Ted Shafer, *Winsted Economic Development Director*  
 Greg Tonon, *Northwest Community Bank*

**Recognition of Retiring Board Members**

Antonio Ponte, Jr., *Thomaston Savings Bank*  
 Michael Rooke, *Northwestern CT Community College*

**Lunch Options:**

- Garlic and Thyme Chicken: Airline Breast, Citrus Chardonnay Reduction, Garlic Smashed Potatoes, Salted Green Beans (GF)
- Grilled Salmon: Jasmine Rice, Bean Succotash, Peach Mango Salsa (GF)
- Mushroom and Parmesan Polenta (Vegetarian): Braised Portobello Mushrooms, Root Vegetables, Parmesan Polenta

\$45 NW CT Chamber Members - \$60 Non-Members.  
 Please RSVP via email to [info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org).

**Please RSVP by March 25, 2022**

Questions or special dietary needs? Call 860-482-6586

**Sponsored By:**



*From the Desk of Our  
President & CEO*

**JOANN RYAN**



## Happy St. Patrick's Day

There are two sorts of individuals on the planet, the Irish and those who wish they were. In case you are sufficiently fortunate to be Irish, then you are sufficiently lucky. However, since everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day, it seems appropriate to share this Irish blessing with you: "May your contemplations be as happy as the shamrock. May your heart be as light as a melody. May every day bring you brilliant, upbeat hours that stay with you all year long."

We feel very fortunate to be surrounded not only by leprechauns but also by outstanding volunteers who go above and beyond in their efforts to promote economic growth and enhance the quality of life in Northwest Connecticut.

Please join us at our Annual Meeting for the induction of two outstanding individuals into the Chamber's Hall of Fame.

Jade Athas has been serving the community she calls home as a Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway. Lucky the day for us when she called the Chamber for information. She grew up in the Litchfield Hills and started her career in hospitality. She created "Community Connections", her passion project to help keep businesses and entrepreneurs at the top of our minds. She takes great pride in guiding her clients and has earned numerous national awards as a top producing agent.

There is no doubt that her Chamber involvement has helped us through some challenging times. Two years ago, Jade hand delivered over 100 gifts from the Wow Forum planned virtually due to the Pandemic. She serves on the Chamber's Board of Directors, is co-chair of the 18<sup>th</sup> WOW Forum, Chair of the Leads II Group and Co-Chair of the Chamber's Ambassador Committee. Jade lives in Burlington with her husband Brian and two boys, Wesley and Finley.

Thank goodness, Kevin O'Connell relocated back to Connecticut from the Midwest in 2010 and came to Geer with a broad range of experience in developing short-term rehab units for patients recovering from elective surgery. As a Healthcare administrator he is well prepared for the challenging regulatory and financial environment. His training as a Physical Therapist allows him clinical understanding that is unique among healthcare administrators. Kevin says, "Geer has a wonderful reputation and I am pleased to have the opportunity to add my experience to its strong team of caregivers."

Kevin is actively involved in many community groups, nonprofit organizations and events throughout the regions including Northwest Cares. The Chamber has also benefited from his leadership representing the far corners of the region's 21 towns. He has served as the liaison from the Canaan, Lakeville and Salisbury areas and is now the Chair of the Health Council and member of the Chamber's Board of Directors. Kevin lives in Winsted with his wife Karen.

You can be part of this event scheduled for Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 11:30am to 1:30pm at The Litchfield Inn. Terrence Cheng, the President of Connecticut State Colleges & Universities will be the Keynote Speaker. Please call us to register.

In the meantime, Happy St. Patrick's Day.

JoAnn Ryan is President & CEO of the NW CT Chamber of Commerce. You can reach her by email: [joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org) or phone: 860-482-6586.



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Torrington, CT 06790  
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**JoAnn Ryan**, President & CEO, [joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)

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

**Pamela LaRosa**, Director One-Stop Workforce Operations,  
[pam@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:pam@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)

**Sharon Kunay**, Administrative Assistant,  
[info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)

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*Member* NEWS**2022 LEGISLATIVE  
RECEPTION****MEET AND MINGLE WITH STATE AND LOCAL DELEGATION****THURSDAY, MARCH 17TH**

7:30-9:30 a.m.

Hosted by Northwestern CT Community College  
Draper Hall, Park Place East, Winsted*Including a special recognition of Senators  
Craig Miner and Kevin Witkos and State  
Representative David Wilson for their years  
of service and dedication to our region.***CLICK HERE TO RSVP.**Brought to you by Northwest Connecticut's Chamber  
of Commerce Government Relations Committee.**Litchfield Business Council**

We are pleased to announce that a group of Northwest Chamber Members have formed the Litchfield Business Council and will be offering activities and events in the Litchfield/Bantam area. Their inaugural event is going to be a Job Fair – set for May 15<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm at the Bantam Annex Gym, 80 Doyle Rd., Bantam.

Future endeavors include tackling the Holiday Passport, and topic-oriented business meetings held in the Litchfield area.

The Litchfield Business Council (LBC) is a subcommittee of the Northwest Chamber. The steering committee for this initiative is Christine Harding from Toast & Co., Lauren Mahieu from Ace Hardware, Sara Hughes from Silly Sprout, Lelah Campo from Cozy Hills Campground, and Peter Baker from Litchfield Distillery.

If any area members would like further information or to participate, please email [info@litchfieldBC.org](mailto:info@litchfieldBC.org). Note, a website will soon be live as well – [litchfieldBC.org](http://litchfieldBC.org). Stay tuned for additional information on their upcoming events!

## Member NEWS

### VIRTUAL MEETING:

### Cyber Security and Data Privacy Presented by Attorney General Tong

William Tong, Attorney General for the State of Connecticut, and the Office of the Attorney General are honored to join members of the Small Manufacturer's Association of Connecticut and the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce for a discussion on cybersecurity and data privacy on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM via Zoom. Register on our website to receive the Zoom link.

In recent years, a surge of cyber-based attacks and data privacy issues have affected all corners and all aspects of our society – and businesses large and small have found themselves facing enormous and unpredictable challenges.

Attorney General Tong and the Privacy Team of the Office of Attorney General are eager to join Association and Chamber members for a robust discussion of the Office's cybersecurity enforcement work, hear from businesses on the obstacles they face in navigating the complex legal and technological challenges in this area, and answer questions on how businesses can best prepare to deal with these types of attacks.

#### *Topics to be covered during the discussion:*

- Brief background on the AG
- The AG's work on cybersecurity both in CT and nationally via the National Association of Attorney's General
- Review of the cyber security and data privacy laws in Connecticut, specifically the two laws enacted last year
- Current statistics on cyber security attacks
- Current legal efforts by the AG's office in this area, with brief review of the different legal cases underway or recently addressed
- Roundtable discussion where businesses in the roundtable can share stories of what they are dealing with and their needs
- Q&A



William Tong is the 25<sup>th</sup> Attorney General to serve the State of Connecticut. Assuming office in January 2019, Tong is the first Asian American elected at the statewide level in Connecticut. His top priority is the protection of Connecticut families, residents, and consumers – translating his own experiences as the son of immigrants and small business owners into action against unscrupulous business practices, unfair prices and dishonest services, racism and hate, and dangerous threats to our cherished democratic elections.

Since taking office, Attorney General Tong has become a national leader in the fight against the opioid crisis; he has championed strong legal actions against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and other bad actors that have created and fueled this crisis – most notably the Sackler family and Purdue Pharma, makers of Oxycontin. Tong has also become a national leader on anti-trust enforcement, pursuing strong actions against large corporations in the pharmaceutical and technology sectors that have abused their positions to put profits ahead of consumers.

Prior to his service as Attorney General, William Tong worked as a litigator with private firms for 18 years before being elected as a State Representative in the Connecticut General Assembly – a seat he held for 12 years and in which he was the chairman of the Judiciary and Banking Committees. Attorney General Tong resides in Stamford with his wife, Elizabeth, and their three children (and way too many pets).

**You Don't Want To Miss This!**

## Corporate PARTNERS



### **Media Alert:**

#### **Hartford HealthCare Torrington Vaccine Clinic and Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Visitor Hours**

**Effective Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

#### **Charlotte Hungerford Hospital**

540 Litchfield Street, Torrington

Visitors allowed **daily 10am to 8pm** (*must be 16 or older*)

2 designated visitors per patient (including Inpatient floors, ICU, Emergency Department)

For Labor and Delivery (third floor), 2 designated support people allowed during Labor and delivery and 2 designated visitors during regular visiting hours post-partum.

#### **HHC Vaccine Clinic**

Coe Park Civic Center  
101 Litchfield Street, Torrington

Saturdays, 9am-1pm

Walk-ins are welcome. Online pre-registration is preferred at [www.mychartplus.org](http://www.mychartplus.org) to schedule an appointment.

#### **CONTACT:**

Tim LeBouthillier  
860-496-6544

# Chamber NEWS

18th Annual



Brought to you by:



## TUESDAY, MARCH 29 10:00 AM– 2:00 PM

Sponsored by  
a grant from



**CITY HALL AUDITORIUM (2ND FL)  
140 MAIN STREET, TORRINGTON**

## JOB SEEKERS

The Job Fair is **FREE** for attendees and open to the public

Hundreds of job openings in a wide range of industries

Bring multiple copies of your resume and dress for success!

Visit [nwctchamberofcommerce.org](http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org) for a full list of participating employers



Media Partners:



## BUSINESSES

All industries and businesses welcome!  
FREE for companies looking to hire!  
Includes table and lunch for employers

To reserve a table, email  
[Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)

News and **NOTES**



Northwestern CT Community College is proud to announce a new, never-before offered



## ADVANCED MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM.

**FREE**  
for businesses that Qualify!  
(Tuition paid/reimbursed)

Contact Gary Carra at [gcarra@nwcc.edu](mailto:gcarra@nwcc.edu) or 860.253.3128 for more information.

This program can provide employees 100 hours towards a certified apprenticeship!

Over 100 hours of ONLINE training starting this **SPRING, 2022!**  
One day a week for two semesters/total program is less than one year in duration!  
No classes over holidays and winter or summer.



**TOPICS INCLUDE:**

- SHOP MATH
- OVERVIEW OF BLUEPRINT
- GEOMETRIC DIMENSIONING & TOLERANCING
- OVERVIEW OF MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE
- OVERVIEW OF INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE

Certificate issued by Northwestern CT Community College through the CT College of Technology

Time to invest in your most important asset - your employees! Upskill your workforce with Northwestern Connecticut Community College's **100 Hour ADVANCED MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS CERTIFICATE**. But hurry - only 20 spots available in this new cohort.

**CLASS IS FILLING UP FAST!**

News and **NOTES**



Please join us as we launch the rebranding of  
**NW Connecticut Human Resources Association**  
Come see what we have to offer!

We will be hosting a Mixer @ Litchfield Distillery  
Thursday, March 10, 2022, 6:00 PM—7:30 PM  
569 Bantam Road  
Litchfield, CT 06759

Light Refreshments will be served  
Take a tour of Litchfield Distillery

The FREE event is limited to 50 people  
Please register by March 5th @ [Register Here](#)

**New Exciting Topics for 2022**  
**New Mixers throughout Litchfield County**  
**Meet New Colleagues**



For more Information  
Nancy Latour  
203-339-2219  
nwcthra@outlook.com





## Member NEWS

### Outsourcing: an option available through LARC's Vocational Program

Current events have transformed what before 2022 was merely a typical challenge for local manufacturers seeking to hire enough people, into a dilemma that for some is mission critical.

If you are a company looking for creative ways to meet production needs, The Arc of Litchfield County, Inc. (LARC) offers a solution through its Vocational Program: Outsourcing.

When you outsource your manufacturing needs, your company's resources can then be redirected to your core operations. Some benefits to consider:

**Dependability:** Work is performed off-site (or on-site if you prefer) by workers supervised by trained management staff.

**Reliability:** We strive to meet your deadlines with timely pick-ups and deliveries.

**Cost advantages:** The option of only paying for what is produced. We provide fixed pricing on assembly, packaging, inspection and most other jobs so you know up front what your costs will be. We are fully insured.

**Quality Control:** We understand zero defect and work to meet or exceed your quality control standards. LARC provides training needed to the individuals performing the work. All work undergoes inspection by skilled staff prior to delivery.

**Experience:** LARC's Vocational Program has been assisting businesses throughout Litchfield County for 50 years through direct hire, on-site group support and outsourced work. We modify our processes and procedures to meet your specific product requirements, and match workers' experience and strengths to individual projects.

**What companies are saying:** *Steve Furth, Illinois Tool Works (ITW):* "The automotive parts we manufacture require zero defect. LARC has been able to maintain the quality we need in the timeframes required."

*Michael Clarke, American Collars & Couplings:* "Partnering with LARC provides us with a cost-effective and flexible way to expand our workforce. We will continue to use LARC's services to meet our business needs."

**For more details:** To arrange a meeting at your site, contact Debra Aleksinas, Assistant Worksite Manager, at (860) 496-0063, Ext. 308 ([daleksinas@litchfieldarc.org](mailto:daleksinas@litchfieldarc.org)) or David Chamberlain, Community Worksite Coordinator, at (860) 496-0063, Ext. 013 ([dchamberlain@litchfieldarc.org](mailto:dchamberlain@litchfieldarc.org)).

## Leadership Northwest

The February Leadership Northwest session focused on human resources and workplace violence. The mission was to learn more about the human resource side of leadership in business. Being an effective leader starts with understanding your employees and their individual needs.

The class started with group project work and each group presented their project idea to the class advisors for feedback and suggestions. The groups have been meeting virtually every week and their final project ideas and timelines are due at the March session. So far, three groups are focusing on adolescent mental health, and the fourth group is working on a park revitalization project.

Beth Dupont, Human Resources and EEO Officer at O&G Industries presented information to the group regarding hiring, interviewing, employee reviews, diversity, and generation gap.

Michael Emanuel, Jr., Professor and Program Coordinator of the Criminal Justice Department at Northwestern CT Community College gave a presentation on workplace violence. Michael taught the class about active shooter scenarios and ALICE Training.

The March session will focus on arts, culture, and education in the region.

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

Thank you



### **BASIC EDITING SMARTPHONE AND TABLET PHOTOGRAPHY**

Instructor: Thaddeus B. Kubis returns to Litchfield Community Center on Saturday, Mar 19, 2022 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm for his Basic Editing Smartphone and Tablet Photography. Using your in device editing tools this 2-hour session will introduce the various editing options and we will edit a few images live. The use of filters, tonal range, contrast, cropping and geometry and much will be reviewed, and explained. Get ready to work your images in post-production in a new way, with exciting results.. Mr. Kubis will be conducting a total of 4 Smartphone/Tablet Photography classes. Check our website for all the details.

### **BODY SCRUB MAKING EVENT FOR SENIORS**

Join us to fight lingering winter dehydration inside and out! Create moisturizing body scrub and learn how to increase your water intake with gourmet infused water recipes. Join us at Litchfield Community Center on Tuesday March 22, 2022 at 11:00am for this free and fun workshop. Sponsored by Candlewood Valley Health and Rehab Center.

### **JEFFREY ENGEL: OPERA TALK / ARIADNE AUF NAXOS**

Jeffrey Engel returns to Litchfield Community Center on Thursday March 10, 2022 for another in his Opera Talk Series, this time: Ariadne Auf Naxos. Since 1608 Ariadne has been a favorite operatic subject. Monteverdi, Handel, Dukas and Milhaud are but a few who were attracted by her story. The most successful version is by Richard Strauss. It features one of the longest and most difficult arias ever written, a true tour de force for coloratura soprano. The lecture begins at 1:00pm and costs \$5.00 pp. Pre-registration and pre-payment required by visiting [www.thecommunitycenter.org](http://www.thecommunitycenter.org).

### **NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDENS DAYTRIP Orchids Galore!**

Escape to the country's premier orchid exhibition on Wednesday March 23, 2022 with a daytrip to New York Botanical Gardens. The popular orchid exhibition returns for its 18th year with The Orchid Show: Jeff Leatham's Kaleidoscope. Thousands of orchids are on dramatic display in dazzling creations by floral designer to the stars Jeff Leatham. NYBG requirement: Valid proof of a full COVID-19 vaccine regimen for entry to indoor exhibition spaces and facilities, NYBG Shop, and dining venues. 8:30 a.m. Departure on LCC Van / 10:00 a.m. guided exhibition tour & time to explore / 12:30 p.m. group will then venture to Arthur Avenue for lunch on your own and time to stroll and enjoy / 2:30 p.m. depart for return trip to Litchfield. Cost is \$65.00 pp, includes: transportation, garden admission & guided tour of orchid exhibit. (limited to 12 passengers) Pre-registration and pre-payment required by visiting [www.thecommunitycenter.org](http://www.thecommunitycenter.org)

### **CT CRAFT BEER FEST DAYTRIP**

March 26, 2022 - Daytrip for Brew Lovers! \*60+ CT Breweries \* Food Trucks \* 20+ Vendors \* Live Music\* Per Fest Organizers: Attendees will be required to show ID & Proof of Vaccine/72 hour Negative Test. Transportation provided by Litchfield Community Center Van to Toyota Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford. Depart LCC 11:30 am/ Enjoy Beer Fest 1 - 4 p.m./Arrive back LCC 5:30 p.m./Limited to 12 passengers/Ages 21 & older/Designated Van Driver to Provide Safe Ride. Pre-registration and pre-payment required by visiting [www.thecommunitycenter.org](http://www.thecommunitycenter.org)

### **COMEDY NIGHT WITH MICHAEL PETIT**

Join us on Friday April 8, 2022 for Comedy Night with Michael Petit. Michael's show will be clean, funny, and loaded with impressions! Michael has opened for Joan Rivers in Las Vegas, has appeared on Comedy Central, ESPN and NESN with some of TV's biggest names. Michael's trademark impressions are hilarious and infectious. Doors open at 7:30p, laughs begin at 8:00p. Cost is \$15.00 in advance / \$20 at the door. This event is 18+ only. Bring your own food & beverage. Pre-registration is required by visiting [www.thecommunitycenter.org](http://www.thecommunitycenter.org)

*News and* **NOTES**

CHORUS ANGELICUS

**Clean Out Your Closets and Cupboards for Chorus Angelicus!****Clean For A Cause!**

Chorus Angelicus is going to Ireland in 2023! We are raising funds to lower the cost of the trip for our choristers. Our choristers will explore important historic sites, perform in historic cathedrals, discover a diversity and heritage of a different culture, and return home with a newfound global perspective. This trip will be an unforgettable educational experience!

**WE ARE COLLECTING:**

**Clothes:** men's, women's, and children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, ties, belts, backpacks, etc.

**Household Textiles:** bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linens, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc.

**Small Household Goods:** kitchen items (such as pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, serving pieces and hand-held appliances), home decorative items, knick-knacks, toys, games, and small electronics.

**NO BOOKS or DVDS/CDS**

Please use bags for clothes and textiles and tightly packed boxes for small household goods. All items must be clean and in sellable condition.

**OUR GOAL: \$500** (20cents per lb)  
139 Tall Kitchen Bags and Large Yard Bags  
38 Medium Boxes (household goods)

**Drop Off Location:** Trinity Episcopal Church, 220 Prospect Street, Torrington, CT 06790

**Drop Off Dates:**

Saturday, March 19, 1:30-3:30pm Trinity Episcopal Church, 220 Prospect St., Torrington, CT 06790  
Monday, March 21 Rehearsal Drop Off 5-6:30  
Thursday March 24 Rehearsal Drop Off 5-6:30  
Saturday, March 26, 8:30-9am

*Tax receipt available upon request*

*News and* **NOTES**

**Hartford HealthCare/Charlotte Hungerford Hospital presents  
the Stage @ the Warner production of  
BUG by Tracy Letts  
in the Studio Theatre April 9-24, 2022**

Torrington, CT - The *Stage @ the Warner* 2022 Season kicks off with the psychological thriller, *BUG* by Tracy Letts, presented in the Nancy Marine Studio Theatre, April 9-24, 2022. The cast features Amanda Friedman, Josh Newey, Rae Janeil Sutherland, Daniel R. Willey and Lauren Jacob!

Set in a seedy Oklahoma City motel room, the play centers on the meeting between Agnes, a divorced waitress with a fondness for cocaine and isolation, and Peter, a soft-spoken Gulf War drifter introduced to her by her lesbian friend, R.C. Agnes stays at a hotel in hopes of avoiding her physically abusive ex-husband, Jerry, who was just released from prison.

At first, she lets Peter sleep platonically on her floor, but it's not long after she promotes him to the bed. Matters become more complicated as Jerry eagerly returns to the woman he loves to beat her up, expecting to resume their relationship. On top of that, there's a hidden bug infestation problem that has both Agnes and Peter dealing with scathing welts and festering sores - which has Peter believing this is the result of experiments conducted on him during his stay at an army hospital. Their fears soon escalate to paranoia, conspiracy theories and twisted psychological motives.

*"...obscenely exciting...top-flight craftsmanship. Buckle up and brace yourself..."* - NY Times. *"...[a] thoroughly outrageous and thoroughly entertaining play...the possibility of enemies, real and imagined, to squash has never been more theatrical."* - Associated Press. *"...a wonderfully lurid new thriller..."* - Star-Ledger. *"...a riveting thriller of paranoia and an instant guilty pleasure."* - Hollywood Reporter.

Performances are April 9, 15, 16, 22 & 23, 2022 at 8:00 pm and April 10 & 24, 2022 at 2:00 pm. The *Stage @ the Warner* production of *BUG* is co-directed by Katherine Ray and Keith Paul.

For tickets, visit [warnertheatre.org](http://warnertheatre.org) or call the Box Office at 860-489-7180.

*This production contains adult content including violence, drug use, profanity and sex and is not suitable for all audiences.*

*The Stage @ the Warner presenting sponsor is Hartford HealthCare/Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. The Studio Theatre Series sponsor is Northwest Community Bank.*



### **MOVIE MONDAYS**

Enjoy a movie every Monday at The Litchfield Community Center at 1:00pm.

**March 14: Tick, Tick...Boom**  
**March 21: The Lost Daughter**  
**March 28: Don't Look Up**

## Member NEWS



## Northwest Startup Presents a Small Business Seminar *6 Steps to Sustainable Growth*

The Entrepreneurial Center at Northwestern Connecticut Community College is pleased to announce its next Small Business Seminar: *6 Steps to Sustainable Growth*. The event, presented by Northwest Startup in partnership with The Norfolk Hub, Northwest Hills Council of Governments (COG), and SCORE, will take place on March 30, 2022, from 5:30pm -8:30pm at the Norfolk Hub - 2 Station Place, Norfolk, CT 06058.

This seminar will help small businesses that are experiencing either rapid growth or slowing growth after Covid-19, by helping entrepreneurs develop a fresh perspective on their business growth strategy.

Attendees will gain tools to help master their time, define their market, differentiate their business from competitors, adjust sales pipelines for better value, increase productivity, and find employees to help fuel growth. In addition to learning methodologies, a robust group Q&A will afford small business owners and entrepreneurs the chance to address their most significant business challenges with the instructor and their peer group.

The Seminar will be taught by David Olchowski, a small business mentor with 15 plus years of experience in executive leadership roles, where he helped businesses mentor their talent, build great teams, and deliver bottom-line results.

For more information, or to register to attend this free Small Business Seminar by Northwest Startup, please contact John Fiorello, Entrepreneurial Center Director, at 860-738-6444 or online at [www.nwcc.edu/sbs](http://www.nwcc.edu/sbs).

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## News and NOTES

*Thank you* to SBA for recognizing **Women's History Month**



***SBA provides free, to low-cost counseling and training for women who want to start, grow, and expand their small business.***

- ◆ SBA helps women entrepreneurs launch new businesses and compete in the federal marketplace.
- ◆ Get training and learn about funding opportunities specifically for women, elevate your small business.
- ◆ SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) federal contracting program helps women-owned small businesses compete for federal contracts.
- ◆ Learn how to start or grow your business with online training using DreamBuilder. DreamBuilder introduces participants to all areas of business ownership through a carefully crafted and engaging curriculum, featured in English and Spanish.

### **Upcoming Events**

- March 17 - Ways to Fund Your Business
- March 28 - 30 Women's Business Summit
- March 30 - POWER LUNCH w/ Connecticut's Women Business Centers

SBA Connecticut District Office  
 Phone: (860) 240-4700  
[www.sba.gov/ct](http://www.sba.gov/ct)

## Chamber NEWS

Greetings Everyone!

For those of you who haven't met me, I'm Sharon Kunay, the new Administrative Assistant at our wonderful Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce. I am absolutely thrilled to be working for this fine organization.

Previously, I had worked as a Marketing & Technical Support Rep, Computer Programmer/Analyst, Office Coordinator, and Elder Care Provider as I cared for my elderly mom. After she passed, it was time to re-enter the workforce. Dealing with grief and exhaustion made that even more challenging.

I began to rethink my volunteer skills from becoming a craft fair coordinator to helping launch an annual music festival and serving on 3 planning committees. These experiences have allowed me to develop my MS Office skills as well as sharpen my event promotion and interviewing skills. However, even with all of my talent and expertise, including my quality management training, I still found it challenging to find the right job.

Then I learned about the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), aka Title-V, that provides part-time training through a host agency while paying a stipend for the hours trained, to better equip and make the participant job-ready.

When I learned that our local Chamber was looking for an assistant, I jumped at the opportunity. The interview went well and JoAnn Ryan wanted to know how soon I could start. I felt like I had hit the jackpot. What better place to receive training where the potential for job opportunities was tremendous!

My training started on the day after Memorial Day, May 28, 2019. As I began to learn more about what our Chamber does and how we support our members, I began to wonder why more businesses were not taking the opportunity to join us. Also, I had come to realize that I loved the variety of tasks and learning opportunities that the Chamber provided for me. I love meeting people and connecting them with resources. My training position was becoming my dream job.

You're hired! 😊



Next, JoAnn and I starting discussing employment possibilities, I gave her a copy of my resume, and as of Wednesday, February 2, 2022, I am officially an employee of the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce. I am so excited and beyond grateful for this opportunity.

Thank you to JoAnn Ryan for providing this opportunity and believing in me. Thank you to the Chamber Board of Directors for accepting me. Thank you to JoAnn Ryan, Lauren Zordan, Anita Rosa, Pam LaRosa, and Norma Jean Sweet-Loverin for the time you spent training me. And, thank you to all of our members, Premier Members, and Corporate Partners who allow our Chamber to exist. I am forever grateful and I'm looking forward to a bright future at the Chamber.

I love you all and I hope & pray for abundant success & prosperity for all of our members.

With Abundant Gratitude,

*Sharon Kunay*

Thank You



## *Upcoming* **CHAMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS**

Mar. 1- Small Business Council - 8 AM  
Mar. 2- WOW Advisory Committee - 9 AM  
Mar. 3- Membership Committee - 8 AM  
Mar. 8- Leads IV - 8 AM  
Mar. 8- Cyber Security and Data Privacy,  
Presented by Attorney General Tong - 8 AM  
Mar. 9- Leads II - 8:30 AM  
Mar. 10- Government Relations Committee - 8 AM  
Mar. 10- Leads III - 12 PM

Mar. 14- Leads I - 12 PM  
Mar. 16- Health Council - 8 AM  
Mar. 16- Leadership Northwest- 8:30 AM-12 PM  
Mar. 17- Legislative Reception, NCCC Draper Hall- 7:30 AM  
Mar. 23- Business with Breakfast, Hosted by  
YARDwork Co-Working, Litchfield - 8 AM  
Mar. 24- Board of Directors Meeting- 8 AM  
Mar. 28- Leads I - 12 PM  
Mar. 29- Job Fair at City Hall in Torrington- 10 AM-2 PM

### *Save the Date*

**April 1 - Annual Meeting & Chamber Hall of Fame, Litchfield Inn - 11:30 AM**

## *Premier* **MEMBERS**

Brandywine Living at Litchfield  
Commercial Sewing, Inc.  
Cook Funeral Home  
Eversource Energy  
Keystone Place at Newbury Brook  
Litchfield Woods Health Care Center  
Seitz, LLC  
Systems Support Group  
T&M Building Company, Inc.  
and Torrington Downtown Partners  
UCE Fine Builders  
Valerie Manor  
Webster Bank