The Greater Good

There have been efforts by many organizations towards regionalism over the years, but the reality was that living well off ever-growing Defense spending provided no real incentive to work together.

The Department of Defense-related income represents approximately 42 percent of the regional economy, down from 49 percent and still falling.

That’s a problem for the entire state of Virginia, because as Gov. Terry McAuliffe said, “When Hampton Roads is healthy, Virginia is healthy.”

The time has come for wholehearted, purposeful regional planning and collective action. Too often today, municipalities compete rather than cooperate.

If Hampton Roads is going to advance, each community should instead leverage its capabilities and resources to strengthen its own economic condition by first strengthening the entire region.

The saying “a rising tide lifts all boats” is a good metaphor. Hampton Roads’ branding covers a two-state area encompassing 16 counties. The Greater Cincinnati regional effort covers a three-state area of 15 counties. In both places, regional thinking comes first. That improves economic outcomes based on workforce quality, education, operating costs and overall quality of life. These are the factors that drive business location and investment decisions.

We do not need legislation to force our action; we only need a coalition of willing leaders who view regional cooperation as a priority. Our economic-related endeavors must be coordinated, reflect consistency and standardization, and benefit all in the long run.

Your Voice in Photos

Millennial Workforce and Access to Reliable Energy

The largest generation in American history is rising through the ranks of the workforce. At 92 million strong, the Millennials will comprise 50 percent of working men and women in 2030.

To foster the Millennials’ transition from beginning workers to company CEOs—and to harness the creativity and energy they bring to their jobs—we must ensure a steady stream of dependable and affordable electricity to power the technologies that support communications and business operations.

This means Hampton Roads and other communities must take a hard look at both short-term and long-term energy policies. And we must support investments in the infrastructure that can deliver energy from where it is produced to where it is needed.

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline would transport natural gas from the Appalachian Basin and elsewhere to Hampton Roads. In doing so, it would provide a secure and low-cost supply of energy to fulfill the ever-growing electrical needs of consumers, businesses and our future leaders.

This 550-mile pipeline would deliver about 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas each day to various points in Virginia and North Carolina, providing electricity for homes and businesses while also fueling economic expansion and job opportunities.

It also could help Virginia meet the requirements of proposed federal regulations aimed at reducing carbon emissions. Under the Clean Power Plan, dozens of coal-burning power plants, which have been the mainstay of U.S. electricity generation, will be shut down.

The pipeline also could help Virginia compete rather than cooperate. Too often today, municipalities represent approximately 42 percent of the regional economy, down from 49 percent and still falling.

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Member Voice  Short Stories of Members by Members

BigWig Named
2015 Small Business of the Year
by Stella Waltz, co-owner of Bigwig

Winning the overall SBOY award has been a gratifying nod for our team—an Attabay from the Hampton Roads community. We appreciate the recognition and are very excited about word spreading more about this unique software that was designed by contractors—for contractors.

We take great pride that this software is helping people across the U.S. and Canada—people who are skilled at construction and trades, and who are seeing their businesses grow! By helping contractors with the operational components of their business, it is fulfilling to see their profitability increase. It’s a great feeling to take hard-working people, pair them with Bigwig, and see them work smarter in their business.

Nasoni: We re-invented the faucet. Literally
by Steve Waddell, President, Nasoni

NASONI’s mission is to build unique, innovative products that solve common consumer problems. The Hampton Roads-based company, in the eye of Coastal Virginia entrepreneur Steve Waddell, living a life of challenging the status quo. Steve never liked the traditional faucet design that did not facilitate a way to rinse one’s mouth after brushing their teeth. He tried all of the after market solutions, ordering all of the various products that aimed to solve the dilemma. With none of them working, Steve thought there had to be a better way and set to work on what would soon become the first NASONI dual purpose faucet engineered designs which have since been patented by the USPTO.

For more information on NASONI, please visit the website at www.nasoni.co (please note – there is no “m” at the end). Visit the MEDIA page to view all of the recent articles and videos about NASONI.

NASONI. Making life easier.

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25 Years
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20 Years
Bay Diesel Corp.
Drucker & Falk, LLC
Sussex Development Corp.

15 Years
Eska Graphic Board USA BV
Padilla CTR

10 Years
D. W. Boyd Corporation
Old Dominion University Credit Union
Reliance Staffing Services

Target Marketing
The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)
United States Gypsum Company

5 Years
Care Advantage Inc
Grand Furniture
Speedpro Imaging
WTVZ-TV WBS 33
2nd Annual Senatorial Forum

The Chamber was honored to host our 2nd Annual Senatorial Forum. We were pleased to welcome both of the Commonwealth’s United States Senators, the Honorable Mark Warner and the Honorable Tim Kaine.

This event is the only one of its kind in the Commonwealth. Even Senator Warner quipped that it is unheard of to get two sitting senators in the same room at the same time, especially if they are from the same party.

Senator Mark Warner started off the presentation by discussing sequestration. Sequestration is up for reconsideration this year after a two year hold on implementation. He is very concerned that if Congress does not get to work on the next Federal budget now, we may face another unnecessary and damaging government shut down. He is concerned about “short-termism” as American capitalism. Are American corporations so focused on meeting earnings projections that they fail to invest in research, infrastructure, human capital and growth? Senator Warner feels the answer is a resounding yes. The question becomes how can we motivate and incentivize corporations, their boards and shareholders to take a long term view on earnings and investment?

Senator Tim Kaine discussed the agreement with Iran. Senator Kaine said that he has never seen the Senate so thoughtful on an agreement. Everyone agrees they want to find a diplomatic solution to stop Iran’s nuclear weapons program and not a military one. What the Foreign Relations Committee has found is although the world sanctions on Iran have stopped economic growth, it has not stopped their nuclear development.

Sea-level rise is a non-partisan issue which affects all coastlines, but especially Hampton Roads. Senator Kaine is very proud of how the Virginia communities are coming together to tackle this issue. We are well ahead of other areas of the country. He is working on creating a national center on sea-level rise to be based in Hampton Roads, similar to the National Severe Weather Center in Oklahoma.

President and CEO, Bryan K. Stephens commented that, “Events such as this Senatorial forum allow Chamber members to gain access to decision makers and get involved in business issues that impact the community.”

THRive-Young Professionals Program

The Chamber understands that growing our future generation of business leaders is paramount to economic success and must be a priority for the Hampton Roads business community. To address this priority, we have launched THRive - a regional young professionals’ group. The HR in THRive is capitalized to emphasize the “regional” Hampton Roads aspect as this new program directly focuses young professionals toward a path of success by putting the reins of regional future economic and business success firmly and confidently in the hands of our Millennial workforce. The group will focus their efforts on professional development, cultivating relationships, civic responsibility and community engagement in a fun learning environment. THRive is free of charge, available to both members and non-members of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, and open to those ages 21-39. THRive is boasting over 900 members, with more sign-ups every single day. We’re constantly hearing from young professionals who are looking for ways to be involved. Help us get the word out about THRive and have new members join our e-mail list by going to www.YPTHRive.org.

Enjoy a few photos from our Kick-Off Event.
Chamber Remix

Remix 1: Behind the Scenes of the Real World | eXcel Leadership Academy

Over four long and action-packed days in July, LEAD Hampton Roads presented its 7th eXcel Leadership Academy for a class of 36 high school juniors and seniors representing six cities and 21 schools across the region. The program develops critical career and life skills while building an appreciation of our region and its many opportunities. Modeled after LEAD Hampton Roads, the executive leadership program of the Chamber, eXcel provides leadership training and connections that assist students in accelerating their high school and future success. The students visited 11 sites, including the Port of Virginia, Oceana Naval Base, Eastern Virginia Medical School, and Clark Nexsen and met over 30 speakers, including CEOs, Mayors and entrepreneurs. Their graduation was celebrated at the Slover Library with Del. Scott Taylor as the commencement speaker. Special thanks to the SunTrust Bank Foundation for their continued support of this program.

Remix 2: 2015 AAU Junior Olympics

The largest multi-sport youth event in the United States came back to Hampton Roads this summer and with it, an economic boom.

From July 29 to August 8, the Hampton Roads Sports Commission (HRSC), an affiliate of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Junior Olympic Games, returned to Hampton Roads after a 17-year absence. According to HRSC Executive director, Lauren Bland was pleased that “our hotels, shopping malls, restaurants and attractions were filled for 11 days. It was exciting to see many of the young athletes parading through our region wearing their medals with pride.”

11 days are expected to generate an economic impact of more than $40 million for the region. An economic impact study is in being conducted by Old Dominion University and these results will be reported in the fall. HRSC is working with ODU and these results will be reported in the fall. HRSC is working with ODU to communicate the impact of the event to the public and businesses.

Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce 
2015 was marked our fifth opportunity to welcome this national event. About 15,000 athletes - ranging in ages from 7 to 17 and hailing from 43 states - were our guests.

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To Advertise call 757-664-2533

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The Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce is a Not-For-Profit 501(c)(6) Membership Organization

Trustee Profile

James B. Lonergan
Attorney At Law
Pender & Coward, P.C.

What is the core mission of your business?
For over a hundred years, the core mission of Pender & Coward has been to provide our clients with the highest quality legal services at a reasonable cost and with the highest professional and ethical standards.

What services/goods does your business provide the Hampton Roads community?
With offices in Virginia Beach, Chesapeake and Suffolk, Pender & Coward is well positioned to provide a full range of legal services to our clients in Hampton Roads and throughout Virginia. Pender & Coward is proud to represent individuals, businesses, financial institutions and municipalities, ever mindful of our motto: “service, integrity, results.”

What is a fun fact about your business?
Pender & Coward was started in 1889 in Norfolk by W.D. Pender, the son of a Civil War General.

How has your partnership with the Chamber benefited your organization?
Since its founding, Pender & Coward has had a long history of involvement in the Hampton Roads community and our partnership with the chamber provides another opportunity for us to continue this tradition.

Website: www.PenderCoward.com