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*Affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Greater Springfield, Inc. is comprised of:
The East of the River 5 Town Chamber
Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Professional Women's Chamber*

February 2013

e-Channels



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President's Message

Well, the first month of the year is behind us and much has happened.

Casinos: The first phase of the state's gaming licensing process has been completed. Eleven applicants submitted the required forms and application fees, 4 of which are in our own backyard vying for the lone Western Massachusetts gaming license: MGM Resorts and Penn National targeting a downtown Springfield location, Hard Rock International proposing a West Springfield location on the campus of the Eastern States Exposition and Mohegan Sun interested in a Palmer location. The Chamber will continue to monitor the next phase of the process and serve as your voice on this important economic issue. If you missed the Springfield Chamber's most recent position paper, you can view it online [here](#).



As well, the East of the River 5 Town Chamber is planning to host a breakfast in March in the Food Court at Eastfield Mall. A panel of regional experts will be on hand to discuss the potential impact on the communities surrounding the targeted locations. More information will be forthcoming.

State of the Commonwealth: Governor Patrick outlined his vision for the Commonwealth in his State of the Commonwealth address and filed several acts to support this vision. Of utmost initial importance to our members is the "[Act to Support Employers in the](#)



February 13 - 5 p.m.
La Quinta Inn and Suites
100 Congress Street,
Springfield
Sample a new brew unveiled at
Super Bowl XLVIII!
Enjoy live music, beer tastings
by Williams Distributing,
catering by Log Rolling and a
Scavenger Hunt sure to
expand your network!
Join us!
It'll be the "inn" thing to do!

[Commonwealth](#)" which calls for a freeze in the Employer Unemployment Insurance (UI) rate for 2013 rather than the 30% increase as required by current law. As you know, the Chamber has been very active on this issue. Freezing the rate could save employers an estimated \$500 million, and we are pleased to see the Administration recognizing the burden an increase would place on the business community. We will continue to aggressively advocate for this freeze as well as reforms to this system as the bill makes its way through the Legislature.

Transportation Plan: The Governor also publicly announced his support for the [MA DOT's 21st Century Transportation Plan](#), which calls for increased investment in our infrastructure to unlock economic opportunity. Specifically in Western Massachusetts, the plan calls for improved rail service, acceleration of the rebuilding of existing roads, bridges, etc - specifically the 2.5 miles of the elevated section of I-91 through Springfield which will result in an improved byway of commerce from north to south. How this plan gets paid for will be much debated - quite possibly very easily in the year - and will be something the Chamber will closely watch and weigh in on as appropriate.

Education: Lastly, but certainly not least, the Governor called for a greater investment in education. His plan would provide universal access to high quality early education for children across the state, from birth through age five; fully fund K-12 education and allow for extended school days in high-need schools; make college more affordable and accessible for high school graduates; and allow community colleges to expand their efforts to provide students with the knowledge and skill training needed to succeed in the workplace. This plan, along with the transportation plan, would be funded through a variety of existing means, but also through a proposed reduction in the sales tax and an increase in the income tax. We are sure a robust discussion will ensue, and the Chamber will be following this issue.

Our Legislative Agenda including the issues outlined above, will be presented at our Outlook luncheon on February 25.

Until next time, thank you for your investment in the Chamber and we hope to see you at a coming event.



Leadership 2013

Last chance to register for Leadership 2013! Sponsored by MassMutual Financial Group, the program is designed to teach mid and upper level managers the crucial thinking and problem solving skills needed to enable them to be effective leaders in service to the community and in their workplaces and to develop highenergy ad high involvement leadership. Learn more from our [brochure](#). **PLEASE NOTE: THE DATE OF THE FIRST SESSION HAS BEEN CHANGED TO ONE WEEK LATER, FEBRUARY 21, WITH THE INSTITUTE ENDING APRIL 4.**



February 25
Outlook 2013 - 11:45 a.m.
MassMutual Center
Featured Speaker:
Mark Shields,
political analyst and
syndicated columnist



March 5- 5 p.m.
ERC5 Member Appreciation
Event
celebrating the ERC5's
5th Anniversary and its
Members
Spoleto, East Longmeadow



March 6 - 7:15 a.m.
Speaker: Suzanne Bump, State
Auditor
Saluting:
YWCA of Western
Massachusetts, 145th
Anniversary



April 3 - 7:15 a.m.
Speakers: Bay Pay College
President Dr. Carol Leary and
Springfield Technical
Community College President
Dr. Ira Rubenzahl

To register for any of these events or for sponsorship information, please contact Cecile Larose by [email](#) or at

(413) 755-1313

Outlook 2013

Back by popular demand is this year's featured speaker political analyst and syndicated columnist Mark Shields! Joining Mark will be U.S. Congressman Richard E. Neal for a Federal Outlook.



[Meet Mark Shields](#)

You won't want to miss this event on February 25 at 11:45 a.m. at the MassMutual Center. (*Program will begin promptly at 11:45 so please arrive by 11:30 a.m.*) Tickets are \$50 for ACCGS members, \$70 for general admission. Make your reservation form [online](#) or download your [reservation form](#) and send it to Cecile Larose by email or fax to (413) 755-1322. **Deadline for reservations is February 18.** This will be another sold-out event so make your reservation today!

Woman of the Year

Professional Women's Chamber is seeking nominations for its 2013 Woman of the Year award. The award has been presented annually since 1954 to a woman in the Western Massachusetts area who exemplifies outstanding leadership, professional accomplishment and service to the community. Submit your nominations [online](#) or by emailing [Nancy Mirkin](#). **Deadline for nominations is February 15.**

Celebrating Our Members

In this [special supplement](#) to e-Channels, look for news from PeoplesBank, Winstanley Partners, Bacon Wilson, P.C. and more!

We welcome *your* news. Simply send your press releases to:

Editor, Chamber Channels
1441 Main Street
Affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Greater Springfield
Springfield, MA 01103

News and photos are published on a space available basis as a FREE benefit to Chamber members. Deadline for publication is the 10th of the preceding month. Advertising is available in both the print and electronic versions. Contact Nancy Creed by [email](#) or (413) 755-1309 for information.

Photo Gallery

- **PWC TableTop Expo and Lunch:** Hundreds of women gathered to network and promote their products and services. Special thanks to our sponsors United Bank, *BusinessWest*, Hampden Bank and Marcotte Ford. View our online [photo gallery](#)!

- **UMass Chancellor's Welcome Reception:** We were pleased to partner with New England Public Radio and the University of Massachusetts to welcome UMass-Amherst Chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy to Springfield. View our online [photo gallery!](#)
- **Affiliation Agreement Signing:** ERC5 Board Chair Lou Curto, ACCGS Board Chair Glenn Welch and ACCGS President Jeff Ciuffreda formally signed a three-year affiliation agreement. View our online [photo gallery!](#)
- **ERC5 Check Presentation:** The ERC5 presented a \$20,000 check to the Minnechaug Regional High School's Youth Entrepreneurial Scholars program. View our coverage by the [Hampden-Wilbraham Times](#) and [The Reminder!](#)

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 413-787-1309

We welcome your feedback on this issue and any communications concerns you may have! Simply drop me a [line!](#)

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Offer Expires: May 31, 2013

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