

A Special Thank You to Our Regional Benefactors



We Appreciate Your Continued Support

SCORE **Free Advice from Those Who've Done It**

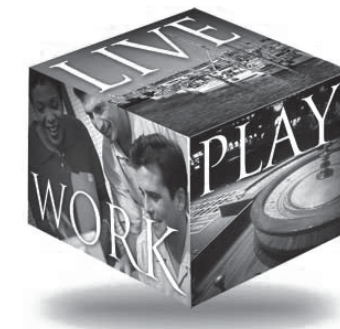
SCORE is a completely **FREE**, confidential, nationally known service organization, supported by the Small Business Administration of the US government. SCORE counselors are available to advise and mentor new and existing businesses at the Chamber office every Tuesday from 11 to 2. **Can't make it on Tuesdays?** SCORE has expanded its counseling services to Wednesday as well. Every second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. SCORE will hold counseling sessions at Dime Bank, 290 Turnpike, Norwich. Appointments and walk-ins welcome. **Call today to schedule your appointment 860-464-7373.**

For more information on SCORE visit www.scoreoldsaybrook.org.

CHAMBER of COMMERCE
EASTERN CONNECTICUT
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CHAMBER of COMMERCE
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Voice

JANUARY 2009

Live, Work and Play in Eastern Connecticut

www.chamberect.com

Look for our calendar flyer!

Look for our upcoming events calendar in the Voice flyer section. Pull it out, pin it up and use it as your source for all Chamber events! For more information on any Chamber event, visit www.chamberect.com.

Share the Voice

Spread the word - we want everyone in your company to read the Voice! So pass it around and enjoy. And if the Voice is not going to the right person, please let us know. Call us at 464-7373 or email us at news@chamberect.com.

Business Education Seminar: Employment Labor Law

The first in the 2009 Business Education Seminar series will be held on Wednesday, January 21 at the Holiday Inn of New London. Stay tuned to our website, www.chamberect.com, for further details on this event.

25th Annual Holiday Gala

Auctioneer Sam Piotrkowski



Holiday Gala Volunteers

Dianne Kent and Bill Turner



Thank you to all who made this year's Holiday Gala a success!

2009 Sponsorship Opportunities

Want to get your business noticed in 2009? Sponsor a Chamber program or event!

From Holiday Gala to Business After Hours to Town Council meetings, the Chamber offers many levels of sponsorship opportunities for all our events. Sponsorship is a

guaranteed way to get your name out in front of the business community, with logo exposure leading up to the event in our publications and E-News and recognition at the event.

Smaller events, like our Women's Business Network Luncheons or our Business Education Series, offer opportunities for

recognition in front of a targeted business area, while larger events like our Citizen of the Year Award Dinner and the SECT Home & Business Show offer a larger rate of exposure.

For a complete listing of sponsorship opportunities, visit www.chamberect.com or contact your sales representative at 464-7373.

Council Corner

Our Town Councils are off to a busy start in 2009! Join us for the following events:

Lyme-Old Lyme Council Dinner Meeting

Thursday, January 15
6:15 p.m. Social Hour
7 p.m. Dinner
\$22
Old Lyme Inn

Montville Council State of Education Breakfast Meeting

Friday, January 16
7:45 - 9 a.m.
Montville High School
\$5 Members, \$10 Non-members

Waterford Council Annual State of Waterford Breakfast

Thursday, January 22
7:45 - 9 a.m.
Waterford Town Hall
\$5 Members, \$10 Non-members

Norwich Council Roundtable Discussion on the City of Norwich

Friday, January 23
7:45 - 9 a.m.
Norwich City Hall
\$5 Members, \$10 Non-members

B2B Connections 2009

Business to Business Connections is going on the road in 2009!

We're planning a very special series of B2B, with events hosted by each of our councils. Stay tuned to our website, www.chamberect.com, for the upcoming schedule.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF EASTERN CONNECTICUT VOICE
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Add news@chamberect.com to your safe sender list so you don't miss out on our weekly E-News!

NEWS and EDITORIAL

What will next year bring?

That's the question on everyone's mind, and as we celebrate the successes of 2008, we must also focus on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in 2009.

There is a sense of growing confidence beginning with the new administration in Washington, with a renewed focus on domestic issues and concerns for our nation's infrastructure. Both the Congress and President-Elect Obama are preparing for a major infrastructure stimulus package, which will have an immediate impact on the state and national economy. By June or July we hope to have a growing sense of enthusiasm and renewed consumer confidence.

Regrettably, the cost of energy will increase again with our growing confidence. This will create renewed interest in conservation and alternative energy. We expect continuing tax credits to make energy saving projects attractive.

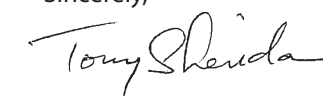
A major concern going forward is the state of our state budget. Our legislators will be taking a close look at duplicative services and obsolete programs. As Speaker-Elect Christopher Donovan said at our Member Breakfast in December, "We got hit by a storm, and we need to work together to get out of it... Spurring growth is not an alternative, it's what we need to do."

At the Chamber, we are already witnessing certain

trends. We've seen an increase in networking event participation, which we believe is driven by concerns about our economy. We've seen a greater interest in collaboration among various organizations in the region, which are long overdue and in the best interest of our joint members. We are slowly making progress on our Buy Local campaign and the benefits it brings in supporting the regional economy. We expect to see this trend continue.

Please look out for our Economic Forecast Member Breakfast, which is scheduled for late January where we will discuss in depth our region's economy for the upcoming year. We look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,



Tony Sheridan
President

State Representative Christopher G. Donovan, House Majority Leader/Speaker- Designate with Chamber President Tony Sheridan, Bill Turner and Ramona Carlow of AT&T.



New Members

Animal Rescue Fund
Anthem - Blue Cross Blue Shield
Ciptus Technologies
Dock & Dine
Go Fish
Planet Fitness - Groton
Pochal & Pochal
Sheaves, Inc.
SoundMusic
St. Pierre Photography
Steak Loft
Ten Clams
Thames Valley Communications (TVC)
The Black Sheep
The Harp & Hound
Trailsend Restoration

Upcoming Events

Join us for our upcoming Economic Forecast Member Breakfast coming up in late January. Stay tuned to our website, www.chamberect.com, for more details or to register.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on February 11 at the Norwich Inn & Spa. It's the chance for our members to learn about the Chamber's success in 2008. Register online at www.chamberect.com.

Learn the Secrets of Online Marketing

Webinar Series

See our flier for details.



The Chamber is now offering a series of webinars on e-marketing. For more information, check the flier in this issue of Voice.

Look for the Chamber in all eight Times publications printed by The Day newspaper!

Beginning January 15, the Chamber will have a presence in all eight Times publications: The New London Times, The Waterford Times, The Montville Times, The Thames River Times, The Groton Times, The Stonington Times, The Mystic Times, and The Montville Times. The Chamber will be appearing on the second Thursday of every month. So send us your news and we'll do our best to include it in our Chamber Corner.

Press releases and other items may be sent to communications@chamberect.com.