



*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*

July 2013

e-Channels



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Upcoming Events



Affiliated Chambers of
Greater Springfield, Inc.

**July 15, 2013
Golf Tournament
Wyckoff Country Club,
Holyoke
Registration 10:30 am
Lunch 11:00 am
Shotgun Start 12:30 p.m.**

**To register or for sponsorship
information, please contact
Cecile Larose by [email](#) or at
(413) 755-1313**

President's Message

Well, our 2012-2013 Chamber season has come to a close, capped off by a great Annual Meeting on June 26. We had much to be proud of this Chamber season. Here are just a few successes in case you missed the event:

We were successful in our advocacy to retain a single tax rate in ALL FIVE of our ERC5 communities and in our efforts to maintain a fair tax rate split in the City of Springfield.

Thanks to the successful advocacy efforts of the ERC5, the Ludlow Mills site received a \$400,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for brownfields cleanup at the site so that the property can be redeveloped and provide a boost to the local economy.

The work of the Springfield Chamber's casino committee and its endorsement of a casino in the City led to the host community agreement including protections for Springfield-based businesses and residents.

The Springfield Chamber reintroduced its recommendation to increase the salary for the position of mayor in the City. It was met with positive press and an endorsement from *The Republican*, and we hope it will be acted upon by the City Council in the near future.



The ERC5 provided approximately \$30,000 in education support to the local schools and students in the communities it serves.

The ACCGS Legislative Steering Committee initiated a new subcommittee on workforce development and education, and partnered with the United Way and business and community leaders to launch "Stay in School", a major community initiative designed to increase Springfield high school student attendance and therefore increase the graduation rate among this student population.

We represented our members' interest with the Springfield Business Leaders for Education to ensure students have the education necessary for college and career success and our region's employers have the skilled workforce to meet the demands of the global economy.

We continued to bring to our members programs that educate, engage and excite. Our overall attendance continued to grow, topping nearly 5,000 in total attendance this year.

The Professional Women's Chamber luncheons saw record numbers this year and provided an opportunity to learn from a lineup of remarkable businesswomen.

And just last month, we launched a prescription plan program through a partnership with Big Y and Chamber Insurance Trust that provides discounted prescription drug coverage to those who have no coverage or to supplement those with an existing plan.

Not to mention the success of our legislative advocacy on the state level, including the much-needed freeze in the unemployment insurance tax rate; advocacy for adequate health care reimbursement rates to prevent a cost shift to the business community; opposition to mandatory paid sick days and the unionization of day care workers; and our continued advocacy for adequate targeted funding for higher education and reforms to strengthen the role higher education plays in developing a skilled workforce.

We have much to be proud of and I thank all the members of our committees and the members that were highly involved in making these successes possible. However, there is much more to be done but we cannot do it without the support of our members. I encourage you to get involved in a committee, attend an event, stay informed on the issues through our newsletters and electronic updates, or help support our efforts when called upon. It is only through our collective efforts that we as individual businesses and residents and, as a region as a whole, can be most successful. And as always, if you know a business that might be interested in membership, please let us know. The larger our membership, the stronger our voice.

None of this was easy. None of it could have been done without a team effort. When you see a member of our team, please be sure to say thank you.

Kara Cavanaugh, Executive Assistant

Nancy Creed, Vice President of Marketing & Communications

Cecile Larose, Membership Services Director



Making Chamber Connections

**2013-2014 SEASON PASSES
NOW AVAILABLE FOR
PRE-ORDER!!**

**Save 10% over the individual
ticket price!**

**Contact Cecile Larose by
[email](#) and place your order
TODAY!**

Roberto Nieves, Executive Director of the ERC5

And thank YOU for another great year! Until next time, thank you for your investment in the Chamber, and we hope to see you at the Golf Tournament July 15.



Celebrating Our Members

In this [special supplement](#) to e-Channels, look for news from Springfield College, Tighe & Bond, Consolidated Health Plans, Arrow Security 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

Advertisers in this issue include: [Health New England](#), [Big Y Prescription Plan Program](#), [Six Flags](#).

Advertising is available in both the print and electronic versions. Contact Nancy Creed by [email](#) or (413) 755-1309 for information.

Membership Directory

The 2013 Membership Directory has hit the stands! The Directory was mailed to the main contact of each Chamber member as well as delivered to everyone who subscribes to *The Republican* in East Longmeadow, Hampden, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Springfield and Wilbraham.



Many members have joined since the Directory went in production. Click [here](#) to download the listing of the members that have joined since the production date.

Thank you to all of our members and advertisers! Be sure to check out our interactive [electronic version](#)!

ACCGS Golf Tournament

Get ready to hit the links with the ACCGS on July 15 at Wyckoff Country Club in Holyoke! We'll have putting and hole in one contests; "get on the green", longest drive and closest to the line competitions; and an opportunity to win from a wide selection of



raffle prizes, including a one-year membership to Wyckoff. PLUS, golfers will enjoy lunch, two complimentary drinks on the course, and a reception by Log Rolling caterers complete with passed hors d'oeuvres, buffet stations and one hour of open bar.

Download the [registration form](#) and secure your space today!

Photo Gallery

- **June Business@Breakfast:** Kirk Smith, president/CEO of the YMCA of Greater Springfield, wowed the crowd at our last breakfast of the 2012-2013 season with his VIVID presentation on a new way of doing the business of a nonprofit, while Chief Greeter John Doleva, president/CEO of the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame, kept the audience in stitches. Special thanks to our sponsors Jewish Geriatric Services, Skoler Abbott & Presser, P.C. and La Quinta Inns and Suites. View our online [photo gallery!](#)
- **PWC Woman of the Year:** A sold-out crowd came to honor Jean Deliso, owner of Deliso Financial and Insurance Services, as this year's Woman of the Year. View our online [photo gallery!](#)

Cuba!

Have you ever pictured yourself strolling the cobblestone streets of Old Havana enjoying the beat of the bongos coming from the street musicians, stopping for a bite of ropas vieja with platillo moros y cristianos, and watching in wonder as old-world architecture blends with modern skyscapes?



Well, look no further than the ACCGS!

We've partnered with Chamber Explorations to offer our members an exclusive people-to-people cultural exchange - an eight day, seven night trip to Havana. Our local Cuban guide will introduce you to the history, music and culture of this mystifying city. You'll learn about Cuba's history, experience both the city and the rural countryside, tour Hemingway's farm, sample authentic Bocoys Rums, and much more!

October 31, 2013 - September 7, 2013*

\$3,999 per person, double occupancy

includes round-trip airfare from Bradley International Airport and air departure taxes and fees, baggage handling, motorcoach transportation in and around Cuba, required travel visa and health insurance, all admission fees, hotel accommodations, 16 meals, daily bottled water and all gratuities.

[Learn more about Cuba here.](#)

Deadline for reservations is August 17, 2013.

Chamber Channels Editor: Nancy F. Creed, IOM

Affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Greater Springfield
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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