Welcome New Members

Join us in welcoming these new Chamber members. For the most current member directory, visit www.HamptonRoadsChamber.com

Congratulations to the following businesses that celebrated milestone achievements this month:

First Virginia
Docutecture LLC
Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeast Virginia
Vinylmint
Storybook Events
Omni Business Systems-FaxPlus
Community Outreach Coalition

Welcome New Members - Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce

Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following businesses that have celebrated milestone anniversaries this month:

First Virginia - 20 years
Docutecture LLC - 20 years
Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeast Virginia - 20 years
Vinylmint - 3 years
Storybook Events - 3 years
Omni Business Systems-FaxPlus - 3 years
Community Outreach Coalition - 3 years

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The Voice of Business for Hampton Roads - General Assembly Update

Key priority for the Hampton Roads region is transportation funding. Legislation that establishes a Hampton Roads Regional Transportation Authority appears headed for passage. The seven established Authorities would have the ability to sell tolls, bond and establish priorities for new projects. Local and state elected officials were unanimous in their support for the plan.

The most challenging legislative issue facing the 2014 General Assembly and the question of Medicaid expansion and reform. The Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals ruled in a decision that the legislature was not empowered to create a Medicaid expansion program.

Another significant development in the General Assembly report this year was the special election to fill the Senate seat occupied by Dr. Creigh Deeds. After the election results were certified, Democrats took control of the Virginia Senate. Democrats will have significant impact on public policy decisions in the Commonwealth. However, with Republicans still in control in the House of Delegates, there are likely to be a number of partisan legislative battles prior to adjournment in March.

Join the Chamber for the remaining State of the City events taking place through May. Register at Events.HamptonRoadsChamber.com.
Cybersecurity in an Era of Lines, Hacks, E-mail and Data: presented by Bank of America. Martin Joseph, President of JCTG Partners spoke as the moderator. Panelists included Heather Engle, Principal at Savvy-Brooks, Scott Phillpott, Senior Manager at Cyber Analytic Ventures Enterprise Inc and a Special Agent from the Cyber Crime Division of the FBI.

Prof. Phillpott spoke in detail about how easily a hacker could steal sensitive information and how relatively inexpensive the software needed to do so are. Regarding how long it would take him to access a company’s information, Phillpott said, “The idea that they can have two email addresses, phone numbers, Foenticlal information, and Twitter handles all in about five seconds. It’s not rocket science.”

The last speaker at the event was a FBI Special Agent based out of the Norfolk Office who recently investigated cyber crimes. Regarding other crimes and the possible threats they carry into the future, the Special Agent said, “The former Director of the FBI told Congress last year and said ‘Cyber crime is probably going to become the number one investigative priority of the FBI within the next five years’ and that’s because it’s no long-term. Just last year, the cost of cybersecurity to U.S. businesses was $114 billion. The panelists stressed that every business should have a plan in place and Phillpott added that, “You must come up with a back-up plan.”

Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce

Experts Brief Business Community on Cyber Security

Travel the World with the Chamber

Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Membership – A Return on Investment

Take advantage of membership in the Chamber. Two of the top reasons businesses join the Chamber are CONNECTIONS and CREDIBILITY.

Connections

Every month the Chamber holds 30 networking events that help you build a relationship with fellow professionals, offering opportunities to expand connections, and more importantly, grow your business by networking with the Chamber membership, new and old.

Reuben Alberry of SBTI Partners said, “Being a member of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce has opened our doors to a number of ideas in business and I would say that the Chamber has been invaluable in steering our future, direction, as we grow the business. It has become invaluable to keeping our finger on the pulse of the entire Hampton Roads marketplace.”

Credibility

A national study found that when consumers form a first and small business is a member of a large community of commerce, they are more likely to think of 80% of them more likely to purchase goods and services from the company.

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SDBC Receives Legacies Silver Star Award for Jobs and Entrepreneurship

Student-Athletes and Parents attend REC Forum Hosted by Sports Commission

Chamber thanks sponsors: Southern Bank (Sponsor), Rich & Rickard; Inside Software (Presenting Sponsor); Bank of America (Speaker); and Virginia Surety (Silver Sponsor). Discussions (Media Sponsor). The Chamber thanks Old Point National Bank (Presenting Sponsor) for their support of the REC Commission.

The Chamber’s new President & CEO Bryan Stephens told the audience, “When you’re reaching out to consumers and an individual can’t get up-to-speed on what a Chamber has to offer, they can come to the Chamber.”

To the new audience, the Hampton Roads Sports Commission presented their 2013 Annual Meeting held on January 25 at The Founders Inn and Spa. The top topic of the meeting was “It’s Bigger Than You.”

Fowler Creed Andrus Group

For more information on The Chamber’s Annual Meeting of the Membership, held December 17 at The Founders Inn and Spa, call the Chamber at 262-5793 or visit HamptonRoadsChamber.com/AnnualMeeting.

The Chamber also honored volunteer leaders who served the region. Recipients included: Chesapeake Division Leadership Award, Shirley Frederick; Donner of Virginia Commonwealth; Norfolk Division Leadership Award, Dawnie Ellis, O.D. of Harvey Loriat Commercial Real Estate Partners; Portsmouth Division Leadership Award, Raymond Joseph; Suffolk Division Leadership Award, Betty Bagnell; Treasurer, Vice President of TowneBank Greenbrier; Virginia Beach Division Leadership Award, Marley Roos; Director of the Office of Virginia Resources for the City of Virginia Beach; and the Marian P. Whitehurst Greenbrier; Virginia Beach Division Leadership Award, Mary Bagnell, President & CEO of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce.

Winter 2014

Governor-elect Terry McAuliffe Speaks at Chamber’s Annual Meeting

The event’s keynote speaker was Governor-elect Terry McAuliffe, the designated area’s assets, economic development, transportation, Medicaid and early childhood education. McAuliffe said he will lead in important ways and reach out to Republicans. “We have found common ground on so many issues,” he said. McAuliffe said he wants to diversity the economic and job mix.

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Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce

Experts Brief Business Community on Cyber Security

Cyber Security is a buzz word of the day. Hackers, crooks and data thieves are on the radar, and the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the FBI Norfolk Field Office recently hosted a presentation for business leaders on the topic. After the presentation, attendees were encouraged to take action to protect their business from cyber crime.

SBA Receives Legacies Silver Star Award for Jobs and Entrepreneurship

SBDC Receives Legacies Silver Star Award for Jobs and Entrepreneurship

The Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce recently recognized the Virginia Small Business Development Center (SBDC) as the recipient of the Silver Star Award from the Small Business Administration. The Silver Star Award is the highest honor given to SBA’s 368 National and State Network SBDCs.

The Chamber Honors Small Businesses

Small businesses are a vital part of Hampton Roads’ economy and the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber will host their 2014 Small Businesses Awards luncheon on Wednesday, May 21 at noon celebrating local businesses, leaders and entrepreneurship.

A Small Business of the Year will be recognized in each of the Chamber’s six counties: Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, and Suffolk. The winner in each category will be chosen by the Chamber for their contribution to the Hampton Roads economy.

The Top Ten Wins, a competition open to 10 Hampton Roads for profit emerging businesses with fewer than 50 employees, in businesses for five years or less on January 1, 2014.

The Young Entrepreneur Award (YEA!), will be awarded to an emerging young entrepreneur in the Hampton Roads region recognizing young entrepreneurs who have taken the risk of starting and running their own business in Hampton Roads.

In addition, the Impressions in Print Leadership Award will be presented to an individual demonstrating leadership, impact on workplace culture, community service and involvement, professional achievement and perseverance.

Travel the World with the Chamber

Travel to Austria and Germany from October 6-14, 2013. This 9-day tour includes stops in Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, Berlin, Copenhagen and Paris. For more information, visit www.HamptonRoadsChamber.com/Austria.

Travel to China and Austria from October 6-14, 2013. This 9-day tour includes stops in Beijing, Shanghai, and Vienna. For more information, visit www.HamptonRoadsChamber.com/China.

Chamber Membership – A Return on Investment

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The Chamber’s Annual Meeting of the Membership, held December 17 at The Founders Inn and Spa, will honor the 2013 chairs and recognize the winners of the region’s business leaders and community leaders. The 2013-2015 Chamber Executive Officers handed the gavel to Chamber Chair Deborah Stearns and 2014 Chair Michael Dudley.

The 2013 Chamber Chair Deborah Stearns handed the gavel to 2012 Chair Susan Blackmon of Williams & Sawyer PC, who was named the Chamber’s 2013 Volunteer of the Year. Susan led the selection committee for the Chamber’s 2013 Volunteer of the Year.

Chamber Workforce Development Committee Chair Tricia Dustin, 2013 Chair of the Chamber, will serve as the Chair’s Treasurer. Susan will serve as the Chair’s Chair-elect in 2014.

The chamber’s new President & CEO Brian Stearns will take over as the Chair, "I’ll do everything I can to ensure that your Chamber is striving for excellence every day, to a top quality and meaningful impact that adds value to your organization.

The Chamber honored volunteer leaders who served the region. Recipients included Chesapeake Division Leadership Award, Shirley Foster, Director of Virginia Community College System, Chesapeake Division Leadership Award, Darlene Ellis, CEO of Harvey Lodging Commercial Real Estate, Portsmouth Division Leadership Award, Raymond Joseph, Suffolk Division Leadership Award, Betty Bagnal Thomas, President of Tidewater Community College; Virginia Beach Division Leadership Award, Marty Rowe; Director of the Office of Volunteer Resources for the City of Virginia Beach; and the Marian P. Whitcomb Women in Leadership Award, Dr. Nancy Welch, Director of the Chesapeake Health Department and Acting Director of the Western Tidewater Health Department.

Governor-elect Terry McAuliffe Speaks at Chamber’s Annual Meeting

The event’s keynote speaker, Governor-elect Terry McAuliffe, discussed his agenda’s areas of economic development, transportation, Medicaid and early childhood education.

McAuliffe said he will build in important components, and read to Republicans. “We have tremendous ground to go on many issues,” he said. McAuliffe said he wants to do exactly the opposite: achieve.

The Chamber thanks Old Point National Bank (Hosting Sponsor), Bon Secours Virginia Health System (Speaker Sponsor), Cox Communications (Media Sponsor), The Founders Inn & Spa (Event Sponsor) and BB&T (Silver Sponsor).

For more information, visit HamptonRoadsChamber.com/AnnualMeeting.

Connects

Each year the Chamber holds 20 networking events that help you build relationships with other business professionals, offering opportunities to expand connections, and more importantly, grow your business by networking with the Chamber morning, noon and night.

Reuben Allender of SBP Partners said, “Being a member of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce is the ultimate way to connect with like-minded business people. Our membership has grown by our employment. SBP Partners expresses our gratitude to the business. It has become invaluable to keeping our finger on the pulse of the Hampton Roads marketplace.”

Credibility

A national study found that when consumers favor a small business it is a member of a number of organizations. High marks are likely to bring customers and services from the company.

If your company is not a member of the Hampton Roads Chamber, the nearly 2,500 member businesses that employ more than 280,000 men and women in the region. Membership starts around $1 a day. Call 757-664-2504.

Student Athletes and Parents Attend REC Forum Hosted by Sports Commission

The Spirit of Volunteerism, an event presented by the Hampton Roads Sports Commission and the REC Forum, was recently held at Founders Inn and Spa.

The event allowed student athletes and their parents to connect with like-minded business people. Our membership has grown by our employment.

For more information, visit HamptonRoadsChamber.com/AnnualMeeting.

Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce

Winter 2014

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The Voice of Business for Hampton Roads - General Assembly Update

A key priority for the Hampton Roads region in transportation funding. Legislation that establishes a Hampton Roads Regional Transportation Authority opposes hard for these issues. The established Authority would have the ability to sell tolls, bond and establish priorities for our market. Local state and elected officials were willing to endorse the plan.

The rest of the challenging legislative policy issue facing the 2014 General Assembly is the question of Medicaid expansion and reform. The Supreme Court of the United States presented individualstates with the opportunity to participate in Medicaid expansion through the Affordable Care Act. The basic community supports a uniform care option for Medicaid and a broad coalition of business interests are behind the Commonwealth’s leadership. This broad coalition of business interests are behind the Commonwealth’s leadership. The Medicaid expansion legislation is a critical component to public policy decisions in the Commonwealth. However, with Republicans solidly in control in the House of Delegates, there likely will only be a number of partisan legislative battles prior to adjournment.

Another significant development in the General Assembly occurred this year when the special election was held to fill the seat formerly occupied by U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey. Democrats won the election and the current state Senate is made up of 22 Democrats and 18 Republicans. After the election, House Speaker Bob Thomas announced that the Commonwealth’s leadership is now solidly behind the General Assembly’s leadership. The Democratic leadership will now have the ability to control the agenda and pass legislation.

Prior to the election, the leadership was divided with Democrats holding the majority in the House and Republicans holding the majority in the Senate. However, the leadership was split on many important issues and was not able to pass legislation. After the election, the leadership will now have the ability to control the agenda and pass legislation. The Democratic leadership will now have the ability to control the agenda and pass legislation.

The Hampton Roads Chamber’s 2014 Legislative Priorities include:

1. Oversight of transportation funding
2. Medicaid expansion
3. Economic development
4. Education
5. Environment
6. Health care
7. Affordable housing
8. Energy
9. Natural resources
10. Public safety

These key priorities will be addressed during the 2014 General Assembly session. The Hampton Roads Chamber will work closely with the Democratic leadership to advocate for these issues and ensure that the region’s interests are represented.

The Hampton Roads Chamber will continue to work with the Democratic leadership to advocate for these issues and ensure that the region’s interests are represented. The Chamber will work to ensure that the region’s voice is heard in the legislative process and that the region’s interests are represented.

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