The Chamber has continued through 2016 working diligently to progress our high standard of excellence, which was again reconfirmed on June 23, 2016 when Bryan K. Stephens was recognized for his organizational management and leadership as the Chamber Executive of the Year, by the Virginia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. The Executive of the Year award recognizes outstanding performance in the field of Chamber of Commerce management in the Commonwealth of Virginia and is presented to an individual who has exhibited characteristics that make him a leader both in their chamber and community. Stephens’ leadership skills are exemplified by the magnitude of the progression of success demonstrated by the organization and their members.

The Chamber is a vigorous advocate for the economic success of its member businesses, which employ nearly 250,000 men and women in southeastern Virginia. As the Region’s premier business organization, we welcome all businesses to be a part of this powerful and influential group. We will continue making milestones in our mission to ensure that our members succeed, to drive regional economic growth and to enhance the quality of life of our community’s residents in Hampton Roads.

SENATORIAL FORUM

“Best managed state, best state for business,” opened Senator Mark Warner at the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Senatorial Luncheon. Senator Warner addressed the business community on August 18 at the Founders Inn on the issues facing the Commonwealth, the Nation, and the Hampton Roads. For the past two years, Senator Warner has been accompanied by Senator Tim Kaine at the Senatorial Forum; however, this year, Senator Warner was solo due to Tim Kaine being selected as Hillary Clinton’s Vice Presidential Candidate. Senator Warner discussed issues the Commonwealth is facing, Veterans Affairs, Entrepreneurship, and Cyber Security. It needs to be a higher priority not to leave these veterans hanging out, sometimes for years, to get their benefits. There are five different initiatives the VA has that allow veterans to access private sector care, but they don’t collaborate. Senator Warner is working on fixing this to consolidate the five programs so there is a seamless system.

“Over the last 30 years, all new jobs that have been created in this country have come from start ups,” stated Senator Warner. There is merging ecosystem here in Hampton Roads for entrepreneurship. Senator Warner would like to see the colleges and universities work together to link entrepreneurial centers.

On the issue of cyber security, Warner said cyber security is both an upside and a downside. Downside, a lot of companies have either been hacked or attempted to be hacked. The upside is economic growth and impact in its extraordinary first year. More than 150 young professionals came out for a great evening at O’Connor Brewing Company in Norfolk on Thursday, July 14 to celebrate the first anniversary of THRive, the young professional program of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce. THRive members and attendees enjoyed connecting with one another over delicious catered food and beer, while weighing their chances of winning the fabulous raffle prizes donated by local businesses and entertainment venues.

In the past year, THRive has grown to more than 1,300 members, hosted over 40 events for young professionals and made a significant impact on the decision makers across the region. Bryan K. Stephens, President & CEO of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, was in attendance.

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THRIVE CELEBRATES ONE YEAR OF SUCCESS

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Stephens spoke about THRive’s great success and vision that has brought so many young professionals in the area together, and how he believes that the leaders and members of THRive have the opportunity to shape and influence public policy for future generations. Julia Rust, Chair of THRive, preceded Stephens with words of praise and accolade for the first year completed. She was honored to have been involved in the formation of the organization and was ecstatic when speaking about its vision and future. Rust believes that this coming year THRive will have an even greater impact in the Hampton Roads region.

THRive would like to thank all of its members, sponsors, board of directors, and committee members who have maintained a vision for its growth and impact in its extraordinary first year. To learn more about THRive please visit www.ypthrive.org
LEAD Hampton Roads announces the topics for the 17th Annual State of the Region Address. The annual address provides the area’s most comprehensive review of the region’s current economic strengths and challenges. This year’s report covers issues including: Traffic Congestion in Hampton Roads: Myths and Realities; Will Robots Take Your Job?; The Rise of Single Households: Why It Matters; and Prisoners and Prisoners: The Virginia Way and Alternatives.

The Address will be offered on both the Southside and the Peninsula (8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott on October 4 and at the Hampton Roads Convention Center on October 7) Dr. James V. Koch, President Emeritus, Old Dominion University, returns as the keynote speaker and will be joined by Dr. Robert McNab, Professor of Economics and Dr. Tim Komarek, Assistant Professor of Economics, Old Dominion University. All those attending will receive a copy of “The State of the Region 2016” produced by the Regional Studies Institute at ODU. The Presenting Sponsor of the Address is Optima Health.

A discussion of the report (including a Question and Answer session) with community, business and government leaders will follow the presentation. The Address, held annually on the Southside and the Peninsula, draws more than 900 regional leaders each year for a premier opportunity to discuss our local economy. To reserve your seat at the breakfasts, contact Annette Hull at (757) 664-2516.

LEAD Hampton Roads presented by the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce hosted the Department of Defense Forum on Thursday, June 23rd at the Chesapeake Conference Center, welcoming three very knowledgeable, experienced speakers, to brief the business community about how the defense budget is hitting rock bottom and how the defense industry is affecting our readiness and our quality of life. The Department of Defense Forum is one way we are ensuring the Hampton Roads business community is informed about the Department of Defense and the national security needs of our region.

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John Simmons of the Roosevelt Group discussed how the defense budget is hitting rock bottom and affecting our readiness and our quality of life. “Hampton Roads is always going to remain very relevant; the most sophisticated navy, air force, and special forces are all here in Hampton Roads. The only problem is how things will be paid for.”

Mark Honecker of the U.S. Fleet Forces Command gave an update on the Fleet Forces and talked about the Navy as a business. He discussed the Navy’s business cycle and how the cycle is based on World War II. The IBM Andrews said, “It’s important for us to exchange ideas on how to better secure our nation.”

Tony Tata, retired Army General spoke about terrorism. “These kinds of forums that Bryan and the Hampton Roads Chamber are putting on are so critical because we need to understand the environment we face. With Hampton Roads being such a heavy military industrial complex, it’s important for us to exchange ideas on how to better secure our nation.”

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LEGLISTATIVE AFFAIRS

General Assembly Evaluations 2016

Virginia Free

Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce President, Bryan K. Stephens, serves on the Board of Virginia Free and Executive Vice President, Ira Agricola, serves on the Evaluation Committee for the organization.

Each year Virginia Free ranks the Virginia General Assembly on their pro-business performance. A system of differentiation is used to show the General Assembly in three performance groups; the top 20%, the middle 70% and the bottom 10%. This model has been used effectively by the business community and it enables the Chamber to educate and engage the legislature.

The process includes a review and selection of bills that have the greatest impact on business. This is followed by an analysis of both recorded and unrecorded votes in order to score legislative voting records that support Virginia business interests.

Check out the 2016 General Assembly Rankings!

Delegate Rankings

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Military Recognition Reception

Over 130 service members from over 50 commands and all five branches of the armed services throughout Hampton Roads received awards for their outstanding service at the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Military Recognition Reception on Friday, August 5th at the Marriott Norfolk Waterside. Special remarks were made by our President & CEO, Bryan K Stephens, Cathy Grieve of the Norfolk Waterside Marriott, Thomas Garner of GEICO (our Military Legacy Partner), and by Norfolk Mayor Kenneth Cooper Alexander.

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Every Life Experience can be a Lesson in Leadership: Micky Nye, President of Farm Fresh Food and Pharmacy, presented at the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Professional Women’s Leadership Luncheon on Wednesday, September 14 at the Holiday Inn Virginia Beach-Norfolk Hotel & Conference Center. She was the final presenter of this year’s Professional Women’s Leadership Luncheon and she spoke about how every day you have the opportunity to be a leader, a manager or a coach regardless of what you do for a living. She encouraged leading yourself first and why personal leadership matters. Lastly, she shared insights on her rules for Self-Leadership.

THE GLASS
EVOLVING THE BUSINESS WOMAN

Don’t miss the next forum in the 2-part series: The Glass: Evolving the Business Woman. The second forum will be held on Tuesday, September 27th at the Kroc Center in Norfolk from 9am-3pm. See the day’s agenda below.

9am: Morning Stretch and Networking
11:00am-11:45am: Keynote Address and Q&A
- Helen Dragas, CEO The Dragas Companies
- Micky Nye, President of Farm Fresh Food and Pharmacy, presented at the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Professional Women’s Leadership Luncheon on Wednesday, September 14 at the Holiday Inn Virginia Beach-Norfolk Hotel & Conference Center.
- Dr. Bob Holsworth, Mason School of Business.
- Kimberly Mallory, William and Mary Mason School of Business.
- Leslie Doyle, Bank of America
- Carletta Wadler “Making Your Move”
- Nicole Wilkens “You Are What You Wear”
- Carletta Wadler “Making Your Move”
- Nicole Wilkens “You Are What You Wear”

11:45am-12:45pm: Lunch and Networking
12:45pm-1:45pm: Keynote Address and Q&A
- Leslie Doyle, Bank of America
- Kimberly Mallory, William and Mary Mason School of Business.
- Carletta Wadler “Making Your Move”
- Nicole Wilkens “You Are What You Wear”
- Carletta Wadler “Making Your Move”
- Nicole Wilkens “You Are What You Wear”

1:45pm to 2pm: Wrap up with final stretch
- For more information about this event contact Anne Baumler at (757)664-2518.

LEAD Hampton Roads proudly announces the graduation of 39 rising high school juniors and seniors from the 2016 eXcel Leadership Academy on Friday, July 15th, 2016. The students were selected through a competitive application process and represent public, private, and home schools from across the region. The 4-day fast-paced curriculum introduced them to business leadership concepts and took them behind the scenes of our region’s major industries. The students also connected with top business and community leaders across our region and learned of the potential internship and job opportunities that Hampton Roads has to offer. Scott Taylor, 85th District, Virginia House of Delegates and Republican Candidate for Virginia’s 2nd District in District, Virginia House of Delegates and Republican Candidate for Virginia’s 2nd District in

CHAMBER LEADERSHIP SERIES

“Lead Your Team Like the Army”
U.S. Retired Army General, Tony Tata
September 22, 2016, 12pm-2pm
Sheraton Norfolk Waterside

“The Political Landscape of Virginia & Beyond”
Dr. Bob Holsworth
October 20, 2016, 12pm-2pm
Holiday Inn VB-Norfolk Hotel

“A Special Veterans Day Message”
Admiral Philip Davidson
November 9, 2016 12pm-2pm
Virginia Beach Convention Center

To advertise, call 757-664-2503.

The Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) membership organization.

OFFICERS:
Shepelle Watkins-White, Chair
Tom Winborne, Chair-Elect
Sharon Fanto, Treasurer
Bryan K. Stephens, President & CEO

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STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Strategic Partners are members who invest the greatest through membership dues, sponsorships and/or advertising in support of Chamber programs and services. We’d like to introduce you to members that have stepped up as Strategic Partners in 2016.

U.S. Retired Army General, Tony Tata
September 22, 2016
Sheraton Norfolk Waterside

600 W Atlantic Ave. Virginia Beach, VA 23451
www.HamptonRoadsChamber.com

911...what’s your emergency? The adrenaline associated with being a first responder is intense, so let’s get our adrenaline pumping for the first annual Hampton Roads Hero Games, presented by Endurance IT, to be held from October 5-8 in Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Chesapeake. The Hero Games is a four day event with eight sports for current first responders, retirees, family members and supporters. The Hero Games is our way of giving back to the folks that keep our families and communities safe on a daily base. This is an event that everybody wants to be a part of, so do not miss out on your opportunity!

There are several ways to get involved including:

- Spread the word: encourage first responders to compete
- Play golf with our first responders
- Sponsor the event
- Become a vendor
- Donate money so first responders can compete for FREE!
- Come out to any of the sporting events to cheer on our first responders

To learn how you may get involved, please visit: HamptonRoadsSports.org/HeroGames.

Ladies’ Day to Play
Keep calm and play golf! If you are a woman in the Hampton Roads business community, we have the perfect event for you to entertain your clients or promote your business to female decision makers! We are hosting the second-annual Ladies’ Day to Play Golf Tournament on Friday, October 14 at Honey Bee Golf Course in Virginia Beach. The event’s mission is to have women gather on the golf course for a day of fun, fellowship and friendly competition. Grab a few of your girl friends/clients and join us for a day of golf that is filled with a silent auction, raffle prizes, delicious food and more fun than you should have during the work day! Skill is optional, but fun is required!

For more information please visit: HamptonRoadsSports.org/LadiesDayToPlay

hamptonroadssports.org