Chamber Announces its 2012 Leadership

At the September 28, 2011 Board of Directors meeting, the following individuals were elected as the Chamber’s 2012 officers. These leaders will take office at the Chamber’s Annual Meeting of the Membership on December 8. The Chamber thanks its 2012 officers for their commitment to serve.

Chair
Maurice A. Jones Jr. is President of Pilot Media, the largest print and digital organization in Hampton Roads. Pilot Media’s businesses include The Virginian-Pilot, Pilot Interactive and Targeted Publications + Media. Maurice has served as President and Publisher of The Virginian-Pilot since 2008. Maurice joined Landmark Media Enterprises, owner of Pilot Media, in 2005, serving as Vice President of the Landmark Publishing Group. In 2008, he joined Pilot Media as Vice President and General Manager. Maurice has served the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce as Vice Chair of both the Marketing & Communications Committee and Membership Committee and in 2011 served as Chair-Elect.

Treasurer
Michael M. Dudley Jr. is President and CEO of Optima Health Plan and a Senior Vice President of Sentara Healthcare. Optima Health Plan is the health plan division of Sentara Healthcare. Serving 435,000 members in Virginia, Optima Health Plan provider network consists of nearly 22,000 physicians and 60 hospitals. Prior to joining Sentara in 1996, Michael served as President of Kaiser Permanente Insurance Company, President of the Northeast Region of Kaiser Permanente in Hartford Connecticut, and President of Kaiser’s Valhalla Medical Center in California. He completed Stanford University’s executive management program and is a Fellow of the American College of Health Care Executives. Michael serves as a Director on the Boards of Old Dominion University and community leaders and elected officials in total attended the events to hear Dr. James Koch, president emeritus of Old Dominion University and professor of economics, present the program. Dr. Koch said that huge deficits accompanied by uncertainty on key issues like financial regulations and health care are causing companies to “hunker down.” He urged that we reform our tax structure and broaden the income tax base, invest in the labor force and education, increase research and development, and focus our defense spending.

“Too much government regulation and the tax code can help drive our economy,” Koch warned. “We need to grow the economy, it may take a decade of hard work,” Koch warned. Compared to the rest of the country, Koch said, “we’re doing better, but we’re not doing near what we used to.”

All 12 of the State of the Region reports can be viewed at www.odu.edu/forecasting.

Thanks to sponsors: Optima Health (Presenting); Bon Secours Hampton Roads Health System; Denio Trane (Gold); Clark Nexsen, Architecture & Engineering, Lockheed Martin; Saint Leo University and Williams & Savage, PC (Silver); Dribel (Technology), and Cox Communications (Media).

More than 800 Attend 12th Annual State of the Region Address

EAD Hampton Roads presented its 12th annual State of the Region address on October 4 in Norfolk and October 7 in Newport News. More than 800 business and community leaders and elected officials attended the events to hear Dr. James Koch, president emeritus of Old Dominion University and professor of economics, present the program.

The Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce and its Hampton Roads Business Political Action Committee (HRBPAC) hosted a Congressional Issues Luncheon on October 17 in Norfolk, attracting a crowd of more than 150 business and community leaders. As the voice of business, the Chamber strives to offer its members quality programs and access to elected leaders.

Speakers at the luncheon included Congressman Randy Forbes, Scott Rigell, Bobby Scott, and Robert Wittman. Shep Miller, Chair of the Chamber’s HRBPAC emceed the discussion, which included topics such as the national budget, military, education and health care. After each speaker addressed the crowd, those in the audience had an opportunity to ask questions.

Thanks to sponsors: Portfolio Recovery Associates, Inc. (Presenting); KITCO Fiber Optics (Gold): Cox Communications (Media); Klett Consulting Group, Inc. (Programs); BB&T; Clark Nexsen, Architecture & Engineering, Dixon Hughes Goodman and Verizon Communications (Silver Legislative Affairs Beneficiaries).

Members Dialogue with Local Congressmen

Rep. Mike J. E. Norris (District 6) hosted a discussion with the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Fall 2011 Leadership Reception attendees. The members of the Chamber’s local political organizations and local congressmen met at the Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel and Waterfront Conference Center to discuss issues.

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Chamber Brings Together Members and Legislators

On October 27, nearly 100 people filled the Town Center City Club in Virginia Beach during the Chamber’s 8th Annual Legislative Reception. Chamber members mingled with 29 of the region’s legislators and elected officials. This evening reception is one of the single largest gatherings of local, state and federal legislators in Hampton Roads.

The Chamber thanks sponsors: Bon Secours Virginia Health System (Silent); KITCO Fiber Optics, McGuire Woods, Virginia Natural Gas (Silver); Real Estate Information Network Inc. (Program); and BB&T, Clark Nexsen, Dixon Hughes Goodman, Verizon Communications (Silver Legislative Affairs Benefactors).

Networking and Fun in Full Swing at Golf Outing

On October 13, nearly 125 golfers enjoyed a day at Sleepy Hole Golf Course in Suffolk for the Chamber’s annual Hampton Roads Golf Outing. Guests enjoyed lunch in the newly renovated Obici House, followed by an afternoon of golf and networking with colleagues and friends. The overall winning foursome was the Belfor USA team which shot a 57. The second flight winning team shooting a 67 was BB&T, followed by the Harvey Lindsay team which shot a 73 to take first place in the third flight.

The Chamber thanks sponsors: Bon Secours Virginia Health System (Presenting); Signs By Tomorrow-Chesapeake (Sign); Harbor Point Behavioral Health Center (Gold); Bayside Harley-Davidson (Hole-in-One Prize); and CSC Leasing Company (Putting Contest).
Workers compensation costs can often be a burden to small-business owners. To help relieve some of that burden, WorkersComp4Members was created. As a member, you can save money and get great workers compensation insurance for your employees.

Program Benefits include:

- 5% up-front premium discount on a workers’ compensation policy with Accident Fund Insurance Company of America.
- Opportunity to receive group dividends, based upon the group’s overall profitability.
- Access to the WorkSafe Toolbox™, which contains safety tools, including online training, safety videos and other educational materials.
- No minimum premium to qualify.
- Convenient billing options.
- Loss prevention tools to help reduce claim costs.

All active chamber members are eligible to participate in this program, subject to Accident Fund’s underwriting guidelines. This program is modeled after similar highly successful Chamber programs in other states. Over the past several years, Accident Fund has paid out over $35 million in dividends to participants of similar programs. Dividends are returned to policyholders as a percentage of premiums paid, if dollars paid out in claims for the entire group are within acceptable ranges.

While keeping people healthy and injury-free is vital in its own right, it is also an important factor in the ability to earn a dividend. Safety at work leads to fewer injuries and fewer workers’ compensation claims.

“Safety truly does pay,” Theresa Ross, Accident Fund’s group program consultant, said. “A safe work environment is not only a right, it is also an important factor in the ability to earn a dividend.”

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For more information about WorkersComp4Members, visit www.WorkersComp4Members.com or contact Stephanie Buck at 757-684-2521 or stephanie@chambermemberbenefits.com.

Chamber Recognizes Newman Executive Leaders to the Region

The Hampton Roads Chamber hosted its annual CEO Welcome Breakfast in Virginia Beach on November 8 at The Founders Inn to welcome and recognize 32 individuals who have moved into leadership positions in the past year. The breakfast also gives the local business community and elected leaders the opportunity to show their support for these individuals. Joe Flanagan, anchor and reporter for WVEC-TV 13 News, emceed the program.

The Chamber thanks sponsors: Cherry, Bekaert & Holland (Presenting), CNB (Host), Dale Carnegie Training (Gold), Cox and Inside Business (Media).

Two Named Military Citizens of the Year

On October 7, the Hampton Roads Chamber hosted the 2011 Military Citizen of the Year Luncheon, in conjunction with Fleet Week. Nearly 200 attended the luncheon at the Norfolk-Waterside Marriott. At the luncheon, the annual Samuel 1st Northern Military Citizen of the Year Award (MCOY) was presented to the enlisted military individual whose personal and public contributions have had the most positive effect on the Hampton Roads community. This year, the 21 men and women nominated completed a combined effort of more than 9,000 hours of volunteer service. For the first time in 95 years, the Chamber named two winners. This year’s winners were Information Systems Technician 1st Class James Halleran and Construction Mechanic 1st Class James Simons.

The Chamber thanks sponsors: Omni Financial (Presenting), GEICO (Gold Military Program Benefactor), First Command (Speaker), B’nai B’rith Securities Virginia Health System, City of Norfolk, Dale Carnegie Training/Made Wood & Assoc., and USA Discounters (Gold); Cox Communications (Media); Norfolk Waterside Marriott (Hospitality); USAA (Silver) Bank of America and Lockheed Martin (Silver Military Program Benefactors), Regent University and Saint Leo University (Bronze Military Program Benefactors); and the Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance (Special Event).

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Welcome New Members

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

AUGUST

All Things Possible - Life Coaching Services
Archipelago Fitness Harbor View
BBR Contractors, Inc.
Buffalo Wild Wings (Norfolk)
Cambridge College
Chesapeake 08/09 (Virginia, NC)
Central Logistics Group - VA, Inc.
Chesapeake County
Drummond Industries
Guardsmark LLC
Harbor Graphics & E Productions
Hampton Roads General Counsel, PLLC
HRSI Consulting, LLC
Hunt Club Farm
Kim Business Partners
Kizzy Booms
Midlothian Pression Wash & Painting
Pacific Legal/Riga & Donald Lessen
Portsmouth-Pungo Virginia Beach, LLC
Providence Seas, LLC
Ringfeder
Royal Wealth Management, Inc.
Social Information Partners, Inc.
Top Guard Security
Virginia Expressions Sales Corporation
Western Beach Jewelers

SEPTEMBER

Advanced Integrated Technologies, LLC (AIT)
American Heart Association
Cross Realty
E.V. Williams, Inc.
Evans Yards, LLC
iVibe Salon and Breakfast, LLC
Mariner
Mark Quantum
Menzel, Williams & Recreation count
For Food International
SEI Beauty
Terrence Corporation
U.S. Properties Services, LLC
Wrestling
Wendy's (Tiffany Ln., Virginia Beach)
Western Branch Jewelers

OCTOBER

SUKP
A Touch of Technology, LLC
Belmont House of Smoke
Blanketing Company

Cinema Café (Edmonds Dr., Virginia Beach)
Cinemark Chesapeake Square
Detwiler
Digital Marketing Center
Domingo Family
Doughty-Kettner Corp DBA The Barque
Duwayney Thirty-One Gifts, Independent Consultant
Eagle Point Partnership, LLC
Grody Electric Lawn Service
Healthcare Guidance Group
Heartland Payment Systems
Hillwood, Inc.
Knowledge Information Solutions, Inc.
Leimund Pure & The Solution
LemonPie
New York Life Insurance Company
Norfolk Shale Pro Services
Official Aztec Parts
Quickly Hands & Hearts Home Care
R&M Office Supplies
Saudi/Adrian & Collective Sales
Tales of the House of Ruito
UDC
Yard House Restaurants

ANNIVERSARIES

In 2011, the following staff members celebrated being members with the Chamber for 10 years or more. For more information, contact Sharon Dei, Program Development Director (804) 294-2500.

John Arens, President (10 years)
Jack Hornbeck, CCE, President & CEO (10 years)
Sara Ball, Director of Government Affairs (10 years)
Jan Burton, Administrative Manager (10 years)
Sylvia Haines, Sr. Vice President of Organizational Development (10 years)
We thank these staff members for their hard work and dedication.

Juan Johnson, Accountant, has been awarded a scholarship by the Virginia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives to attend next spring’s VACC Institute program. Congratulations, Juan!

Congratulations to Tim Hogeland whose dedication and volunteer efforts for the Chamber have earned him the title of Ambassador of the Quarter for a second time this year. Tim, who began volunteering as a Chamber Ambassador in December 2009, attends monthly networking functions, ribbon cuttings, and is a liaison to new and existing members. He is an Account Executive with Rocket Direct Communications, Inc.

The Chamber welcomes the following new additions to its Ambassador Committee:

- Latanya Brown, Absolute Protection Realty, LLC
- Erin Clark, E-n-e Photography
- John H. Fenter, Sonalysts, Inc.
- BJ Henley, Northstar 1st Response
- Monique Hitchcock, Verizon Communications
- Mary Holt, All Things Possible - Life Coaching Services
- Cindy Hutchinson, CAS, Target Marketing Group
- JC Kredel, Vox Optima, LLC
- Lament D. Maddox, Exec., Guidance Law Firm, PC
- Lisa Mirene, Ciera Pro Painters of South Hampton Roads

For more information on the Chamber’s Ambassador Program, contact Yonnee Johnson at yjohnson@hrccva.com or 757-664-2504.