

# The New Bedford Area Chamber Focus

Business News for and about Members of the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce

January- February 2013

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## Greater New Bedford Home Show - March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> The Area's Largest Home & Lifestyle Event!

Save the date for this year's Greater New Bedford Home Show as many exciting additions and plans are underway. The 2013 Greater New Bedford Home Show is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, March 2nd and 3rd, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Greater New Bedford Regional Voc-Tech High School. The Chamber, along with media sponsor SouthCoast Media Group are working together to provide a dynamic and informative Home Show Guide that will provide readers with an in depth look at what they can expect from the event. The show is a great way for area residents to learn about and connect with local home, service and product providers to discover solutions to all their needs.

The Home Show will have something for everyone and will include a variety of demonstrations throughout the weekend including fitness for kids,

Zumba (audience participation encouraged!), cooking, cupcake decorating and much more! A special thanks to our media sponsors, SouthCoast Media Group and WJFD-FM and supporting sponsor, The Real Estate Book.

Lunch and concessions will be provided by New Bedford restaurant Destination Soups who will be offering a menu of soups, grilled cheese, chopped salad, chips, drinks and coffee. So take your time browsing the show floor, grab a bite to eat and stick around for some demonstrations. This year's show is not to be missed!

Be sure to check our website for an updated list of exhibitors and schedule of events at [www.newbedfordchamber.com](http://www.newbedfordchamber.com). For more information on exhibiting or attending, please contact Caitlin Tapper, Programs & Events Manager, at (508) 999-5231, ext. 26.



The Greater New Bedford Home Show will be taking place on March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational High School located at 1121 Ashley Blvd., New Bedford, MA 02745. Pictured above are attendees of the 2011 home show browsing the wide variety of exhibits.

■ The SouthCoast Young Professionals Networks has several exciting upcoming events turn to **pages 13 & 14** for more information.

■ The Connecting Activities program will partner with CHOICES to deliver workshops to local 6th graders. For more information turn to **page 14**.

■ Are you a new member or would like a reminder on all the benefits of being a Chamber member? Join the Chamber for a member orientation. More details on **page 15**.

## The Gavel is Passed at Chamber's 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting



The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to welcome Mary Harrington, COO of the Schwartz Center for Children as the newly elected Chair of the Board. Pictured above, Lynne Mastera, CFO of Precix and Immediate Past Chair passes the gavel to Mary Harrington. For a full report of the Annual Meeting and more photos turn to page 4.

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#### Your Chamber Staff

508-999-5231  
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## January Good Morning SouthCoast!

Featuring Jon Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford & Jeffrey Stieb,  
Port Director, Harbor Development Commission (HDC)

On Thursday, January 10th, from 7:30-9 a.m., join us for the next edition of our Good Morning SouthCoast! breakfast series. This program will be held at the New Bedford Whaling Museum at 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford. The program will include keynote speaker New Bedford Mayor, Jon Mitchell and featured speaker Jeffrey Stieb, Port Director, Harbor Development Commission (HDC).

This popular breakfast series is a high-profile, fast-paced and educational program geared towards executives, senior managers, professionals and small business owners. Each program has a business-oriented focus and features a popular speaker to present on

a topic of interest to local businesses. The Good Morning SouthCoast! breakfast program is also a great way to network with other Chamber members!

The cost to attend is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members and \$180 for a member table of ten. For more information or to register contact Caitlin Tapper at 508-999-5231, ext. 26 or email ctapper@newbedfordchamber.com.

The January Good Morning SouthCoast! is sponsored by:



*The January Good Morning SouthCoast! at the New Bedford Whaling Museum is sure to be a well attended event. Pictured above is the 2012 January Good Morning SouthCoast! with Keynote speaker Jon Mitchell, Mayor of the City of New Bedford.*

## About the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce

With approximately 1,000 member businesses, the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to providing opportunities for members to advance their business and promoting a healthier business and economic climate for the region. The Chamber is here to help members – with trusted resources, a strong business network

and a support system to keep your business moving forward.

Our mission is to serve the interests of member businesses while advocating business advancement, economic growth and job creation for the benefit of New Bedford and the SouthCoast region of Massachusetts.

*Connecting businesses on the SouthCoast from Wareham to Westport*

# Chamber Membership is Effective Business Strategy

A national survey of 2,000 adults reveals that being active in a local chamber of commerce is an effective business strategy because two-thirds of consumers believe that such companies use good business practices, are reputable, care about their customers, and are involved in the community.

The study, conducted by The Schapiro Group, an Atlanta-based strategic consulting firm, found consumer perceptions of chamber members to be positive in many ways:

- When consumers know that a small business is a member of the chamber of commerce, they are 49% more likely to think favorably of it and 80% more likely to purchase goods or services from the company in the future.
- If a company shows that it is highly involved in its local chamber (e.g., is a chamber board member), consumers are 10% more likely to think that its products stack up better against its competition.

- When consumers know that a national restaurant franchise is a member of the chamber of commerce, they are 68% more likely to eat at the franchise in the next few months.

- When consumers know that an insurance company is a member of the chamber of commerce, they are 36% more likely to think favorably of the company.

## Major Impact on Small Businesses

Small businesses represent the largest segment of most local chamber membership rolls, and the study indicates that chamber membership has consistent and powerful benefits for small business members—if consumers are aware that the small business is involved with its local chamber.

For example, if respondents know that a small business is a member of its local chamber, the business enjoys a 49% increase in its consumer favorability rating, a 73% increase in consumer awareness, a 68% increase in its local

reputation, and an 80% increase in the likelihood that consumers will patronize the business in the future.

Most people know fairly well what their local chambers do; the study assessed the effect of this knowledge on perceptions of chamber members. The researchers said “any belief about the chamber of commerce—whether that belief was true or not—could have a significant positive impact on how someone views a member... he or she is more likely to think that the [member] company’s products stack up well and have a favorable opinion toward the company.”

The key factor in developing and maintaining positive consumer perception of chamber members, the Schapiro Group said, was that “positive outcomes only occur when consumers know that a business is a chamber member (i.e., being involved in the chamber is a known facet of the company’s reputation).”

Accordingly, when consumers know that a large business is a member of the

chamber, they are likely to patronize the company more often, to express favorable opinions about the company, to know more about the company and to buy the company’s products. The strength and nature of these effects differ by industry:

## Large Restaurant Chains

When consumers know that a restaurant franchise is a member of the chamber of commerce, they are 15% more likely to report knowing a lot about the franchise, 58% more likely to eat at the franchise more often, 68% more likely to eat at the franchise in the next few months, and 37% more likely to think favorably of the franchise. Among consumers who do not eat at the franchise so often, those who are aware that the franchise is a member of the chamber are 33% more likely to hold favorable opinions of the franchise. Among consumers who hold less favorable opinions of the franchise, those who are aware that the franchise

*continued on page 5*

# Heroes Among Us!



Richard Medicke



Maria Pacheco



Karen Santos & Sharron Furtado  
Firefighters Wives' Association



Keith Lima

## Introducing the 2012 Hometown Heroes!

Each year, BankFive honors certain members of our community that have demonstrated greatness and have gone the extra mile to be good neighbors and help our community become a better place to live. This year we are pleased to announce five heroes among us!

### Do you know a Hometown Hero?

If you know someone who has performed heroic deeds, acts of kindness or is an exceptional volunteer, he or she may be a Hometown Hero. Please complete the nomination form below telling us about your nominee.

### HOMETOWN HERO NOMINATION FORM

Name of Person Being Nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

His/Her Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe his/her *heroism, acts of kindness or volunteer efforts*: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed form to:** Hometown Hero Award, c/o Marketing Department, BankFive  
79 North Main Street, Fall River, MA 02720-2144



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# 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Business Luncheon

The Chamber's 126th Annual Meeting was a great success with approximately 300 members in attendance. The meeting featured the election of the 2013 Board members, recognition of outgoing members, presentation of awards and keynote speaker, John Harthorne founder of MassChallenge. The meeting was sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts; Bristol County Savings Bank; Clifton Larson Allen, LLP; First Citizens' Federal Credit Union; Lockheed Martin; Southcoast Hospitals Group; and Waring-Sullivan and Rock Funeral Homes - Dignity Memorial.

Several organizations were recognized with awards for their service and dedication to the community. The New Bedford Ocean Explorium received the 2012 Education Leadership Award which recognizes one local area business or organization each year that has demonstrated a long-term commitment to improving educational opportunities for students in the SouthCoast region. Colonial Honda, Fairhaven Shipyard and UpSource Inc. were recognized for their significant investment and contribution to the economic development of the region with the presentation of the 2012 Greater New Bedford Economic Impact Awards. Jose S. Castelo, owner of The Castelo Group, was recognized with the 2012 Outstanding Service Award. This award recognizes an individual whose leadership performance, personal example and good influence has done the most to advance the welfare of the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce and the community. Linda F. Camara, President and Treasurer of ABC Disposal Inc., was recognized with a special award in appreciation for all she has done for the local community here in the South-Coast region.

1. The Chamber's 126th Annual Meeting held at the Century House in Acushnet, MA was a great success with approximately 300 members in attendance.

2. The Chamber received a citation for its 126th year of service to its members from James Quigley of Congressman's Keating Office.



3. Linda F. Camara, President and Treasurer of ABC Disposal Inc., was recognized with a special award in appreciation for all she has done for the local community here in the SouthCoast region.

4. Jose Castelo was presented with the outstanding service award for his dedication to the community.

5. Abbey Spargo accepted the Education Leadership Award on behalf of the Ocean Explorium at the New Bedford Seaport.

6. Kevin McLaughlin accepted the Economic Impact Award on Behalf of Fairhaven Shipyard.

7. Keynote speaker, John Harthorne, CEO of MassChallenge.

8. Mary Harrington and New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell presented a gift to keynote speaker John Harthorne as a token of appreciation for participating in the Chamber's Annual Meeting.

9. Brian Lafferty accepted the Economic Impact Award on Behalf of Colonial Honda of Dartmouth.

10. Jose Castelo & Charlene Jarest were recognized for their service as outgoing board members.

11. Don Farias accepted the Economic Impact Award on behalf of UpSource.



126<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Sponsors



**Blue Cross  
Blue Shield**  
of Massachusetts



**BRISTOL COUNTY  
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Commitment. Stability. Community.



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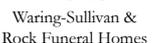
**FIRST CITIZENS'**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
*Think First.*



**LOCKHEED MARTIN**



**SOUTHCOAST**  
HOSPITAL GROUP  
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[www.southcoast.org](http://www.southcoast.org)



Waring-Sullivan &  
Rock Funeral Homes



**Dignity**  
MEMORIAL

# Chamber Membership is Effective Business Strategy

continued from page 3

is a member of the chamber are 65% more likely to eat there in the coming months.

## Insurance Companies

When consumers know that an insurance company is a member of the chamber of commerce, they are 29% more likely to report knowing a lot about the company, 36% more likely to think favorably of the company, and 36% more likely to consider buying insurance from it. Among consumers who hold less favorable opinions of the insurance company, those who are aware that the company is a member of the chamber are 25% more likely to consider purchasing insurance from it. Among those who have not considered purchasing insurance there in the past, chamber membership increases that likelihood by 37%.

## Automobile Manufacturers

When consumers know that an auto manufacturer is a member of the chamber of commerce, they are 21% more likely to have a favorable opinion of that company and 31% more likely to consider purchasing their next car from that company. Among those who have ever considered buying a car from a particular auto manufacturer, chamber membership leads to a 44% increase in consumers' likelihood of purchasing a car there in the future.

The study, commissioned by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), in cooperation with the Western Association of Chamber Executives, was sponsored by Insuperity, a Houston-based company that provides human resources and other business

services to more than 100,000 businesses nationwide. J. Mac Holladay, founder and CEO of Market Street Services, an economic development firm in Atlanta, was a key contributor of concepts used to develop the study.

The new study tracks similar data reported by The Schapiro Group in 2007. "Despite changes in markets and demographics, a nagging recession and the growing influence of the internet, the chamber brand today is stronger and more dynamic than ever," said ACCE President Mick Fleming. "We're proud that the numbers prove, once again, that engagement in a chamber means a positive perception of the business in the eyes of the buying public."



*In lieu of holiday cards the Chamber presented a donation to the Neediest Families Fund which provides toys, articles of clothing and food vouchers for thousands of local families for the holidays. Pictured above is Claudia Bernier and Victor Rafael of WJFD-FM, Inc. receiving the check for the Neediest Families fund from New Bedford Area Chamber President & CEO Roy Nascimento and Director of Operations & Finance, Dorothy Botelho.*

# Chamber Commends City Council for Tax Vote



On behalf of the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce, we would like to applaud Mayor Jon Mitchell and the New Bedford City Council for their efforts to keep taxes low for both residents and businesses in New Bedford.

In particular, we would like to commend the City Council for voting for a reduction in the property tax shift from 171% to 170% under the split tax system. A vote for the maximum shift would have translated into a jump in the commercial/industrial rate from \$28.44 to \$30.41 per thousand or a \$653 increase for the average commercial property valued at approximately \$402,240. While property taxes will still go up, the reduction provides some modest relief and is a step in the right direction.

The Chamber asked the City Council to consider the impact of raising taxes again this year for the business community and to continue moving towards the direction of balance and a reduction in the shift. The business community has always contributed a greater share of the tax burden and shifting some of that burden away from the business community would lessen the impact of year over year increases while promoting economic growth and job stabilization.

Thank you to the members of the City Council who voted for the reduction. The 170% shift passed by a 7-4 margin at the Monday, December 3, 2012 council meeting with Councilors Jane L. Gonsalves; Brian K. Gomes; John T. Saunders; Steven Martins; Debora Coelho; Henry Bousquet; and James

Oliveira voting in favor of the reduction. These councilors showed great balance and leadership. We would also like to recognize and thank Mayor Jon Mitchell for his decision to freeze the tax levy and for supporting the reduction to a 170% shift.

Special thanks to the Chamber members who testified at the annual public tax hearing or wrote letters and emails to the City Council on this issue. These efforts made a difference! The Council heard loud and clear about the business community's concerns over increasing

property taxes and the impact that another increase would have on the local economy and the city's competitiveness.

The Chamber believes that the council's vote is progress toward striking an important balance. Tax rates are only one factor in an economy, but a powerful one, and reducing the commercial tax rate sends a strong message to local businesses and their employees. The Council showed recognition that the business community is critical to the future of New Bedford and should be supported and strengthened.



2013 Greater New Bedford  
**Home Show**

**\$2.00 off admission**

regular price: \$5.00

Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> & Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

One coupon per attendee. Not for Sale. Valid 3/2/13 & 3/3/13.

Greater New Bedford Regional Voc-Tech High School  
1121 Ashley Boulevard, New Bedford, MA 02745

www.newbedfordchamber.com  
508-999-5231  
One coupon per attendee. Not for Sale.  
Valid 3/2/13 & 3/3/13. Not valid with any other offer.



# Good News!

## First Citizens' Federal Credit Union Announces Mark Cook as the Winner of its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Model Citizen Award



Mr. Cook is being recognized for his dedication and time spent helping those that are in need in the Taunton area. Mark spends his days finding residences, rehabilitation hospitals and securing the basic necessities including food, toiletries and clothing for the homeless. He also participated on Team Tom Brady for Best Buddies Challenge, which is dedicated to creating opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Mr. Cook not only spends personal time helping the homeless but his personal finances as well to purchase sleeping bags and tents for those who are not able to find shelter.

"It is a privilege to be able to recognize Mr. Cook for his tireless dedication and service to our community" said Peter Muise, President and CEO. "Mr. Cook exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism that is alive and growing on the South Coast and we all benefit from his dedication and commitment to give back to the community. For that we thank Mark for all that he does."

In his professional work, Mr. Cook is an active Program Director and volunteer of The Refuge, a non-profit that offers worship services, food and support services to the areas homeless and unemployed. He also serves as a committee member on Pride Workshops on the Human Rights and on the GATCH (United Way Coalition for Homeless). Mark is also currently being trained to become a drug addiction counselor. As the winner of the Model Citizen Award he will receive a trip to New York City including two tickets to a Broadway show.

The Model Citizen Award Program recognizes individuals in surrounding communities for their acts of kindness, volunteer work and efforts to make their community a better place. For more information, visit [www.firstcitizens.org](http://www.firstcitizens.org).

## Southcoast Health System Becomes First Hospital South of Boston, to Perform Single-site Surgery Using Da Vinci Robot

Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River, part of Southcoast™ Health System, became the first hospital south of Boston, including Rhode Island, to use da Vinci® Single-Site™ technology to perform a gallbladder removal. The patient's gallbladder was removed through one tiny incision in the belly button, making the procedure virtually scarless.

Led by surgeon James Hermenegildo, MD, (pictured above) the Southcoast surgical team performed the gallbladder removal procedure, called a cholecystectomy, using Single-Site instruments on a da Vinci Si Surgical System. Using robotic assistance, Dr. Hermenegildo removed the gallbladder through a one-inch incision. Dr. Hermenegildo is one of a small group of surgeons in the country who has been trained to perform the surgery.

The da Vinci robotic surgical system uses technology designed to give surgeons more precision and control during complex, minimally invasive procedures.

Benefits of Single-Site gallbladder surgery may include virtually scarless results, minimal pain, low blood loss, fast recovery, a short hospital stay and high patient satisfaction. The surgery can be performed in less than one hour with the patient going home after the procedure is complete.

For more information on robotic and other minimally invasive surgeries at Southcoast, visit [www.southcoast.org/davinci](http://www.southcoast.org/davinci).

## Bristol County Savings Bank Acquires Four Branches from Admirals Bank

Bristol County Savings Bank (BCSB) announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement



to acquire four branch locations and assume the related deposit business from Admirals Bank, a federal savings bank headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts. The branch locations being acquired from Admirals Bank are all in Bristol County and include one branch in Fall River, two branch locations in New Bedford, and an instore branch in Raynham. Total deposits being acquired are approximately \$42.7 million. Following the completion of this transaction, Bristol County Savings Bank will have 15 branches in Bristol County and 17 branch locations in total. The transaction is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to close in the Spring of 2013. Other terms of the transaction were not disclosed. The acquisition of the Admirals Bank locations will allow Bristol County Savings Bank to expand its retail presence into the Fall River market. The Bank has operated a Loan Office on Eastern Avenue in Fall River since 2006, from which it offers both commercial loans and residential mortgage loans. The new retail location on Pleasant Street will make the Bank more accessible to its current customers in the city and introduce new consumers to Bristol County Savings Bank. Over the next several weeks, Bristol County Savings Bank and Admirals Bank will be communicating directly with customers at the affected branches to ensure a smooth transition and to answer any questions.

## St. Anne's Credit Union Employees Raise Money for Sandy Hook School Support Fund



St. Anne's Credit Union employees wanted to pay tribute to the teachers and students that lost their lives due to the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. Learning of a special fund that was set up by the United Way of CT (the Sandy Hook School Support Fund), donations were collected from employees that wanted to participate in a casual day to benefit this fund, which has been created to underwrite support services and to help with needs and funeral expenses for the

immediate families of victims. Employees wore green and white - Sandy Hook Elementary School colors - raising nearly \$400 for this fund, and several employees also wrote letters and sent cards to help comfort the families and students.

## Saint Anne's Hospital to be Named to its Sixth Annual Hospital Honor Roll by Harvard Pilgrim Health Care

Harvard Pilgrim's Hospital Honor Roll recognizes adult, acute care hospitals whose performance was among the top 25% of those measured nationally on a set of composite quality and patient experience measures, as reported by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on Hospital Compare ([www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov](http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov)) and Leapfrog patient safety measures ([www.theleapfroggroup.org](http://www.theleapfroggroup.org)). The Hospital Honor Roll complements Harvard Pilgrim's annual Honor Roll for Physician Groups.

Hospitals were evaluated on processes of care in four categories: cardiac; pneumonia; surgery – preventing infections; and surgery – preventing complications. The results of patient surveys measuring patient hospital experiences were included. CMS patient safety measures included results hospitals achieved in healthcare associated infections, hospital acquired conditions, and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) patient safety composite scores.

The only hospital in the Greater Fall River-Greater New Bedford area to receive the honor, Saint Anne's also joins fellow Steward Health Care hospital, St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, in Boston, and 13 other Massachusetts hospitals in making the honor roll.

Honor Roll hospitals are noted in Harvard Pilgrim's printed and online provider directories, as well as on the organization's web site ([www.harvardpilgrim.org](http://www.harvardpilgrim.org)), enabling consumers to evaluate and select hospitals based on quality and safety performance.

## BankFive Employees Support Community Elders

BankFive partnered with Hathaway Family Funeral Homes for the community-service campaign, Share Some Warmth. The program's purpose is to collect new articles of warm clothing, which is then donated to

# Good News!



Bristol Elder Services and Coastline Elderly Services to distribute to seniors who are in need. The program has been in existence since 1999 through Hathaway Family Funeral Homes.

BankFive offered its 13 locations as collection sites along with the existing collection sites established by Hathaway Family Funeral Homes. From November 23rd through December 7th new articles of warm clothing were collected. This year, BankFive held a special “Jeans Day” for the Share Some Warmth campaign. BankFive has established a quarterly “Jeans Day” where participating employees donate \$5.00 to a charitable non-profit organization and wear jeans on a specified Friday but for this Jeans Day employees were able to bring new articles of warm clothing instead. Over \$500 was raised in addition to the articles of warm clothing donated by the employees.

## **Precix® Finalizes Sale to Zhongding Sealing Parts (USA) Inc.**

It's official. Acushnet Rubber Company, Inc. d/b/a Precix® (Precix) of New Bedford, Massachusetts, USA, has been acquired by ZD USA Holdings, Inc., a subsidiary of Zhongding Sealing Parts (USA), Inc. (ZD).

ZD is part of the Anhui Zhongding Holding Group of companies, which is an international engineered rubber parts manufacturer for automotive and heavy industrial industries with 20 facilities across the globe and more than 11,000 employees.

Precix, an engineering and manufacturing firm with a leading position in the production of high performance sealing parts serving primarily the automotive, aerospace, energy, and industrial markets produces approximately 1 billion parts per year from its single facility in the United States.

“The investment of ZD in Precix speaks highly of what we have accomplished in po-

sitioning our company as the most trusted name in fuel seals, o-rings and custom elastomer solutions,” said David Slutz, Precix President and CEO.

Precix has doubled its revenue since 2009, including growing its workforce from 195 to 350, with over \$12 million of new invested capital to improve operations and add additional capacity.

Slutz said, “We evaluated many possible investors and are pleased to partner with ZD to strengthen Precix's global presence. We are confident that ZD is committed to investing in our New Bedford manufacturing operation. We see this as a strong move to ensure jobs for our people.”

Slutz explained that ZD's strong presence in Asia will be a huge benefit, as Precix currently sells less than \$5M in products there each year. He described the potential as being virtually limitless, saying, “ZD will help Precix build a stronger presence in the Asian market.”

According to Slutz, strong synergies are also in place with ZD's operations in the United States. Precix will be able to provide custom mix as well as finished products to complement what they already produce.

## **SEED Selects Fairfield Inn & Suites New Bedford as “Small Business of the Year”**



The South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Corporation presented Fairfield Inn & Suites New Bedford with the “Small Business of the Year” award for 2012. The hotel is located in the New Bedford Harbor just a five minute walk from the National Historic Park.

The award was presented to Richard Lafrance, CEO of Lafrance Hospitality Company, which owns and operates the Fairfield Inn & Suites, at SEED's 30th Annual Meeting on Thursday, November 29, 2012 at White's of Westport in Westport, Ma.

SEED's Nominating Committee selected Fairfield Inn & Suites from a pool of

350 candidates. SEED's criteria included enhancement of the region's economy through creation of jobs, and financial performance. In 2010, SEED provided the hotel with a \$2 million loan under the SBA 504 Program in conjunction with Bristol County Savings Bank for total financing of \$9.3 million.

Fairfield Inn & Suites is part of the Marriott Hotels and Resorts chain. The five-story hotel has 82 rooms and 24 suites, four meeting rooms with 3,000 square feet of meeting space, a fitness room and an indoor pool. Adjoining the hotel is the Waypoint Event Center, a full service event and conference center.

SEED presented the “Gus Yankopoulos Regional Business Advocate of the Year” award to Dr. Jean MacCormack, retired Chancellor of University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, for her service to the region and its economy over a period of 13 years.

SEED also presented a Special Recognition Award to Congressman Barney Frank for his 32 years of dedicated service to the region. SEED staff presented the “Banker of the Year” award to Anthony Aveni, the lender in the region who has participated in the largest number of loans with SEED, and exemplifies the spirit of assistance to small businesses.

The guest speakers at SEED's Annual Meeting were Massachusetts Treasurer Steven Grossman, and Robert Nelson, Massachusetts District Director for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). At the meeting, SEED members voted on a slate for officers, directors and members for 2013.

For more information about the Annual Meeting and SEED's programs call 508-822-1020 or visit [www.seedcorp.com](http://www.seedcorp.com).

## **Online Professional Development Courses at UMass Dartmouth**



The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth has partnered with MindEdge to offer 91 new online classes. This Partnership provides a convenient and quality online learning option for people interested

in professional development. There are 14 areas in the program catalog which can be viewed at [www.umassd.edu/pce](http://www.umassd.edu/pce). Courses range from 3 hours to 40 hours. Prices range from \$79 to \$699. These Online programs offer IACET CEU's, HRCI credits, CFRE points, PMI PDU's, and CPE credits. Each course lists the credit that is available upon successful completion. Go to [umassd.edu/pce](http://umassd.edu/pce) to learn more about the programs and to enroll.

## **Community Foundations Funds Make Grants to Support Teach For America**

Five funds of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts have each made \$5,000 grants to support Teach For America's work in Southeastern Massachusetts as part of a \$5 million match campaign made possible by an anonymous national donor. Grants were made from the Acushnet Foundation, BankFive Foundation, Crapo Foundation, Jacobs Educational Attainment Fund and the Women's Fund, all of which were matched for a total of \$50,000 towards Teach For America's local efforts.

Teach For America's mission is to build the movement to eliminate educational inequity by enlisting our nation's most promising future leaders in the effort. In just three years, Teach For America has tripled the size of its teaching corps in Massachusetts, and now has 170 teachers, known as corps members, teaching in the Commonwealth's most underserved communities, including Boston, Chelsea, Revere, Lawrence, and most recently Fall River and New Bedford. This fall, Teach for America welcomed its second cohort of teachers and leaders to Fall River, and launched a new partnership with New Bedford Public Schools, with 30 corps members now teaching in the South Coast region.

Corps members are now teaching in seven New Bedford public schools and nine Fall River public schools.

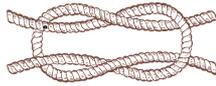
## **Do you have good news to share?**

Please send your press releases with photos to [focus@newbedfordchamber.com](mailto:focus@newbedfordchamber.com)

Due to space limitations, we can not guarantee each article will be printed. We do try our best to fit as much member news in as possible.

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## Roy Nascimento, President & CEO of the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce Selected as Chamber Executive of the Year

Roy M. Nascimento, IOM, President & CEO of the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce was selected as the "Chamber Executive of the Year" by the New England Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (NEACCE) at its 99th Annual Meeting held on November 4-5, 2012.

The Executive of the Year Award recognizes outstanding performance in the field of chamber of commerce management in New England and is presented to an individual who has exhibited characteristics that make him or her a leader both in their chamber and community. Nascimento was selected by a committee of his peers for his outstanding commitment to the profession and the success he has fostered in the communities and people he has worked with.

He was nominated for the award by New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce Board members Lynne Mastera, CFO of Precix, Inc. and Jim Rattray, Vice President of Marketing & Public Affairs for Southcoast Health System.

"Roy has shown tremendous leadership abilities during his tenure here. He has consistently challenged our Chamber to deliver on its potential," said Lynne Mastera, Immediate Past Chair of the Chamber's Board in her nomination.

"His fresh approach, collaborative leadership style and management expertise have helped to transform the Chamber into a tremendous resource for our members and community."

Nascimento has been President & CEO of the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce in New Bedford, Massachusetts since 2006.

He is very active in the chamber of commerce industry. He has served as President of NEACCE, Treasurer, Scholarship Committee Chair, Annual Conference Chair and is a regular participant in industry programs and conferences. In 2011, he mobilized



*Wendy Northcross, CEO of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce and Kelly Thompson Clarke, President of the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce presented the Executive of the Year Award to Roy M. Nascimento, IOM, President & CEO of the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce at the NEACCE Annual Meeting.*

support among chambers of commerce in Massachusetts to establish the MACCE Council of Chambers as a state-wide forum for chamber leaders to share information and collaborate on important advocacy issues that impact their organizations, their members, and their communities. He serves as co-chair of the group, which operates as an affiliate of Massachusetts Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (MACCE). In addition, he serves on the five member steering committee that led the effort to form the MACCE Health Insurance Cooperative, a buying group to help small businesses in Massachusetts negotiate better rates on their health insurance.

Nascimento holds a Bachelors degree from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth and a Masters degree in Public Management from Suffolk University. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Organization Management (IOM) at the University of Villanova and the AEDC's Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma.



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## Did You Know...

Through the Chamber, members have a voice in government affairs and advocacy.

The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce coordinates government affairs efforts on behalf of its members and the SouthCoast business community. The Chamber's member driven Government Affairs Program includes establishing positions on issues that impact our members and the economic advancement of the region, educating elected officials about these issues, and encouraging membership involvement in the Chamber's advocacy efforts.

The Chamber has established a non-partisan Government Affairs Committee comprised of members from diverse industries. This committee is responsible for helping to guide the Chamber's advocacy efforts by reviewing pending legislation and regulations for their impact on the membership, developing positions that will enhance economic growth, and developing programs that inform and encourage members to participate in the Chamber's government affairs initiatives.

Over the last year, the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce has tackled important business and regional issues such as workforce development, airport expansion, property taxes, infrastructure improvements, and commuter rail extension to the SouthCoast. The Chamber has also organized numerous meetings with elected officials to discuss issues important to members.

For more information on the Chamber's Government Affairs Program, please contact Roy Nascimento, President & CEO, at (508) 999-5231 ext. 25 or email [roy@newbedfordchamber.com](mailto:roy@newbedfordchamber.com).

For a full listing of upcoming events or to register online for an event visit:

[www.newbedfordchamber.com](http://www.newbedfordchamber.com)

## Introduction to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Workshop - Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. owners and managers of small to mid-size businesses are invited to come to the Chamber and learn about the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). This workshop is free for



Featured speaker:  
Marc Bianco, VP Technical Services, United Alliance Services Corporation

Chamber members and will take place at the Chamber on 794 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA. The presentation is intended to help participants gain an understanding of OSHA operations and procedures and learn how they can work with OSHA to prevent or reduce injuries and illnesses in their workplaces. Included in the seminar is information on the background of OSHA standards,

the inspection process, implementing a safety and health program, and assistance available to small and mid-size businesses.

The seminar will cover:

- OSHA's role in the prevention and elimination of work related illnesses and injuries.
- Employer and employee rights and responsibilities.
- The process of workplace inspection.
- Differentiation between willful, repeated, and serious violations.
- Recognition of OSHA as a primary resource for content and consultation.
- Practice for efficiently locating information in OSHA standards.

For more information or to register, visit [www.newbedfordchamber.com](http://www.newbedfordchamber.com) or call 508-999-5231 ext. 26.

## What You Need to Know About Being Trustee of Your Company's 401(k) Plan - February 27<sup>th</sup>

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Chamber, 794 Purchase Street, New Bedford, learn what you need to know about your company's retirement plan. Attention employers, retirement plan sponsors and retirement plan trustees – if your company has any kind of a retirement plan



Featured Speaker: Sandra L. Sevigny, AIF, CRSP, Vice President & Retirement Plan Specialist, Plimoth Investment Advisors

(i.e. 401(k), profit sharing plan, pension plan, 403(b) plan) or is thinking about starting a plan and you are (or will be) the trustee of the plan, do you know that makes you a "fiduciary"? As such you have certain important responsibilities and standards of conduct under the Employee Retirement Income Security

Act and with these responsibilities there is potential liability. A fiduciary not following the basic standards may be held personally liable!

In this workshop, we will cover:

1. **Becoming a Fiduciary** – What is a fiduciary? Who can be a fiduciary? When do you become a fiduciary? Are your service providers also fiduciaries?
2. **The Significance of Being a Fiduciary** – Do you know and understand what your fiduciary responsibilities are? Did you know that even if you hire professionals to manage the plan's assets you still have fiduciary responsibilities?
3. **Protecting yourself from liability** – What are the steps you can take to limit your liability?

To register, call 508-999-5231 ext. 26 or visit [www.newbedfordchamber.com](http://www.newbedfordchamber.com)

# ENTERPRISING MINDS

by Joanne Rego, Supported Employment Network Coordinator

## Sylvia Group of Insurance Agencies Benefits From a Dedicated Employee

Shawn Levesque has been employed at Sylvia Group of Insurance Agencies, 500 Faunce Corner Road, North Dartmouth for over eight years. Levesque works part time in the company's processing department. His duties include following a special procedure while folding and stuffing company specific marketing material and/or general marketing material that may also be included with the client policy packets.



*Sylvia Group of Insurance Agencies' employee Shawn Levesque*

"Shawn is always a breath of fresh air and brings joy to his coworkers." Zenaide Noia, CISR, IAAI the Senior Quality Control Specialist said. "He always comes to work looking professional and his dedication to his job is apparent. Shawn is very sweet and thoughtful."

"I'm happy and I love to work. My coworkers are all very nice." Levesque said.

When he's not at work, Levesque enjoys spending time with his family. He saves money from his weekly paycheck to take family vacations. Levesque is a very spiritual person. He is active with

his church and regularly volunteers at the Grace Episcopal Church. Levesque also enjoys listening to Christian music along with current pop music.

If you have any questions about the Supported Employment Network, or are interested in hiring a person with disabilities, please call Joanne Rego at the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce at 508-999-5231 ext. 28.



## Business After Hours

**Wednesday, January 16, 2013**

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at  
Alma del Mar Charter School  
26 Madeira Ave.  
New Bedford, MA 02746

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Register online for upcoming Business After Hours by visiting [www.newbedfordchamber.com](http://www.newbedfordchamber.com) or calling (508) 999-5231.

## Recent Events

1. Mayor Jon Mitchell welcomed participants at the GSA Workshop held at the Chamber Office 2. Business After Hours hosted by Sylvia Group of Insurance Agencies and Advanced Eye Centers 3. On a recent visit to The Bay Pointe Club in Onset, MA, Chamber President Roy Nascimento had the opportunity to tour the grounds with Cullen McKain, the Club's Director of Sales. 4. A recent meeting of the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee discussed education.



5. SCYPN members had the opportunity to meet with Maureen Armstrong, President & CEO of Sylvia Group of Insurance Agencies for the CEO Unplugged series. 6. SCYPN members volunteered to wrap gifts for Child & Family Services' Holiday Hope project as part of their Volunteer Initiative Project 7. Public Information Manager Suzzette Waters educated MBE/WBE and Small Contractors on DCAM-certification. 8. Chamber members throughout Southeastern Massachusetts attended the Regional Business After Hours.

# GOT 2 MINUTES?

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## Calendar of Chamber Committee Meetings

Contact the Chamber office for more information on any of these committees.

### January

- Supported Employment Network - Wednesday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9:00 a.m.
- Young Professionals Leadership Team Meeting - Friday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 a.m.
- Ambassadors Council Meeting - Tuesday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> - 11:45 a.m.
- Executive Committee - Tuesday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> - 3:30 p.m.
- Government Affairs Committee Meeting - Friday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 a.m.
- Board of Directors- Thursday, Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 a.m.

### February

- Supported Employment Network - Wednesday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m.
- Ambassadors Council Meeting - Wednesday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> - 11:45 a.m.
- Government Affairs Committee Meeting - Friday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 a.m.
- Executive Committee - Tuesday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> - 3:30 p.m.
- Young Professionals Leadership Team Meeting - Friday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> - 8:30 a.m.

### March

- Supported Employment Network - Wednesday, March. 6<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m.
- Ambassadors Council Meeting - Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> - 11:45 a.m.
- Government Affairs Committee Meeting - Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 a.m.
- Board of Directors- Thursday, March. 28<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 a.m.
- Young Professionals Leadership Team Meeting - Friday, March. 29<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 a.m.

## State of the City Luncheon - March 21<sup>st</sup>

Scheduled for March 21st, this Annual Chamber luncheon program is when the Mayor of New Bedford delivers the "State of the City" address detailing past accomplishments, goals, planned policies and objectives for the largest city in the region for the coming year. Over 500 business, community, media, and political leaders are expected to attend this luncheon program. For more information contact Caitlin Tapper at 508-999-5231 ext. 26 or email [ctapper@newbedfordchamber.com](mailto:ctapper@newbedfordchamber.com).

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For more information:  
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email: lasik@eyehealthvision.com  
website: www.eyehealthvision.com

To set up your discount or to view a complete list of discounts currently available to  
Chamber members, please visit [www.newbedfordchamber.com](http://www.newbedfordchamber.com) or call 508-999-5231

## SouthCoast Young Professionals Bus Trip to Mohegan Sun - February 2<sup>nd</sup>



The New Bedford Area Chamber of  
Commerce and SouthCoast Young  
Professionals Network will host a  
casino bus trip to Mohegan Sun!

On Saturday, February 2, 2013 all at-  
tendees will meet at 3:45 p.m. at the  
Sovereign Bank parking lot located  
at the 128 Union St., New Bedford  
branch. The bus will depart promptly  
at 4 p.m. to Mohegan Sun Casino. All  
attendees will gather at 10:30 p.m. to  
board the bus and leave the casino, re-  
turning to the Sovereign Bank parking  
lot at 12/12:30 a.m.

The fee is \$25 for Chamber/SCYPN  
members and their guests, and \$35 for  
non-members. Advanced registration  
is required. The fee includes transpor-  
tation, a \$15 meal voucher, \$10 game  
play, a free gift and raffle ticket.

Each attendee will be automatically  
entered into a raffle drawing and  
winners will be announced throughout  
the ride to the casino. Thanks to  
the contributions of our amazing  
supporting sponsors, we have more  
than \$300 in raffle prizes to give away!  
For a list of sponsors visit  
[www.newbedfordchamber.com](http://www.newbedfordchamber.com)

For more information or to sign up for  
the casino bus trip, please visit  
[www.newbedfordchamber.com](http://www.newbedfordchamber.com) or call  
508-999-5231.

*The mission of the SouthCoast Young  
Professionals Network is to work with local  
and regional leaders, Chamber members and  
other young professionals groups to attract and  
retain young talent in the SouthCoast region  
while also establishing our next generation of  
business and community leaders. For more  
information about the SCYPN or to join,  
contact Rebecca Viera at 508-999-5231 ext.  
27 or visit [www.newbedfordchamber.com](http://www.newbedfordchamber.com).*



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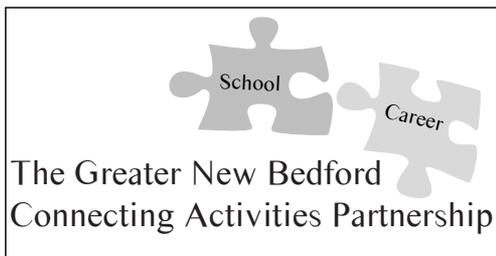
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# Connecting Activities

CONNECTING ACTIVITIES HELPS KEEP LOCAL TEENS "INTO" SCHOOL

*Partnership to deliver CHOICES workshops to local 6th graders*

Every school day, 7,000 students become dropouts nationwide. That's one every 26 seconds. The Greater New Bedford



awaken students to the fact that they have the power to make important future-impacting decisions right now. The seminar devel-

ops the ideas of time management, self-discipline and wise academic decision making. It brings home to teenagers the meaning of the term "cost of living" and exposes them to sobering information about the education skills required for various occupations in today's and tomorrow's workplace. They stress how education achievement levels will either greatly limit or expand career choices and the ability to financially support oneself or a family.

ops the ideas of time management, self-discipline and wise academic decision making. It brings home to teenagers the meaning of the term "cost of living" and exposes them to sobering information about the education skills required for various occupations in today's and tomorrow's workplace. They stress how education achievement levels will either greatly limit or expand career choices and the ability to financially support oneself or a family.

In the 90-minute session, presenters take students through real-world exercises on academic self-discipline, time and money management and goal setting. These hands-on activities

CHOICES is a fun workshop that quickly becomes easy to present. The partnership is looking for local business and community leaders who are comfortable with public speaking, are

passionate about the success of youth and are interested in education, are organized and creative and who can donate approximately 6 hours (over the two-day session) of their time to the workshop. All new presenters will need to be trained on the course curriculum. The training session will take place on February 14th, from 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Presenters are encouraged to practice the presentation before their first workshop and to work in pairs to allow for variety and sharing of the workload. CHOICES was first launched here in New Bedford last spring as the program was taught to the New Bedford High School freshmen class. The program reached out to well over 100 students and was praised by school officials as a "success."

"The presenters want to help the students understand how their level of education will expand their future choices and income," said New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce Employer Specialist Ian Abreu. "The CHOICES



program makes a positive difference in the lives of students by encouraging them to make good decisions and stay in school. The program is fast-paced and participatory, so students are constantly engaged."

"CHOICES strives to awaken high school students to their potential, and helps them discover and develop aspirations for their lives," said Leo Muller, Executive Director of the national non-profit. "We help kids understand the consequences of dropping out and the opportunities available by pursuing their education. We introduce them to life skills they can use to take charge of their lives and to build a better future for themselves. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Connecting Activities and are honored to

*continued on page 15*

## CEO Unplugged: Keith Hovan, President & CEO of Southcoast Health System



*Keith Hovan, President & CEO of Southcoast Health System and Southcoast Hospitals Group*

The SouthCoast Young Professionals Network will host their next installment of the CEO Unplugged series on March 15, 2013 from 7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. at Southcoast Hospitals on 101 Page Street, New Bedford, MA.

The SCYPN's CEO Unplugged series is held quarterly and provides young professionals with an opportunity to connect with and learn from successful local CEOs. Aimed to be a source of inspiration and a wealth of knowledge, the CEOs share their personal experiences and journey to success with the participants in an informal, small group setting. Keith Hovan, President & CEO of Southcoast Health System and Southcoast Hospitals Group, is the featured CEO for the March edition.

Hovan joined Southcoast as President & CEO of Southcoast Hospitals Group in June 2008. He became President of Southcoast Health System in October 2010 and added the title of CEO of Southcoast Health System in July 2011.

Prior to joining Southcoast, Hovan was Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer at Danbury Hospital in Danbury, Conn., a 371-bed regional

medical center and community teaching hospital with specialized programs including emergency and trauma care, surgery, cancer, cardiovascular services and digestive disorders. He joined Danbury Hospital in 2001 as Senior Vice President of Operations before being promoted to COO in 2004.

While at Danbury Hospital, Hovan was responsible for leading the development of that health system's center of excellence strategy. In that role he built effective relationships with key community stakeholders, including physicians and community, business and government leaders. His achievements include the opening of an open heart surgery and interventional cardiology program, a comprehensive outpatient facility and an ambulatory and imaging center.

Prior to his work at Danbury Hospital he was Vice President of Clinical Services at Montefiore Medical Center in The Bronx section of New York City

and served in various clinical leadership positions at Bridgeport Hospital in Bridgeport, Conn.

Hovan is a graduate of Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn., where he earned both a Masters of Science in Nursing, graduating first in his class with the Award for Academic Excellence, and a Bachelors of Science in Nursing. He was a member of the National and International Honor Societies while in college. He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Seats are limited to 20-25 members of the SCYPN. The event is free for members of the SCYPN, but pre-registration is required. Registrations are on a first come, first served basis. For more information or to register, visit [www.newbedfordchamber.com](http://www.newbedfordchamber.com) or call 508-999-5231.

## Connecting Activities

Partnership to deliver CHOICES workshops to local 6th graders

be part of a comprehensive solution for students in the New Bedford area.”

After the workshop each student can participate in the CHOICES Challenge, a text messaging activity designed to reinforce the principles of the workshop, students who complete the activity will be entered to win prizes.

Presenter training is taking place at the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, February 14th, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. To register to be trained as a CHOICES presenter, please call Ian Abreu at (508) 999-5231 or e-mail [iabreu@newbedfordchamber.com](mailto:iabreu@newbedfordchamber.com).

About the Connecting Activities Partnership - *The Greater New Bedford Connecting Activities Partnership, a collaboration of the City of New Bedford Office of the Mayor, the Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board and Youth Council, Bristol Community College and the New Bedford*

*Area Chamber of Commerce, promotes the connecting of academic and workplace learning through Connecting Activities workplace internships. Area employers assist High School seniors to make more informed decisions about their future education and career choices. Currently we service students at Dartmouth High School, Fairhaven High School, New Bedford High School and Old Rochester Regional High School. More information about the partnership is available at [www.newbedfordchamber.com](http://www.newbedfordchamber.com) or by calling (508) 999-5231.*

### Welcome New Members

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### Wednesday, January 16, 2013 - 12:00 p.m.

Rachel's Lakeside  
950 State Road  
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Topic: "Being Lean and Increasing Productivity in the Workplace"  
Cost: \$23  
Meal Choices: Roast Pork Loin in a Madeira sauce or Baked Scallops & Shrimp in a Mornay Sauce

### Wednesday, February 27, 2013 - noon

Whites of Westport  
66 State Road  
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Cost: \$23  
Meal Choices: Stuffed Boneless Breast of Chicken or Broiled Native Scrod

For more information or to register, contact Dorothy Botelho at [dbotelho@newbedfordchamber.com](mailto:dbotelho@newbedfordchamber.com) or 508-999-5231 ext. 20.

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Town of Dartmouth  
400 Slocum Road  
Dartmouth, MA 02747  
(508) 910-1883  
[dwender@town.dartmouth.ma.us](mailto:dwender@town.dartmouth.ma.us)

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[don.farias@upsourceinc.com](mailto:don.farias@upsourceinc.com)

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and Performing Arts  
285 Old Westport Rd.  
North Dartmouth, MA 02747  
(508) 999-9295  
[cvpainfo@umassd.edu](mailto:cvpainfo@umassd.edu)

## Chamber Member Orientation -January 16<sup>th</sup>



Open to new members, old members, and those interested in learning if Chamber Membership is right for them, we invite you to join us for this Membership Orientation on Wednesday, January 16, 2013 from 4-5 p.m. (registration at 4:00 p.m.)

Chamber staff will introduce you to the many benefits and programs of the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce. The orientation will be immediately followed by our popular Business After Hours. The January edition is being sponsored by Alma del Mar Charter School from 5-7 p.m. There is no cost for members to attend either event, but pre-registration is required.

If you are a current New Bedford Area Chamber member and are interested in sponsoring a Membership Orientation session, please contact Caitlin Tapper at (508) 999-5231, ext. 26.

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## Chamber Health Coop Offers Discounts for Chamber Members

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visit [www.chamberhealthcoop.com](http://www.chamberhealthcoop.com) for more information or to enroll



## New Bedford Chamber Calendar - Upcoming Events

### January Good Morning SouthCoast!

Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
New Bedford Whaling Museum  
18 Johnny Cake Hill  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
Members - \$20  
Non-members - \$25  
Member table of ten - \$180

### Member Orientation

Wednesday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Alma del Mar Charter School  
26 Madeira Ave.  
New Bedford, MA 02746  
Free

### Business After Hours

Wednesday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Alma del Mar Charter School  
26 Madeira Ave.  
New Bedford, MA 02746  
Members - Free  
Non-Members - \$15

### SCYPN Casino Bus Trip

Saturday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
3:45 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.  
Bus will depart from:  
Sovereign Bank  
128 Union St.,  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
Members & guest of members-\$25  
Non-members-\$35

### OSHA Workshop

Wednesday, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
New Bedford Area Chamber  
794 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
Members - Free

### Greater New Bedford Home Show

Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> & Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech  
1121 Ashley Blvd., New Bedford, MA 02745  
\$5 Admission  
Children under 12 are free!

To register for any event, or to view a calendar of upcoming Chamber events, visit [www.newbedfordchamber.com](http://www.newbedfordchamber.com)



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