Bryan Stephens Named President & CEO

Bryan E. Stephens has been selected as the Hampton Roads Chamber’s new President & CEO. On October 30, the Chamber’s Board of Directors voted to approve the selection of Mr. Stephens for the position after a thorough search that included national outreach.

“I am pleased to join the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce,” said Stephens. “This Chamber is vital to the region’s business community and I look forward to working with the Board, staff, volunteers, and staff to further their mission of promoting the region and the livelihood of local businesses.”

Prior to his position President & CEO of the Chamber, Mr. Stephens was Vice President & Executive Director of Military Programs for the American Immigration Council, in Washington, D.C., where he was responsible for a full range of operations including grant writing, purchasing, and quality control. He hid global operations encompassing U.S. military sales and foreign and commercial sales with focus on the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Europe.

Earlier Stephens served in Saudi Arabia, USA, serving as chief of staff of the 28th Fighter Wing and as a liaison officer to the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Defense. Stephens served in the U.S. Army for nearly 20 years, rising to the rank of major and retiring as the deputy director of the Special Operations Command. He also served three years as President of Kaiser Permanente Northern California. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce from the McIntire School at the University of Virginia and an M.B.A. from the Darden School at the University of Virginia.

The Chamber’s President & CEO search was driven by the need to bring in a dynamic leader who could effectively manage and grow the Chamber’s operations while continuing to deliver on the Chamber’s strategic goals. Mr. Stephens succeeds long-time President & CEO Michael M. Dudley, who announced his plan to retire on October 30, 2013.

Stephens is a native of the U.S. military and understands the unique needs of military communities. He has a strong track record of leading global operations and managing complex organizations. Stephens has a proven track record of driving growth in revenue and increasing operating margins. He has a deep understanding of the military community and the special challenges that military families face.

The Chamber’s Board of Directors voted to approve the selection of Mr. Stephens for the position after a thorough search that included national outreach. The search was managed by a national search firm and included a national search committee.

Mr. Stephens will begin his role as President & CEO on November 4, 2013. He will begin working immediately to ensure a smooth transition. He will serve as the Chamber’s Chief Executive Officer and will focus on growing membership, increasing revenue, and enhancing the Chamber’s brand.

New member will be welcomed into the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce for the upcoming year.

With the Chamber’s Membership Program, a member and get RENEWED! When a referred business or organization joins the Chamber, you will receive $25 in Chamber Cash. There is no limit to the number of members you can refer! For more information, visit HamptonRoadsChamber.com and click on the “Membership” drop down menu.
Local Congressman Speak to Chamber as Budget Cuts Loom

Congressman Shep Miller, Chair of the Hampton Roads Business Roundtable (from left) Congressman Randy Forbes; Congressman Bobby Scott; Congressman Rob Wittman; Don Redmond, Portfolio Recovery Associates, Inc.; Deborah Stearns, Chamber's Monster Mega Mixer from My Bug Man Inc. Andy Rivenbark, Best in Show award went to Stephanie Dudley and Amy Barcroft of Personal Touch Services Inc. Joe Thomas, President & CEO of Hampton Roads Chamber in Virginia Beach. Joe Flanagan, anchor/reporter with WVEC ABC13 News, served as emcee. Bryan Stephens, the Chamber’s new President & CEO, was named honoree. Stephens, who provided closing remarks at the breakfast, began work in this new role on November 4.

Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce

Chamber's Monster Mega Mixer Provides Networking and Fun

The Chamber's “Monster Mega Mixer & Business Showcase” held on October 28 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center was a great success with more than 150 business leaders for a reception. This annual reception gives the community an opportunity to network and dialogue with legislators prior to the General Assembly Session. The Chamber has a unique relationship with local and state government and at events directly with elected officials to create economic prosperity and enhance the quality of life.

Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Reception Provides Access to Elected Officials

On November 14 at the Town Center Club in Virginia Beach, nearly 250 elected official, key party by more than 150 business leaders for a reception. This annual reception gives the community an opportunity to network with elected and state officials and to dialogue with legislators prior to the General Assembly Session. The Chamber has a unique relationship with local and state government and at events directly with elected officials to create economic prosperity and enhance the quality of life.

Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber Welcomes 36 New Local Leaders

The Chamber’s inagural “Wild Wing Fling” was held on September 12 at Beasley Harley Davidson in Portsmouth and was a roaring success, attracting more than 1,000 attendees! The evening featured business exhibits, music by Mike Croke and delicious wings from local restaurants. The President’s Choice Award went to Bubba’s & Friends SmokeHouse (1st Place) and Mikey’s (2nd Place); while Big Woody’s Bar and Grill (pictured) was crowned the Best Wild Wing King. Big Woody’s Bar and Grill was crowned the Best Wild Wing King. Big Woody’s Bar and Grill received the Best in Show, Most Original, and the Most Flavorful awards.

Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce

Sixteen Local Early Education Centers Graduate from Small Business Development Center Program

Economic Development: The eight localities participating in this program saw an average increase of 17.3% in enrollment with more than 100 students impacted by these centers.

On September 28, the Norfolk graduation was held at the Hampton Roads Chamber. Daniel Hall, Norfolk Assistant City Manager, spoke of the city’s commitment and support to early childhood education. Those eight participating child care centers reported a total of 193 children with an average increase of 17.3% in enrollment.

Since 2009, the Small Business Development Center Early Education Small Business Program has given assistance to 52 centers through innovative partnerships with the cities of Virginia Beach, Suffolk, Chesapeake, Newport News, Hampton, and Norfolk and a grant from Small Business South Hampton Roads.

AD2 Misty Herring Named Military Citizen of the Year

As one of the area’s largest employers, GEICO’s Virginia Beach office has been recognized as a “Best Place to Work” by Virginia Business Magazine in 2013 and voted “Best Place to Work” by the Virginia Beach Chamber of Commerce. With more than 2,400 associates in the Virginia Beach office, the Chamber has an active presence with more than 100 associates involved in volunteer and fundraising efforts. GEICO is also dedicated to serving active duty, guard, reserve, and retired Military personnel and their families through its Military Center, located in Virginia Beach. For more information, visit www.geico.com.

Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce

To view this document in PDF format, visit www.egcs.com/sheets. The Chamber wishes to thank Chuck Moore, President of the Virginia Beach Office, and to thank the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce for hosting the event.

Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce

AD2 Misty Herring Named Military Citizen of the Year

On November 11, the Samuel T. Northern Military Citizen of the Year Luncheon was held at Bayside Harley-Davidson in Portsmouth and was a roaring success, attracting more than 1,000 attendees! The evening featured business exhibits, music by Mike Croke and delicious wings from local restaurants. The President’s Choice Award went to Bubba’s & Friends SmokeHouse (1st Place) and Mikey’s (2nd Place); while Big Woody’s Bar and Grill (pictured) was crowned the Best Wild Wing King. Big Woody’s Bar and Grill received the Best in Show, Most Original, and the Most Flavorful awards.

Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce

Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce
Local Congressmen Speak to Chamber as Budget Cuts Loom

Local Congressmen Speak to Chamber as Budget Cuts Loom

On November 7, the Chamber hosted its annual CEO/Welcome Reception to recognize and welcome 30 chamber leaders who have moved into leadership positions in the last year. More than 200 people attended the breakfast, held at the Founders Inn & Spa. Jim Flanagan, anchor/reporter with WVEC ABC13 News, served as emcee. Ryan Stephens, the Chamber’s new President & CEO, was serving his second term. Stephens, who provided closing remarks at the breakfast, began work in this new role on November 4.

Chamber Revs its Engine at Wild Wing Fling

Chamber Revs its Engine at Wild Wing Fling

On November 14, the Town Center City Club in Virginia Beach was host to the 2013 Wild Wing Fling, a fun filled event celebrating the energy of small business and the Chamber. The event featured live music by local bands, Atlantic Sizzle and the Seasoned, food on site and an excellent auction including items such as a trip to Key West and Wakeboarding in Virginia Beach. The event was very successful, with nearly 300 people in attendance. The funds raised will be used to support the Chamber’s mission of enhancing the quality of life on the Peninsula.

Sixteen Local Early Education Centers Graduate from Small Business Development Center Program

Sixteen Local Early Education Centers Graduate from Small Business Development Center Program

The Small Business Development Center of Hampton Roads (SBDC), an affiliate of the Hampton Roads Chamber, celebrated the graduation of 16 early childhood education centers from Norfolk and Chesapeake on their completion of the intensive Early Education Small Business Mentoring Program. The program, sponsored by SBDC Business Analyst Lauren Small, is designed to assist childcare centers in improving profitability, accessing new funding, and moving into leadership positions within their business so that they can focus on providing high-quality education.

AD2 Misty Herring Named Military Citizen of the Year

AD2 Misty Herring Named Military Citizen of the Year

The Chamber’s recap of the Wild Wing Fling” was held on September 12 at Bayshore Harley-Davidson in Portsmouth and was a roaring success, attracting more than 600 attendees. The event included live music, food, and games. The Bay Area Blood and Blood Drive was also present and screened the Wild Wing Fling film. Big Win Bally and Bizz Zee received the Best in Show, Most Original, and the Most Flavorful awards.

The Chamber, as one of the nation’s largest small business associations, offers a wide range of services to help small businesses thrive. The Small Business Development Center Early Childhood Education Program provides assistance to 32 centers through innovative partnerships with the cities of Virginia Beach, Suffolk, Chesapeake, and Norfolk and a grant from Small Business Hampton Roads.

Economic development. The right to domicile status participating in this program was an average increase of 13%, in enrollment with more than 500 children impacted by these centers. On September 26, the Norfolk gradution was held at the Hampton Roads Chamber. Darrell Hill, Norfolk Assistant City Manager, spoke of this critical commitment and support to our early education providers. Those eight participating child care centers impacted more than 500 children with an average increase of 20% in enrollment. Since 2009, the Small Business Development Center Early Childhood Education Small Business Development Program has been assisting to 32 centers through innovative partnerships with the cities of Virginia Beach, Suffolk, Chesapeake, and Norfolk and a grant from Small Business Hampton Roads.
Welcome New Members

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

Jeter removals the following businesses to include: Salon Voula Salon, Salon 1901, Divine Wigs & Beyond

CHAMBER CORNER

J. Kerriel Managing Director of the Development Team, Inc. (TDC) Anniversaries

Congratulations to J. Kerriel, which has been named the Chamber’s Ambassador of the Year. J. Kerriel joined the Chamber in 2007 when CEO Brandon Vos Optics joined the Chamber and she directed the business development effort for Vos Optics, usually serves as a national strategy development agency for vision-related strategic and financial consulting. As an advocate, the Chamber and J. Kerriel attend other committees, networking events, the Business Education Series and many other Chamber events. She is also a proud graduate of the Hampton Roads Leadership program.

As a volunteer with the Chamber, J. Kerriel attends other committees, networking events, the Business Education Series and many other Chamber events. She is also a proud graduate of the Hampton Roads Leadership program. J. Kerriel serves as an ambassador to the Hampton Roads Chamber, bringing awareness to the Chamber and its programs. She is a native of Skaneateles, New York and enjoys spending time with her family when not at the Chamber. J. Kerriel has been named the Chamber’s Ambassador of the Year.

AUGUST

Michael A. Butler joined the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce in September 2013. A Virginia native, he previously served as Executive Director of the Hampton Roads Port Authority from 2005 to 2012; prior to that, he served as Deputy Director of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of Transportation for Virginia, from 2001 to 2005. Prior to that, he served as the Assistant Secretary of Administration for the Virginia Department of Transportation. He is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science.

Michael Butler joined the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce in September 2013. A Virginia native, he previously served as Executive Director of the Hampton Roads Port Authority from 2005 to 2012; prior to that, he served as Deputy Director of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of Transportation for Virginia, from 2001 to 2005. Prior to that, he served as the Assistant Secretary of Administration for the Virginia Department of Transportation. He is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science.

J. Kerriel Managing Director of the Development Team, Inc. (TDC)

With this Chamber’s Member Referral Program, you can refer a member and get a Commission of 10% of the referral’s chamber fee. A Chamber’s business is referred to a member who is included in the “Member Offer” section. With the Chamber’s Member Referral Program, you can have a member and get a Commission of 10% of the referral’s chamber fee. A Chamber’s business is referred to a member who is included in the “Member Offer” section. With the Chamber’s Member Referral Program, you can have a member and get a Commission of 10% of the referral’s chamber fee. A Chamber’s business is referred to a member who is included in the “Member Offer” section. With the Chamber’s Member Referral Program, you can have a member and get a Commission of 10% of the referral’s chamber fee. A Chamber’s business is referred to a member who is included in the “Member Offer” section. With the Chamber’s Member Referral Program, you can have a member and get a Commission of 10% of the referral’s chamber fee. 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