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## ECONOMIC SUMMIT

**Friday, November 17, 2023**

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

\$40 per person

*Five Points Art Center*

*855 University Drive, Torrington  
Includes continental breakfast*

*Special Guest Speaker*

**Expert Demographer & Futurist**

**Kenneth W. Gronbach**

*KGC Direct, LLC*



*Topic: How To Profit From The Coming Demographic Storm*

Premier Sponsor:



**Click [HERE](#) to Register**

Don't miss this remarkable presentation!

*From the Desk of Our  
President & CEO*

**JOANN RYAN**



## It's Tradition...

We are about to enter that special time of year filled with tradition. In fact, as I write this, I am humming the tune, Tradition, from Fiddler On The Roof. You probably remember Tevye, the dairyman living in the small village of Anatevka, Russia in 1905. He insisted that without tradition, the lives of the villagers would be “as shaky as a fiddler on the roof.”

For us at the Chamber, I hope that we are not shaky. We think about family, community, holiday and craft fairs, shopping, decorating, contributing to toy and food drives, supporting our local business and preparing for the hectic but exciting days ahead.

Throughout it all, tradition is especially meaningful. I cannot imagine the Chamber without its annual gathering to honor our members. I cannot imagine a year going by without recognition of our legislative delegation. I cannot imagine not collecting toys, books and canned goods to be distributed throughout our region.

I cannot imagine these “time-honored set of practices” (The Concise American Heritage Dictionary). I cannot imagine not rising to the occasion to help those in need. We continue, with the help of our friends, to respect these cherished customs and to establish new ones.

Thank you for becoming a part of this tradition. We're not shaky as Tevye suggested, just shaking with anticipation. Watch for upcoming events and initiatives. The best is yet to be and you are an integral part of it!



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[nwctchamberofcommerce.org](http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org)  
Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/nwctchamber](https://facebook.com/nwctchamber)



# Community Partners Working Together



From Left: Jessica Gueniat, John Capobianco, Fred Rosa

John Capobianco, Senior VP Northwest Region and Fred Rosa, EMS Director Northwest Region recently presented an automated external defibrillator (AED) to Jessica Gueniat, Torrington Library Director.

“Charlotte Hungerford Hospital is pleased to donate an AED to the Torrington Library,” said Capobianco. “Throughout the pandemic and beyond, the library has been a valuable resource for disseminating information to the public and also for supporting significant outreach to our homeless population. We are grateful for their service to others and for partnering with us to make our community a healthier place to live, work and play.”

Where Is Your  
Business Going?  
We'll Help You Get There.



Visit us online, contact a  
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Chamber Member **IN THE SPOTLIGHT**



# Hope & Honey Giving Boutique



Our sweet little gift & bookshop is all about giving back & serving our community!

Our gently-loved books are funding awareness & aiding support to women who have been rescued out of trafficking. In addition, we sell a variety of handmade, fair trade & local items. Offering unique and one of a kind items to everything from clothing to jewelry to tote bags!

It is very important to us to be as eco-friendly as possible, therefore, we have curated a collection of local crafters & artists...making everything from onesies to candles, to raw honey & teas. We even have our own branded fair trade organic coffee for sale! We hope you'll stop in soon to cozy up with a good book in charming Litchfield center!

Open 6 days a week!

Located at 3 West Street (below At the Corner!) in Litchfield

**15% Off for Chamber Members**

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hopeandhoneyboutique>

## Testimonials



★★★★★  
**Member Testimonial**

“The Chamber is a wonderful source of information, offering businesses so many different resources, and I am very appreciative of the responsiveness of your office to any inquiries or requests whenever I have called.”

*Yvonne Gilyard Reynolds  
Merritt Clarke's Store  
Bantam*



★★★★★



**Member Testimonial**

“In my 30 years of working with various organizations throughout Connecticut I am the most impressed with the way the Northwest Chamber brings people and businesses together. The staff is professional and always willing to help. Your connection to the community inspires folks to get involved. I look forward to being a member for years to come.”

*Bob Twombly | Account Executive  
Brooks, Todd & McNeil Insurance*



*Member* NEWS

# Facility Usage

Our Chamber office has rooms available for private meetings. Available space includes a conference room, library, and reception area.

- Our Conference Room seats up to 28 people in the usual Rectangle Configuration, and 20-25 people in the Classroom Configuration.
- Our Library seats up to 6 people at a round table.
- Our Reception Area seats up to 8 people.

**Member Room Rates:**

8 am – 5 pm, \$35 for the 1<sup>st</sup> hour, \$20 per hour thereafter  
5 pm – 10 pm, \$45 for the 1<sup>st</sup> hour, \$35 per hour thereafter

**Non Member Room Rates:**

8 am – 5 pm, \$80 for the 1<sup>st</sup> hour, \$55 per hour thereafter  
5 pm – 10 pm, \$125 for the 1<sup>st</sup> hour, \$100 per hour thereafter

Projector, Whiteboard, and Flipchart are available at no extra charge

*Corporate Partners of the Chamber may utilize the space at no charge.*

*Premier Members of the Chamber may utilize the space at half price.*

Click [HERE](#) to see the photos

To reserve a space, contact Sharon Kunay at 860-482-6586 or at [info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)

**NORTHWEST STARTUP  
HAPPY HOUR**

*A place for entrepreneurs  
and the like*

**CONNECT - RELAX  
NETWORK - REFRESH**  
*1st Wednesday each month*

5-7PM | SALT 2.0 | 84 MAIN STREET | TORRINGTON

Contact John Fiorello for Details  
**860-738-6444**

<https://www.nwcc.edu/entrepreneurial-center-northwest-connecticut/>

## Premier MEMBERS

Brandywine Living at Litchfield

Commercial Sewing, Inc.

Cook Funeral Home

Eversource Energy

Keystone Place at Newbury Brook

Seitz, LLC

Senior Advocate Services

T&M Building Company, Inc.

and Torrington Downtown Partners

UCE Fine Builders

Webster Bank

## Welcome New Members

Paychex

[www.paychex.com](http://www.paychex.com)

Therapeue At-Home Massage

[www.therapeue.com](http://www.therapeue.com)

Travis Lipinski Realtor Licensed in CT

<https://raveislifestyles.com/realestate/agent/travis-lipinski/>

## We Are On Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/NWCTChamber>

<https://www.instagram.com/nwctchamber/>

# Member NEWS



## SUPPORTING YOUR GREATEST RESOURCE: YOUR TEAM.

*HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF YOUR STAFF.*

Join us for an extensive exploration of mental health within the workplace, featuring indispensable guidance for employers.

**November 8, 2023**  
**8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**  
*(Free breakfast is included.)*

Northwest Chamber of Commerce  
 59 Field Street, Suite 120, Torrington



### You'll learn:

- How to identify mental health needs in the workplace.
- How to speak to colleagues about mental health and the available company resources.
- About the do's and don'ts of ADA and Wellness Laws.
- HIPAA myth busting: finding the right resources for your employees.

### You'll hear from:



**Eric Thompson**  
 Founder  
 BlueBack Health



**Maria Coutant Skinner, LCSW**  
 President & CEO  
 McCall Behavioral Health Network



**Jennifer Fournier, JD**  
 Principal  
 Racebrook Consulting



**Nick Zaino**  
 Partner at Carmody  
 Torrance Sandak &  
 Hennessey LLP

### Register today:

Visit the Northwest Chamber of Commerce Event Calendar to register!

[nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar/](http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar/)

**Questions? Contact Marisa Mittelstaedt at  
 marisa.mittelstaedt@mccallbhn.org or 860.496.2100.**



Member **NEWS****SMALL BUSINESS SEMINAR****Marketing Tools & Techniques**by **Lance Leifert****A NWCC Entrepreneurial Center Event**

In this small business seminar, you'll learn the tools and techniques you'll need to launch a successful marketing campaign for your small business or startup. Learn how to understand your customer, identify their communication channels, and reach them with compelling stories that demonstrate you can help them achieve their potential!

This seminar will be taught by Lance Leifert, CEO of Conquest, a creative marketing technology company based in Avon, CT. Lance works with small, medium, and large businesses to help them understand the ever-changing world of social media marketing, develop creative initiatives, and help those businesses get noticed and grow their sales.



**Tuesday**  
**Nov. 14th**  
**5:30 to 8:30 pm**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED ☀

TO REGISTER, VISIT [www.nwcc.edu/sbs](http://www.nwcc.edu/sbs) ☀

MAX 15 PARTICIPANTS ☀

FREE IN-PERSON EVENT ☀

@ The Norfolk Hub: 2 station place, Norfolk CT

event in partnership with

Berkshire Taconic  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

For more information and to register  
[nwcc.edu/sbs](http://nwcc.edu/sbs)

## Northwestern Offers CNA Training

CT State Community College Northwestern will offer Certified Nurses Aide (CNA) training November 21 through January 9, 2024. Classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays for clinicals and labs, with additional lectures online.

Under the direction of a licensed nurse, CNAs provide basic care and assist patients with activities of daily living such as bathing and dressing, feeding, and monitoring of health status. Students will be trained in a state-of-the-art allied health skills lab, take lectures online, and practice their clinical skills in a long-term care setting.

The course fee is \$1,999 and includes textbooks, liability insurance, state examination and registry fee. Students must purchase a uniform and a watch. The program is free to SNAP recipients and scholarships may be available through Career ConneCT. This course is offered in the Spring, Summer, and Fall semesters.

To register, or for more information, contact Cheryl Conaty, RN at [cconaty@tunxis.edu](mailto:cconaty@tunxis.edu) or 860-773-1453.



### JEWELRY MAKING & WIRE WRAPPING CLASS

Join us for a THREE SESSION Jewelry Making Class at Litchfield Community Center starting November 6th! No experience necessary and all levels welcome. Monday, November 6th, 13th and 20th, 2023 from 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm. All supplies and materials are included. 3 sessions: \$45 pp. Pre-registration required/spots are limited! Visit [www.thecommunitycenter.org](http://www.thecommunitycenter.org)

### SENIORS' PHOTOGRAPHY WALK AT WHITE MEMORIAL

Join Professional Photographer and Instructor, Thad Kubis with Martin Connor from Litchfield Community Center "Berkshire Seniors Photography Group" on one of their unique location walks, right here in Litchfield White Memorial for a Photography Walk for Seniors on Wed. Nov. 8 from 9:45am - 12:15pm. Cost is free / Pre-registration encouraged by visiting [www.thecommunitycenter.org](http://www.thecommunitycenter.org)

### LIVE, LEARN, LUNCH: THANKSGIVING MYTH

Join Education Director Darlene Kascak from the Institute for American Indian Studies, Schaghticoke Tribal Nation at Litchfield Community Center on Wednesday, Nov 8, 2023 from 12:00 pm - 1:45 pm for a discussion about the myths and misconceptions surrounding this holiday, as well as the complex history surrounding this event. This event is Free. Donations Welcome / \* Pre-registration required for lunch at [www.thecommunitycenter.org](http://www.thecommunitycenter.org)

### EVENING GLOW SERIES

All are welcome to join us at Litchfield Community Center for relaxing and reflective music to close the day on Thursday, Nov 9, 2023 from 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm with Joseph Jacovino, Pianist. Performances followed by a reception with refreshments. Cost is Free, Donations appreciated / \* Pre-registration encouraged by visiting [www.thecommunitycenter.org](http://www.thecommunitycenter.org). Series is made possible by the Litchfield Community Center Music Fund at NW CT Community Foundation

### DAYTRIP: THE MOUNT

Take a Sunday Daytrip with Litchfield Community Center on Sunday, Nov 12, 2023. Start with a 60 minute Guided Tour of The Mount, Edith Wharton's Home. Includes a special Sunday Lunch Buffet at Mint Indian Lakeside Dining. LCC van departs at 9:00 am, returns approx 3:30 pm. Cost is \$70.00. \* Pre-registration & Pre-payment required. Non-refundable after purchase. For all the details, menu and to register visit [www.thecommunitycenter.org](http://www.thecommunitycenter.org)

### LCC ROADSTERS: PETER GREENWOOD'S GLASS BLOWING STUDIO & GALLERY

Litchfield Community Center has been invited to Peter Greenwood's Glass Blowing Studio and Gallery in Riverton on Friday, Nov 17, 2023 where we will learn the history, technique, and process of glass blowing as he creates a masterpiece before our very eyes! Lunch is on your own at the Main Street Deli across the street. LCC van departs 10:00 am / returns approx. 2:00 pm. Cost is \$20.00 / \* Pre-registration & Pre-payment Required by visiting [www.thecommunitycenter.org](http://www.thecommunitycenter.org)



## Cibes Lift Group continues to strengthen its position in the USA.

*Cibes Lift Group enters into an agreement to acquire Elevator Service Company, Inc., a full-service elevator contractor, to strengthen its position and to create new business opportunities in the US.*

Elevator Service Company, Inc. is headquartered in Torrington, Connecticut and offers a wide range of home elevators/lifts, platform lifts and LULA (Limited Use Limited Application) elevators. The company also services, modernizes, maintains, and tests elevators/lifts throughout Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. Elevator Service Company was founded in 2000 and has 25 co-workers.

“Elevator Service Company, Inc. is an important addition to the Cibes Lift Group, strengthening our position in the US. We are really looking forward to delivering an even stronger product and service portfolio to new and existing customers and expanding our US business together with Elevator Service Company, Inc.,” says Per Lidström, CEO of Cibes Lift Group.

Following the completion of the transaction, Elevator Service Company, Inc. will be a wholly owned subsidiary of Cibes Lift Group but will maintain its strong brand. The business will be run by newly appointed Managing Director, Mathew Montgomery, previously Head of Sales for Elevator Service Company, Inc. Current majority owner and CEO, Steven Roth, will leave the business but will support Mathew and the business during a transitional period.

”By choosing Cibes Lift Group as our partner, I’m confident in a prosperous future and a stable environment for our valued employees. This acquisition solidifies Elevator Service Company’s transition from private ownership into a larger group of lift companies, instilling trust and opening doors to a multitude of benefits for our business and employees. The financial stability gained through this transition will not only fortify our market position but also fuel our growth trajectory,” says Steven Roth, Owner, and CEO of Elevator Service Company, Inc.

The acquisition is planned to be completed during the fourth quarter of 2023.

For more information, please contact:

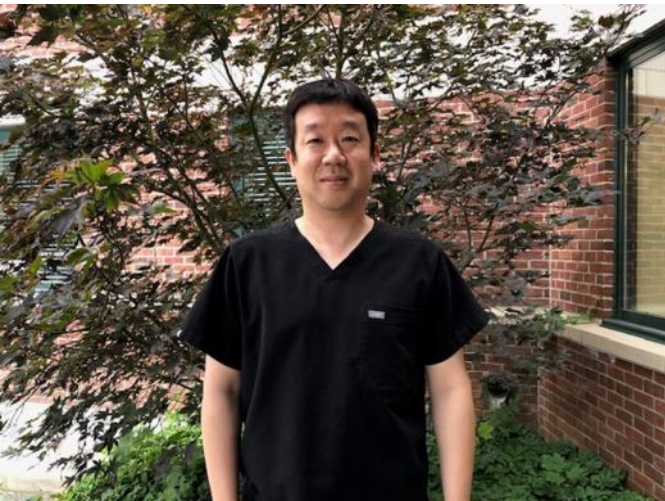
Per Lidström, CEO & President of Cibes Lift Group,  
+46 26 17 14 00

Michael Graff, VP Sales Americas Cibes Lift Group  
770-815-6503

<https://cibesliftgroup.com>

<https://www.elevatorserviceco.com/>

## COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS WELCOMES DR. JOOHAN LEE, DDS



Community Health & Wellness Center (CHWC) announces the appointment of Dr. Joohan Lee, DDS, to its expanding dental department.

Dr. Lee received his Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree from New York University College of Dentistry, New York, NY. His areas of expertise include: preventative dentistry; restorative dentistry; pediatric and geriatric dentistry; periodontic procedures; endodontic treatment; oral surgery; cosmetic dentistry; PFM and Zirconia crowns and fixed partial prostheses; and management of medically compromised patients.

Dr. Lee focuses on being gentle and making patients feel relaxed. “I have a lot of empathy for my patients and my approach is to treat them as members of my own family,” Lee states.

“We are pleased to welcome Dr. Lee to our dental team,” said Joanne Borduas, CEO of CHWC. “Our growing dental practice serves the need in our community for access to high quality, compassionate dental care.”

## A Message From Maria Coutant Skinner



Dear JoAnn:

We have exciting news to share! McCall Behavioral Health Network has been awarded the Top Workplaces 2023 honor by The Hearst Connecticut Top Workplaces for the sixth consecutive year!

This recognition means so much to us because it is based on feedback from our incredible staff. It's a testament to the positive and supportive culture we've built together and the dedication of each and every team member.

As we celebrate this achievement, we want to express our gratitude to our outstanding team. It's their passion, kindness, and commitment that have made McCall a safe, welcoming, and judgement-free environment. We're proud to say that recovery is possible, and we provide a place for everyone to find meaning in their work and feel a sense of belonging.

**There's more good news to share...** we've been officially designated as a certified Recovery Friendly Workplace.



Our involvement in the statewide Recovery Friendly Workplace initiative is part of our commitment to promoting a "recovery-sensitive" attitude that emphasizes help, hope, and the economic potential of healthy employees. With opioid-related deaths still topping 1,500 per year and nearly 75% of Americans with a substance use disorder in the workplace, we recognize the urgency of addressing these issues.

Thank you for your ongoing support, which allows us to continue our mission of healing and helping those in need. Together, we are making a positive impact on our community.

All my best,

Maria Coutant Skinner, LCSW  
President and CEO

**Congratulations to McCall Behavioral Health Network!**



## Groundbreaking Study Reveals Annual Economic Impact of Over \$30 Million Generated by Nonprofit Arts and Culture Sector in Northwest Connecticut

*Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 Study Centers Equity in Economic Research and Highlights Vital Role of Arts and Culture in Building More Livable Communities*

The [Northwest Connecticut Arts Council](#) announced that region's nonprofit arts and culture industry generated **\$30,275,630** in economic activity in 2022, according to the newly released **Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6)**, an economic and social impact study conducted in partnership with Americans for the Arts.

Beginning in May of 2022, the NWCT Arts Council staff, volunteers, and partner nonprofits worked for over a year to collect 800+ audience surveys at arts events across Litchfield County. Additionally, 70 nonprofit arts organizations took the time to complete the AEP6 survey and report the data used to compile these findings.



*Volunteers Marit Bezabler, Ella Frauenhofer, and Christina Prissen collecting surveys for the AEP6 study. Photo by NWCT Arts Council.*

Here is an overview of the findings:

In 2022, nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences generated \$30.3 million in economic activity in Northwest Connecticut—\$19.5 million in spending by the organizations, which leveraged an additional \$10.8 million in event-related spending by their audiences. This economic activity supported 650 jobs and generated \$9.1 million in tax revenue.

The arts are also vital to bringing the community together for a greater purpose. During 2022, 2,671 volunteers donated a total of 193,418 hours to Northwest Connecticut's 70 participating organizations.

Spending by arts and culture audiences generates valuable commerce to local business owners, a value-add that few other industries can compete with.

**Key figures from Northwest CT's AEP6 study include:**

- Northwest Connecticut's nonprofit arts and culture industry generates **\$10,777,120** in event-related spending by its audiences.
- The typical attendee spends **\$29.22** per person per event, not including the cost of admission.
- 27.6% of arts and culture attendees were from outside the county in which the activity took place. They spent an average of \$33.89. All vital income for local merchants.
- 88.1% of respondents agreed that the activity or venue they were attending was "a source of neighborhood pride for the community."
- 86.5% said they would "feel a sense of loss if that activity or venue was no longer available."

Building on its 30-year legacy as the largest and most inclusive study of its kind, AEP6 uses a rigorous methodology to document the economic and social contributions of the nation's nonprofit arts and culture industry. The study demonstrates locally as well as nationally, arts and culture are a critical economic driver of vibrant communities.

"The findings of this study prove that the arts are a powerful economic engine for our region and are very worthy of expanded investment," said Steph Burr, Executive Director of the Northwest CT Arts Council. "Our nonprofit arts organizations connect our communities and help define our culture. They also attract substantial revenue to the local economy and support many jobs and small businesses."

She also notes, "We would like to express our gratitude for the hard work of all our volunteers and partner organizations for making this study possible."

The full report, a map of the 373 study regions, and a two-page economic impact summary for each, can be found at [AEP6.AmericansForTheArts.org](#).

For more information, follow [@artsnwct](#) and [@Americans4Arts](#)

Chamber NEWS




**BUSINESS with BREAKFAST**

Join us at our morning roundtable discussion

## BUSINESS *with* BREAKFAST

Enjoy easy networking over a light breakfast. Each attendee will then give a 30-second "commercial" for their business followed by a brief presentation by our host.

**Tuesday, November 28, 8:00 a.m.**

Hosted by



**The Cottage**  
at Litchfield Hills  
A NORTHBRIDGE SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

376 Goshen Road, Torrington

RSVP at <https://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar/>

## Interested in hosting a Business with Breakfast?




**BUSINESS with BREAKFAST**

Join us at our morning roundtable discussion

## BUSINESS *with* BREAKFAST

Enjoy easy networking over a light breakfast. Each attendee will then give a 30-second "commercial" for their business followed by a brief presentation by our host.

**Tuesday, Month Date, 8:00 a.m.**

Hosted by



YOUR LOGO

 Your Company Name  
Your Address

Your company name, address, and logo could be listed here.



Send us an email to schedule a date: [info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)  
Or Call: 860-482-6586.

**BUSINESS after HOURS**

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

**BUSINESS after HOURS**

Wednesday  
Date  
5:00-7:00 p.m.

Hosted by  
YOUR BUSINESS NAME

Sponsored by

Your Logo

Your Company Address

RSVP ONLINE AT [NWCTCHAMBEROFCOMMERCE.ORG/CALENDAR](https://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar)

## Interested in hosting a Business After Hours?



Your Business and logo could be listed here

Send us an email to schedule a date: [karen@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:karen@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)  
Or Call: 860-482-6586.



# Oh WOW!



## 19th Annual WOW! Forum

Thank you to our amazing Speakers: Coryse Villarouel, Frederique Poulain, Christina Geist, Cathy Coyle, and to our amazing Master of Ceremonies: Karen Thomas, who also arranged for the photo booth.

Some things we learned at WOW:

- ◆ Stay humble
- ◆ Family is important
- ◆ Support small businesses
- ◆ Watch your words; better ways to say things
- ◆ Be creative and go after your dreams
- ◆ Don't give up
- ◆ It's not about you; there are many players that contribute to the end product
- ◆ Set boundaries and learn your limits
- ◆ Don't always say, "Sure, I'll do that"; rather say, "I'd love to, However..."

Red velvet coffee from "crumbs by toast & co." was among the breakfast fare at the Warner Club where attendees received a bag full of goodies at registration. SCSU's Jazz Trio entertained us during the wine & chocolate reception. See more pics at these links:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NWCTChamber/photos](http://www.facebook.com/NWCTChamber/photos)

Photo Booth Pics: <https://boothpics.com/YTS6>



# Legislative Reception



JoAnn Ryan (at podium) addresses the panel. From Left: Representative Jay Case, Senator Lisa Seminara, Government Relations Committee Chair Jacque Williams, Representative Maria Horn, Representative Karen Reddington-Hughes, Lobbyist Mike Rell, Representative John Piscopo.

This meeting was a reconvening of the Government Relations Committee to begin discussing our legislative priorities for the upcoming house session. Among some of many topics to be discussed will be:

- ◆ Home heating costs for the winter,
- ◆ Housing for the elderly and workforce,
- ◆ Transportation for workforce initiatives,
- ◆ Broadband expansion
- ◆ The Regional Educational Partnership.

A lively Q&A followed.

The event which was held on Friday, October 20th at the Draper Conference Center of CT State Community College—Northwestern, was hosted by the Government Relations Committee; Committee Chair, Jacque Williams, was the Master of Ceremonies.

Two student representatives from CSCU (Connecticut State Colleges & Universities) Board of Regents were in attendance. Luis Sanchez is a recent graduate of CT State Community College—Northwestern and is working part-time at our Chamber while furthering his education at Central CT State University. Carla Galaise is currently a student at CT State Community College—Northwestern.

# Happy Thanksgiving!







From Left: Chris DuPont from Resource Development Associates, Laura Murphy and Ashlynn Klein from Northwest Community Bank, Luis Sanchez from the NW Chamber of Commerce, Kristy Barto – owner of Nutmeg Fudge Company, Ella Frauenhofer from KidsPlay Children's Museum, Chris Beyus from Elevator Service Co., Dan Santorso from FISH NWCT, Mikala Esty from Torrington Savings Bank, and Steph Burr from NWCT Arts Council.

## Young Professionals

Our Young Professionals enjoyed a meeting at The Nutmeg Fudge Company on October 12th.

“The Nutmeg Fudge Company has such a fun atmosphere. We had a great time meeting with regular attendees as well as new faces, and we enjoyed gummies, ice cream, and fudge!”

— Dan Santorso

The Chamber's Young Professionals Organization helps men and women in their twenties and thirties develop a peer network and plant roots in the community.

For more information, contact the Chamber at 860-482-6586 or [karen@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:karen@nwctchamberofcommerce.org).



### Young Professionals Organization

The NWCT Chamber Young Professionals Organization invites local young professionals, ages 21-40, to our next free networking event:

**Wednesday, December 13th, 5-7 PM**  
**Little Red Barn Brewers**  
**32 Lake Street, Winsted, CT 06098**

Bring a coworker!

If possible, please RSVP at [nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar](http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar)

For more information, contact the Chamber at 860-482-6586 or [Info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:Info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)

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## Business with Breakfast



Business with Breakfast was held on Tuesday October 24th at Still River Wellness in Torrington. The event was well attended. Everyone gave their 30 second commercial and then President Tom Macre gave a wonderful overview of his business. He explained the difference between their medical cannabis use model and their adult recreational cannabis use. Tom explained how taxes work with his in-

dustry and he mentioned that there will be quite a few new dispensaries opening in CT this year. There were a lot of interesting questions asked and then Tom gave a tour of the facility. It was all very well received by the attendees. There are two separate entrances to the facility, one for the medical side and one for the recreational side. The above photo is showing the recreational side.

## Business After Hours



Our Business After Hours was held on Tuesday October 24th at The Venetian Restaurant in downtown Torrington. It was also the 1st year Anniversary of the Venetian under new owners Enio and Tracy Perez.

Attendees enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres and a free drink from the bar. Owner, Tracy Perez, was such a gracious hostess. She took orders for the drinks and delivered them to the tables.

Tracy (pictured at left) told the story about how she and her husband became the owners. Her nephews were the chefs at the time and they urged her to purchase the establishment. She told

them that she would buy the restaurant if they stayed on as chefs.

Tracy lives in New Jersey and had been commuting 3 hours each way until she finally found a place to live in our area. She will still travel to New Jersey, but not as often. Tracy has grown to love our region. Her husband, Enio, still lives in New Jersey and manages 3 restaurants there.

Some people ordered meals either during or after the event. It was a great night of networking in a very welcoming environment. The food was just as fabulous as people had always come to expect.



# Ireland Trip



## Chamber Travel Program

Our Ireland Travelers had a fantastic time, enjoying the sights and sounds of this beautiful countryside from Oct 9-17. Some of them had been there before and would go back again.

Over the past 10 years through our Chamber Travel Program, the Chamber has given individuals the opportunity to travel to unique destinations with a trusted tour company that is able to offer significant savings over conventional rates. There

have been trips to Italy, China, Japan, Portugal, Cuba, Spain, South Africa, Greece, Switzerland, France, Germany, Holland, Scandinavia, and of course Ireland. Friendships have been formed, memories have been made, and some valuable business relationships have even been formed.

Contact JoAnn Ryan at the NW CT Chamber at [JoAnn@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:JoAnn@nwctchamberofcommerce.org) or 860-482-6586 for more information.

## Committee Reports

### Governance Committee:

This newly formed committee will be lead by committee chair, David Oliver from Ebner Camps, Inc.

### Government Relations Committee:

Our Government Relations Committee reconvened on 10/20 at our annual 2023 Legislative Reception held in Draper Hall at Connecticut State Community College - Northwestern. This year's reception was greeted with some interesting topics of discussion from our delegation which should make this year's upcoming house session extremely interesting. I encourage all of you to attend our monthly Government Relations Committee meeting every 2nd Thursday of the month to discuss with our Representatives the issues regarding your businesses, your families and our community. Looking forward to hearing from you at our next meeting. - Jacque Williams

### Health Council:

It is a privilege to be the new Chair of the Healthcare Council! As providers of human services, the committee will be focusing on how to best work together to create a conduit for delivering the best care to our communities and keeping one another informed on not only legislative matters that may have an impact on population health, but also at the local level. I am excited to set a direction that optimizes our work and provides quality outcomes! - Joanne Borduas

### Manufacturing Coalition:

The Manufacturing Coalition is focusing on letting students know about manufacturing jobs in the area.

### Membership Committee:

The Membership Committee welcomes their new Chair, Chris DuPont from Resource Development Associates. The committee will have their first meeting at our Chamber on Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 8 AM.

### Regional Educational Partnership:

The REP group made up of around 16 different school districts, business leaders and the Chamber will have its first meeting on Wednesday November 1<sup>st</sup> to plan our agenda for the coming year and beyond. A small team from the REP committee met with district superintendents at the Litchfield County Superintendent's Association meeting on Oct 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the role of REP in developing equity pathways for the children in this region to go to college or go into a high paying career. - Dr. Michael Rooke

### Small Business Council:

Moe Chislum from Litchfield Bancorp— A Division of Northwest Community Bank, is the new chair of the Small Business Council. Their first meeting will be at our Chamber on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 8 AM.

### Strategic Planning Committee:

This newly formed committee is being spearheaded by committee chair, Stephen Mazzarelli from Commercial Sewing.

To join a committee, please contact Sharon Kunay at 860-482-6586 or email [Info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:Info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org).





## Upcoming **CHAMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS**

Nov. 2 - Membership Committee - 8 AM  
Nov. 7 - Small Business Council - 8 AM  
Nov. 8 - "Supporting Your Greatest Resource: YOUR TEAM. *How to Recognize and Respond to the Mental Health Needs of your Staff*" (Presented By: BlueBack Health / McCall Behavioral Health Network) @NW Chamber, 59 Field St, Suite 120, Torr, 8 AM  
Nov. 8 - Leads II - 12 PM  
Nov. 9 - Government Relations Committee - 8 AM  
Nov. 10 - **CHAMBER CLOSED** - Veterans Day Observed  
Nov. 13 - Leads I - 12 PM  
Nov. 15 - Health Council (Venue TBD) - 8 AM  
Nov. 15 - Leadership NW @NW Chamber, 8:30 AM-Noon

Nov. 17 - Economic Summit with Continental Breakfast (Keynote Speaker: Expert Demographer, **Kenneth Gronbach**) @Five Points Art Center, 855 University Drive, Torrington, 8 AM **Cost: \$40**  
Nov. ?? - Board of Directors Meeting (Date TBD) - 8 AM  
Nov. 22 - Leads II - 12 PM  
Nov. 23-24 **CHAMBER CLOSED** for Thanksgiving Holiday  
Nov. 27 - Leads I - 12 PM  
Nov. 28 - Business with Breakfast—@ The Cottage at Litchfield Hills, 376 Goshen Rd, Torrington, 8-9 AM  
Nov. 30 - Tourism in Connecticut (Presented By: Anthony Anthony, Office of Tourism) @NW Chamber, 59 Field St, Suite 120, Torrington, 8 AM

### *Save the Date*

**December 1 - Corporate Partner & Premier Member Breakfast @ Venue TBD, 8 AM**

**December 7 - Annual Holiday Party @ Brandywine Living of Litchfield, 5-8 PM**

**December 13 - Business After Hours Prime Finds Pop-Up @ Lourdes of Litchfield, 5-7 PM**

**December 13 - Young Professionals @ Little Red Barn Brewers, Winsted, 5-7 PM**

**February 7 - Young Professionals @ Da Capo Restaurant, Litchfield, 5-7 PM**

**April 18, 2024 - The Great Business Showcase, Venue: TBD, 4 PM - 7 PM**

## **Newsletter Submissions:**

Please send us your newsletter submissions by the 15th of the month. Beyond that date, we cannot guarantee that it will be in the following month's edition.

Thank you.