VOLUME I4 | ISSUE 0I | JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER OF THE RENSSELAER COUNTY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR Message from the 2014 Board Chair

s the New Year begins, I am honored to take the helm as chair of the Chamber's Board of Directors. My predecessor, Jo Ann LeSage Nelson, led the board to significant achievements in 2013 and, as any good leader does, prepared our Chamber for a successful transition of leadership. She has my sincere gratitude.

I am also grateful to my fellow board members, a terrific group of professionals who dedicate their time and considerable talents to ensuring the healthy growth of our regional business community. For the past several years I have participated in this dynamic group

and have witnessed

be made in the first quarter of 2014.

So, how's business? You'll get to tell us as we host more of our popular "Coffee with the President" events, small group discussions that bring together members to talk candidly with Linda. These informal groups foster face-to-face communication and relationship building among CEOs and business owners and help shape the Chamber's programs and services. It's another opportunity to connect, network, and meet with other CEOS, while telling us what you need, so we can provide it.

We continue to make our strategic plan the focus of our efforts, striving to accomplish the initiatives con-



"YOU are the reason for the Chamber and its successes, and everything we do is about YOU. Get involved today by using our resources, attending events, and most of all by communicating to us how we can help you to succeed."

A Message from Dan Slote 2014 Chamber Board Chair

their enthusiasm and commitment to the

success of our membership and the business community. Without a doubt, we are very fortunate to have Linda Hillman as our president, whose professional dedication and personal energy have lifted the Chamber's brand to the attention of business and public officials at state and national levels. Supported by a talented and committed staff, Linda continues to drive our Chamber forward into an exciting future.

As we embark on 2014, it's more important than ever to thank our members. YOU are the reason for the Chamber and its successes, and everything we do is about YOU. I encourage you to get involved by using our resources, attending events, and, most of all, by communicating to us how we can help you to succeed.

Let's take a look at what's coming up this year. After 10 years at our current location on River Street in Troy, our lease is up. Last September, under Jo Ann's leadership, we sent out Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to area developers and have received numerous tained in this important "roadmap" for our organization. Last year we launched the incredible "Tech Valley Series for Empowering Women," attracting more than 350 women professionals. We're planning now for an even greater experience in 2014, giving you more opportunities to participate and to sponsor these highvisibility events.

We're building on our successes with exciting events coming your way in 2014. Be sure to sign up early for "7 Habits of Highly Effective People® Signature Event." Presented on February 12 by Cris Lang of FranklinCovey, the program is based on the bestselling book by Stephen R. Covey. We are also ready to unveil a whole new professional training initiative: the *Leadership Advancement Series*, designed to be your next step in executive-level development. Stay tuned for more details. This new initiative will complement our award-winning Leadership Institute, which is entering its 10th year. In May, the Chamber selects The Leadership Institute's Class of 2015, which will begin in September.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Breakfast

County Executive's Breakfast Thursday, January 9 Find out what's ahead in 2014 for businesses in Rensselaer County. Presented by the Hon. Kathleen Jimino, county executive. Held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 235 Hoosick Street in Troy. Registration

and breakfast at 7:30 a.m.; program 8 to 9 a.m. \$35 for members; \$50 for non-members and walkins. Sponsored by the Rensselaer County IDA. **RENSSELAER**

COUNTY

life looks good from here $\ensuremath{^{sm}}$

Member Benefits Program

Tuesday, January 14

Open to all members and their employees, this free program presents an overview of the Chamber's valuable benefits and services. This informal event is also a great networking opportunity. Hosted at HANYS, 1 Empire Drive in East Greenbush. Check-in and coffee at 3:30 p.m.; program 4 to 5 p.m. No charge; reservations required. Sponsored by Thomas K. Judd & Associates.



NetworkingPlus Luncheon Wednesday, January 29

Networking is the number one reason why businesses join the Chamber! Our high-impact networking events include ambassador facilitators to encourage interaction, talking points for profitable discussion, and table rotations for twice as many contacts. Get connected, develop leads, and build relationships at this fast-paced networking luncheon. Held at the Franklin Terrace Ballroom, 126 Campbell Avenue in Troy. Registration and lunch at 11:30 a.m.; program 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. \$30 for members; \$45 for non-members and walk-ins. Sponsored by CAP COM Federal Credit Union; Groff NetWorks, LLC; and Insight Coaching & Consulting, LLC.



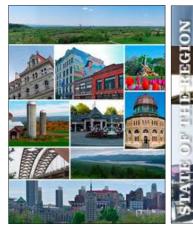


For all Chamber events, register online at www.renscochamber.com or contact Programs and Events Manager

responses. A board committee is now reviewing our options with due diligence, considering our current site as well as other opportunities, and a decision will All of us here at the Chamber wish you a New Year filled with good health and prosperity.

Daniel Slote, NAI Platform

"State of the Region" on February 25th



Save the date for this year's "State of the Region Breakfast: Chambers' Response to the Siena CEO Survey," hosted by a panel of executives from four area chambers of commerce. This joint event is a great opportunity to network with members of other chambers while discussing the findings of Siena College Research Institute's annual survey, widely considered a reliable forecast of the regional business climate for the coming year. Join us Tuesday, February 25 at The Century House, Route 9 in Latham. Registration and breakfast begin at 7:30 a.m., with the program from 8 to 9 a.m. Reservations are \$25 for members *with limited seating*. Register online at www.renscochamber.com or contact Kate Ollier at 518.274.7474 or kollier@renscochamber.com. Sponsored by CDTA.



Kate Ollier at 518.274.7474 or kollier@renscochamber.com.



The Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce (RCRCC) is a business, civic and economic development alliance that strives to enhance the economic vitality of Rensselaer County and the neighboring Gateway communities of Cohoes, Green Island, Waterford and Watervliet. The Chamber seeks to improve the quality of life within the community for both residents and businesses.

"insight" is published monthly. Submissions are considered for publication based upon content and space availability.

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Rensselaer City School District Schools Rep: Sally Shields 25 Van Rensselaer Drive

MEMBER NEWS

YWCA of the Greater Capital Region, Inc. raised a record \$25,000 at its annual "Resourceful Women's Luncheon," which attracted more than 350 attendees. All proceeds benefit the organization in its mission to support and encourage women in need. This year's awards honored 22 individuals who work to advance the empowerment of women. In addition, Corey Jamison of Corey Jamison Consulting, Inc., was named "Woman of the Year."

The Tri-City ValleyCats are accepting applications from youth leagues across the Capital Region for the fourth annual "4 in 24" youth field renovations, to take place in April. Four chosen fields will receive new infield sod and rebuilt pitcher's mounds and home plate areas. With assistance from Blue Shield of Northeastern New York, the initiative will be expanded in 2014 to include additional projects later in the year. Applications are available at www.tcvalleycats.com. Deadline is Monday, February 3.

The Sage Colleges recently hosted an "Undergraduate Nursing Conference" on the Russell Sage campus in Troy. Nursing students presented research on current healthcare topics including aromatherapy for oncology patients, techniques to prevent the use of restraints or seclusion in psychiatric units, self-care for nurses in preventing professional burnout, and more. The conference was sponsored by Sage's Department of Nursing and the Kathleen A. Donnelly Center for Undergraduate Research.



Peebles has opened a new location at 120 Hoosick Street in Troy (photo above). The department store chain, owned by Stage Stores, carries nationally known, brand name apparel, accessories, footwear, and cosmetics.

events calendar 2014



Walmart has celebrated a grand re-opening at its Route 7 location in Brunswick (photo above). The store, originally opened in 1996, was expanded to create a Supercenter that includes grocery, pharmacy, photo, and vision centers, as well as a portrait studio.

Joan Heffler Photography has been awarded a contract to photograph the Triple Play convention in Atlantic City for 10,000 real estate agents from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The convention is for education, leadership, awards, and networking. For more information go to www. joanhefflerphotography.com.

HANYS (Healthcare Association of New York State)

has named Michael Pauley to the position of vice president of communications and marketing strategy. Since joining the nonprofit organization in 2007, he has directed HANYS' online presence, most recently as senior director of web strategy and e-communications. He also served as interim vice president of communications.

S & B Staffing welcomes Courtney Daddario and Melissa Nettleton as staffing supervisors for permanent and temporary job placement at the company. They will both work with candidates and clients throughout the Capital Region to assist companies in the hiring of new staff.

LeChase Construction Services, LLC has hired Dan Schleher to the newly created full-time position of subcontractor relations manager. He will work as an advocate to assist in managing business relationships. Contact him at schld@ lechase.com.

BST announces an addition to its staff. Branden Elmendorf has joined the firm as a senior tax associate. He previously worked for companies in Syracuse and Rochester and is a graduate of Siena College.

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JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	ADDITIONAL INFO
Thursday • 1/9 County Executive's Breakfast Find out what's ahead in 2014 for businesses in Rensselaer County. Presented by the Hon. Kathleen Jimino. At the Hilton Garden Inn, 235 Hoosick Street, Troy. Sponsored by Rens- selaer County IDA.	Wednesday • 2/12 "7 Habits of Highly Effective People® Signature Event" Registration and breakfast at 7:30 a.m.; program 8 to Noon. Cost is \$75 for member; \$95 for non-members/ walkins. At The Cen- tury House, Route 9 in Latham. Sponsored by Blue Shield of North-	Thursday • 3/6 NetworkingPlus Breakfast At Brown's Brewing Co., Revolution Hall, 417 River Street in Troy. Sponsored by CAP COM Federal Credit Union; Merchant Pro Express. Thursday • 3/20 <i>"Regional Economic</i>	Thursday • 4/10 Tech Valley Series for Empowering Women "Second Annual Symposium" Our popular Women's Initiative kicks off its second year of events. Stay tuned for details! Registration, lunch, networking, and Expo booths at 11 a.m.; pro- gram 12 to 5 p.m. Cost	TIMES: All breakfast events have registra- tion and breakfast at 7:30 a.m., with the program from 8 to 9 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). All luncheon events have registra- tion and lunch at 11:30 a.m., with the program from 12 to 1 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). COSTS:

Rensselaer, NY 12144 Phone: 518.465.7509 Fax: 518.436.0479

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Telecommunication Services Rep: Kelly Loudis 13 Cornell Road Albany, NY 12110 Phone: 518.724.2000 Fax: 518.783.2160 www.windstreambusiness.com

Member Benefits Program No charge; registration required. Check-in and coffee at 3:30 p.m.; program 4 to 5 p.m. At HANYS, 1 Empire Drive, East Greenbush. Sponsored by Thomas K. Judd & Associates. Wednesday • 1/29 NetworkingPlus Luncheon Networking is the number one reason why businesses join the Chamber! At Franklin Terrace, 126 Campbell Avenue, Troy. Sponsored by CAP COM Federal Credit Union; Groff NetWorks, LLC; and Insight Coaching &

Consulting, LLC.

Tuesday • 1/14

eastern New York; Development" Bouchey & Clarke Benefits, Inc.; Bouchey Financial Group, Ltd.; and Turner Construction Co. Media sponsor is Capital Region Living Magazine. Tuesday • 2/25

State of the Region Breakfast Hosted by four area chambers of commerce. \$25 per person. At The Century House, Route

9 in Latham. Sponsored by CDTA. Friday • 2/28 **Monthly Luncheon** "Eat Your Veggies: How Dinner Drives the Economy" At the Comfort Inn & Suites, 99 Miller Road in Schodack. Sponsorships available.

A luncheon panel discussion of the exciting initiatives in our region. At the Hilton Garden Inn, 235 Hoosick Street in Troy. Sponsored by Express Scripts and Kirchhoff- Consigli Construction Management, LLC. Additional sponsorships available. Thursday • 3/27 Leadership Institute **2014 Graduation Dinner & Ceremony** Join us to celebrate with this year's Leadership class. \$50 per person; tables of 10 are \$550. At the Franklin Terrace, 126 Campbell Ave., Troy. At 5:30 p.m. Sponsored by First Niagara and The Business Review.

is \$75 for members; \$95 for non-members and walk-ins. Expo booths are \$300 each. At The Century House, Route 9 in Latham. Major underwriter is SEFCU. Sponsors are Bouchey Financial Group, Ltd. and Turner Construction Co. Additional sponsorships available on a variety of levels.

Wednesday • 4/23 Member Benefits Breakfast No charge; registration required. At The Eddy Alzheimer's Center at Hawthorne Ridge, 30 Community Way in East Greenbush. Sponsorships available.

NetworkingPlus programs are \$30 (unless otherwise noted) for members who have pre-registered. Walk-ins and non-member registrations are \$45 <u>each.</u>

All other programs are \$35 (unless otherwise noted) for members who have pre-registered. <u>Walk-ins and non-</u> member registrations are \$50 each.

Please Note: No-shows will be billed.

Register online at: www.renscochamber.com

Questions? Call us at 518.274.7474 or e-mail kollier@renscochamber.com

If you have special requirements, please contact us one month prior to event to ensure we are able to provide for your needs.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Welcome to New Board Members for 2014

The Chamber extends a warm welcome to the newest members of its Board of Directors, elected in December. Each will serve a three-year term, beginning in January 2014. (A full listing of the Chamber Board of Directors is included on page 4.) "We're looking forward to working with these talented professionals as we continue to grow the Chamber and serve our members," said President Linda Hillman. The newly-elected Board Members are:

Tom Amell Pioneer Bank

Mary Martinez Phoenix Companies, Inc.

John Amodeo First Niagara Bank

Dan Hurteau Nixon Peabody, LLP Theresa Moroukian Mosaic Associates Architects

James Spencer Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

SAVE THE DATE 2014 County Executive's Breakfast on Jan. 9th



oin us for the annual County Executive's Breakfast with Rensselaer County Executive Kathleen Jimino. Set for Thursday, January 9, 2014 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 235 Hoosick Street in Troy, this popular event features County Executive Jimino's report on the status of Rensselaer County, including economic development initiatives and what the future holds for the region. Make your reservations early; this event sells out each year. Registration and breakfast are at 7:30 a.m.; program is from 8 to 9 a.m. Cost is \$35 for members and \$50 for non-

members and walk-ins. Register online at www.renscochamber.com or contact Kate Ollier at 518. 274.7474 or **RENSSELAER** kollier@renscochamber.com. This program is sponsored by Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Eat Your Veggies: How Dinner Drives the Economy

■ njoy wine and cheese? How about beer and chips? Find out how the food you eat is fueling regional economic growth with the Chamber's upcom-✓ing monthly luncheon program "Eat Your Veggies: How Dinner Drives the Economy," set for Friday, February 28 at the Comfort Inn & Suites, 99 Miller Road in Schodack. We'll hear from a panel of leading agribusiness owners who will discuss their diverse farm-to-market products including Garry Brown, president, Brown's Brewing Company; Sue Goold, owner, Goold Orchards and Brookview Station Winery; Phil Herrington, owner, Herrington Farms; and Amy Klein, executive director, Capital District Community Gardens. Our moderator is Todd Erling, executive director, Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Registration and lunch begin at 11:30 a.m., with the program following from 12 to 1 p.m. Cost is \$35 for members and \$50 for non-members and walkins. Register online at www.renscochamber.com or contact Kate Ollier at 518. 274.7474 or kollier@renscochamber.com. Sponsorships are available.

College Presidents Roundtable



CHAMBER MEMBER lights



D & D Vend-

ing, a supplier of ATMs, juke boxes, and coin-operated games, was founded 31 years ago and has been a family affair right from the start. Owned by brothers Doug and

Dave Harrison, the company is a throw-back to the times when businesses depended on word-of-mouth reputations in order to grow, and a handshake was as good as a written contract.

"My father, Ben, started the company in 1971 and we purchased it 31 years ago," said Doug. "We were born and raised in the business. I've had one job my whole life, and I'm still doing it. We learned a lot of valuable lessons from our father, like how to shake someone's hand and stand behind your word. It still means a lot to customers to be able to put their trust in a business."

D & D Vending owns, operates, and services hundreds of machines in upstate New York, Massachusetts, and Vermont. The company's ATMs, arcade games, juke boxes, pool tables, and more are located in restaurants, bars, cinemas, convenience stores, and other public venues. The firm, which employs two additional staffers, is growing steadily and placing new machines regularly. With digital technology, D & D keeps tabs on all their machines over the internet, and can even perform diagnostics online.

"Customers don't have to do anything or commit to anything," said Doug. "We place the machine, we own the machine, we maintain the machine. Our clients are able to provide something convenient or entertaining to their customers, attract new business for themselves, and collect their percentage. They don't even have to have a contract."

D & D VENDING 21382 NY 22 | HOOSICK FALLS, NY 12090 PH: 518.686.9075 | E-MAIL: DNDVENDINGCO@YAHOO.COM



AT&T Mobility, a subsidiary of AT&T Inc., provides subscribers with a host of wireless services and offers the broadest international voice and data coverage of any U.S. carrier. Recognizing that business mobility is a critical asset for driving new revenue generation and competitive advantage, AT&T Advanced Mobility Solutions

helps customers transform their businesses, keeping people, processes, and assets connected and optimized on the go.

"We're not just about our retail showroom," said Sean Ernye, sales manager at AT&T Mobility on Route 4 in East Greenbush. "We have a dedicated

Top education professionals from across the region gave an insightful presentation on workforce development and the economic impact of higher education at the Chamber's "College Presidents Roundtable," sponsored by CAP COM Federal Credit Union, Mosaic Associates Architects, and Turner Construction. (Photo above, back to front, l-r): Nicolle Monast, education initiatives manager, CAP COM; Dr. John Ebersole, president, Excelsior College; Michael Fanning, partner, Mosaic Associates Architects; Fr. Kevin Mullen, president,



MOSAIC

Siena College; Wally Altes, executive consultant; Dr. Susan Scrimshaw, president, The Sage Colleges; Linda Hillman, Chamber president; Dr. Andrew Matonak, president, Hudson Valley Community College; and Carl Stewart, VP operations manager, Turner Construction Company.

small business department with expertise in customized solutions for all types of businesses. We 'partner' with our customers to deliver the innovative products, services, and tech support they need. We build relationships with them - when our customers succeed, so do we."

AT&T offers basic services such as internet, instant messaging, and texting to advanced mobile solutions such as fleet tracking, virtual employee timecards, and online credit card transactions. Just starting out as a business? "Office@ Hand" gives you a cloud-based phone and fax system that acts as a virtual secretary. Looking to increase efficiency and cut costs? "Pronto Forms" enables employees in the field to capture and submit data in mobile form. "AIRTIME Manager" automatically tracks professional billable hours, while "Nice Office" synchronizes your smartphone and desktop, allowing you to take your office anywhere in the palm of your hand. AT&T Mobility also offers the fastest, most reliable 4G LTE network in the nation.

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Spotlight articles are awarded through a random drawing of business cards at Chamber Member Benefits Breakfasts and Networking events. Members must be in good standing and not have been featured within the past 24 months.

insight into... Chamber's Van Rensselaer Fund

Looking for a great way to make a corporate or personal investment in the quality of life in our communities? A gift to the "Van Rensselaer Fund Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce" allows the Chamber to receive funding for member-focused initiatives, helping our organization to provide scholarships for educational and entrepreneurial programs as well as supporting the arts and culture. Gifts of all levels make a valuable difference, and donations may be designated for a specific purpose. Donors enjoy the tax benefits of a charitable contribution. Contact the Chamber at 518.274.7020. We appreciate your support!

2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DANIEL SLOTE, Board Chair* NAI Platform

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JOHN AMODEO First Niagara Bank

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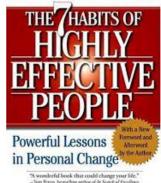
NEW STRATEGIES FOR A NEW YEAR 7 Habits of Highly Effective People Feb. 12th

ow can you motivate yourself to show initiative, speak candidly, plan work goals, and use time efficiently? How do you inspire your staff to do the same? Find out at the Chamber's upcoming event "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People® Signature Event," presented by Cris Lang, certified and nationally recognized business coach and speaker from FranklinCovey. Our extended presentation, based on the proven principles in Dr. Stephen R. Covey's best-selling book, will help you achieve sustained superior results. Learn how to:

- » Take initiative and identify key priorities
- » Improve interpersonal communication
- » Leverage creative collaboration
- » Apply principles for achieving a balanced life

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This program is set for Wednesday, February 12 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 235 Hoosick Street in Troy. Registration and breakfast are at 7:30 a.m., with the program following from 8 to Noon. Cost is \$75 for members; \$95 for non-members and walk-ins. Register online at www.renscochamber.com or contact Kate Ollier at 518.274.7474 or kollier@renscochamber.com Sponsored by Blue Shield of Northeastern New York; Bouchey & Clarke Benefits, Inc.; Bouchey Financial Group, Ltd.; and Turner Construction Co. Media sponsorship by Capital Region Living Magazine.







2013 VICTORIAN STROLL Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors

More than 20,000 visitors from all over the Northeast made the 31st Annual Victorian Stroll a great success! Thanks to the generosity and support of the Stroll's sponsors and donors, people of all ages were treated to a day of holiday music, performances, activities, shopping, and much more amid the Victorian elegance of downtown Troy. The Chamber expresses its sincere appreciation to all of the event's sponsors:

- Platinum Sponsors









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