

This issue of e-Channels is brought to you by:



*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*

March 2014

## e-Channels



### In This Issue

[President's Message](#)

[Celebrating Our Members](#)

[Leadership Special Ad Rates](#)

[Nomination Deadline Nearing](#)

[Get in the Swing of Things](#)

[On the Rise](#)

[Come Fly with Me](#)

[Three Professional Women](#)

[Mayor's Forum](#)

[Longmeadow #10](#)

[Photo Gallery](#)

[Cost-Savings Benefits](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

## President's Message

Well, Mother Nature certainly gave us all something to talk about this past month. I hope it is all behind us and we can look forward to the weather warming, the snow melting, the crocuses blooming, and springing forward (your clocks) on March 9!



Spring isn't the only thing ahead of us. The Legislature still has a few months to go in this session with much work remaining. Our Legislative Steering Committee will continue to follow the legislation and ballot initiatives that could have an impact on you, our members. We will be following the budget discussions, the minimum wage issue, the unemployment insurance tax, funding for infrastructure and education, and much more. Our legislative agenda for the remaining session was unveiled at Outlook 2014 and you can download it [here](#). Keeping the costs of doing business down, ensuring our workforce meets our needs, and creating a competitive region takes a collective effort. I encourage you to

[download](#) the agenda, read it and please get involved.

While we are on the topic, our annual Beacon Hill Summit is around the corner on April 30 and will be hosted one last time by Senator Gale Candaras before she leaves office. This day-long event at the statehouse offers a unique opportunity to hear from key legislators, members of the Patrick Administration in its final months in office, and our local delegation. Watch your inboxes for more information.

The ACCGS will provide another unique opportunity in September - but this time at the federal level as Congressman Richard E. Neal will once again host our bi-annual Washington Symposium September 16-September 18. We will be joined, for the first time, by our colleagues from the east at the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and to the west at the Berkshire Chamber of Commerce. More details to come, but please mark your calendar for what is sure to be an interesting trip given all that has been going on in our nation's Capitol.

In addition to these legislative events, they are plenty of other opportunities coming up as we move towards the end of our Chamber season, including networking at our Business@Breakfasts and After 5s, learning at our Lunch n Learn and Pastries, Politics and Policy series, a chance to eat to your heart's content for a good cause at the ERC5/ACCGS Feast in the East After 5, several occasions to get to know the women professionals of the PWC at their Ladies Nights, and the chance to swing right out of your shoes at the ACCGS Golf Tournament on July 14 at The Ranch Golf Club.

So, if that doesn't entice you to stay connected with the Chamber...Until next time, thank you for your investment in the Chamber, and we hope to see you at an upcoming event.



## Celebrating Our Members

In this [special supplement](#) to e-Channels, look for news from Dakin Humane Society, HAPHousing, Northwestern Mutual 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](#), [WGBY Wine Weekend](#).



March 5, 2014  
7:15-9 a.m.

La Quinta Inns and Suites  
The Economic Engine Called  
Tourism

[REGISTER](#)



March 12, 2014  
5-7 p.m.

Crestview Country Club  
Get in the Swing of Things!

[REGISTER](#)



PWC Headline Luncheon  
March 19, 2014  
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Carriage House, Storowton  
Tavern  
Three Professional Women -  
Three Lessons Learned

[REGISTER](#)



Affiliated Chambers of  
Greater Springfield, Inc.

March 18, 2014  
4-6 p.m.

CityStage  
On The Rise:  
Springfield's Economic  
Development Projects and their  
Positive Impact on the Region  
Complimentary  
No reservations required



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

## Leadership Special Ad Rates

Have an employee or co-worker participating in the ACCGS/WNE Leadership Institute 2014? Congratulate him or her and celebrate their success by taking out a congratulatory ad in the April print issue of Chamber Channels and save 25%! The issue will include a wrap-up article highlighting the graduates, not to mention Outlook 2014 highlights, Beacon Hill Summit 2014 and more Chamber news!



Click [here](#) for the full rate sheet. Deadline for space reservation is March 10. Contact Nancy Creed by [email](#) for more information or to place your ad.

## Nomination Deadline Nearing

The ACCGS and its Professional Women's Chamber is seeking nominations for the Woman of the Year Award. The award is presented annually to a woman in the western Massachusetts area who exemplifies outstanding leadership, professional accomplishment and service to the community.



Candidates must be gainfully employed in a paid full-time position and live or work in the Pioneer Valley. Nominee achievements can be representative of a lifetime of work or for more recent successes. Nominations are available [online](#) and must be received by March 14.

## Get in the Swing of Things!

Join us for another fun-filled networking opportunity on March 12 from 5-7 p.m at Crestview Country Club!



Sponsored by Hampden Bank, Best Fitness, Inspired Marketing, Driscoll Photography and Comcast Business, the event will feature food from the club's new restaurant, The View; an opportunity to network in a casual setting, and some golf games, trivia and special surprises!

Reservations are \$5 for members, \$10 for general admission and may be made [online](#) or by [email](#).

## On the Rise

The ACCGS is presenting a unique opportunity to learn more about what is going on in the City of Springfield and how it can positively impact YOUR community.

Pastries, Politics and Policy  
March 25, 2014  
8-9 a.m.  
TD Bank Conference Center  
Come Fly With Me



**business @ breakfast**  
Making Chamber Connections

April 2, 2014  
7:15-9 a.m.  
The Delaney House  
Mayor's Forum



Welcome These New Members!

AccuTech Insulation & Contracting Inc.  
[Comcast Spotlight](#)  
[Crestview Country Club](#)  
[Granite City Electric](#)  
Hale Financial Planning Group LLC  
[Residence Inn Marriott - West Springfield](#)  
[Simplex Grinnell](#)  
[U-Haul of Western MA & VT](#)

Congratulate These Members on their Chamber Anniversary!

**1 Year Anniversary**  
Accountable Care Associates  
Angela Chagnon  
Bonnie Hull

Join us for ***On the Rise: Springfield's Economic Development Projects and Their Positive Impact on the Region*** on March 18 at CityStage, One Columbus Center, Springfield.

The program will feature a presentation and Q and A session from 4-5 p.m. with Kevin Kennedy, Springfield's Chief Development Officer, Congressman Richard E. Neal and Springfield Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, followed by a cash bar reception.

The event is complimentary and open to all - no reservations required. Free parking will be available at the One Columbus Center lot.

## Come Fly With Me

The ACCGS will hold its bi-monthly Pastries, Politics and Policy on March 25 from 8-9 a.m. at the TD Bank Conference Center, 1441 Main Street, Springfield, featuring David Bassett, Transportation Security Administration's(TSA) federal security director at Bradley International Airport.



Bassett will provide an overview about the TSA and how it operates and discuss the recent risk-based security changes at the airport as well as the new **TSA Pre?™** program, an expedited screening process for domestic and international travel.

Bassett came to Bradley from TSA headquarters in Arlington, Va. where served as the regional director for the South East Area as well as general manager of programs and plans. In those roles, he was responsible for planning key initiatives that have provided a major positive security impact for the TSA and stakeholders on a national and international level.

Bassett has been with the agency since September of 2002 and, at the time of his oath of office, was the youngest director selected. He has served as the director for the Greater Rochester International Airport, the Buffalo Niagara International Airport and the Denver International Airport - the fourth busiest airport in the United States and the tenth busiest in the world. While at Denver, he was responsible for all aspects of TSA security operations to include leadership and oversight of approximately 800 officers and staff.

He is currently serving as a Captain in the U.S. Navy Reserve. His background includes anti-terrorism / force protection, NATO intelligence, explosive ordinance disposal, and diving operations.

Reservations are \$15 for members, \$25 for general admission and may be made [online](#) or by [email](#).

Cambridge College -  
Springfield Regional Center  
Care @ Home  
Debra Ruetz  
deRenzy Document  
Solutions, Inc.  
Jessica Petrone  
Marisol Franco  
Millbrook Benefits and  
Insurance Services, LLC  
Mobius Works  
Nina Fountain  
Penn National Gaming  
Rick's Auto Body, Inc.  
Sara Bahrehmand  
Shelly Regin  
Valley Blue Sox

**5 Year Anniversary**  
Melissa R. Gillis  
Pinnacle Performance Inc.  
a/k/a Protection Plus  
Royal LLP

**10 Year Anniversary**  
Admirals Bank  
Azaya, Inc  
Behavioral Health Network,  
Inc.  
Bert Hill Movers  
King Ward Coach Lines  
Lisa Fallon, CPA P.C.  
Mahoney & Associates  
Partners Restaurant  
Rosewood Consulting  
RTH Group  
Stirling Plumbing Co., Inc.

**15 Year Anniversary**  
Cambridge Credit  
Counseling Corp.

**25 Year Anniversary**  
Liberty Medical Arts  
Building  
MASSPOWER  
Rediker Software, Inc.  
TSM Design Inc.

Three Professional Women.  
Three Lessons Learned



The Professional Women's Chamber's March luncheon is one not to



be missed! Maura McCaffrey, chief operating officer for Health New England; Anne Bruce, vice president of human resources at Smith & Wesson; and Andrea Luppi, manager of communications and community relations for Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, will participate in a moderated panel discussion about their success stories, the challenges they have faced and their lessons learned. The discussion will be moderated by Kathy Tobin, director of program development for Friends of the Homeless.

McCaffrey has more than 20 years of experience in health care settings, including retail pharmacy, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and sales. In April of this year, she will assume the authority of president and Chief Executive Officer of HNE.

Bruce got her start in human resources with Harry & David, a vertically integrated specialty cataloger and retailer of fine foods and gifts and has served in a number of leadership roles with women's clothing retailer Coldwater Creek prior to joining Smith & Wesson in 2012.

Luppi has an extensive background in development, communications and community relations and held leadership positions with Springfield Day Nursery (now known as Square One), the YMCA of Greater Springfield and the YWCA of Hartford.

Reservations are \$25 for PWC members, \$35 for general admission and may be made [online](#) or by [email](#).

## Mayor's Forum

Join us on April 2 from 7:15-9 a.m. at the Delaney House in Holyoke for our Mayor's Forum Business@Breakfast.



Moderated by abc40's Dave Madsen, this breakfast is sure to pack a 1-2-3 punch with first-term Mayor Edward Sullivan of West Springfield, second-term Mayor Alex Morse of Holyoke and third-term Mayor Domenic Sarno of Springfield. The event is designed to provide insight into the personal and professional lives of these elected officials.

Reservations are \$20 for Chamber members, \$30 for general admission and may be made [online](#) or by [email](#).

## Longmeadow Makes Top 10

NerdWallet, a consumer advocacy Web site, has named Longmeadow #10 in its recent best places for homeownership in Massachusetts study. The rankings were based on homeownership rate, monthly homeowner costs, monthly household income and population growth.

Congratulations! The ACCGS and its affiliate, the East of the River Five Town Chamber of Commerce, are proud to serve this business community!

## Photo Gallery

- **ACCGS January After 5:** There was plenty of fun to be had as attendees clowned around at the January After 5, presented by Shriners Hospitals for Children. Check out some of the antics at our online [photo gallery](#) by Driscoll Photography!
- **PWC Tabletop Expo and Luncheon:** Hundreds of women professionals marketed their products and services at this annual event. View our online [photo gallery](#) by Denise Smith Photography to see just some of them!
- **ACCGS February Business@Breakfast:** What do you get when you put 50 business professionals in a room together and give them each one minute to meet everyone in the room? LEADS! View our online [photo gallery](#) by Michael Epaul and see what YOU missed at our February Speed Networking breakfast, sponsored by Skoler, Abbott & Presser, P.C.

## Cost-Savings Benefits for You and Your Employees

For information, contact Member Services Director Cecile Larose at (413) 755-1313 or by [email](#).

### Savings On...

#### **Health Insurance**



**Chamber  
Health  
Coop**

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#### **Dental Insurance**



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#### **Homeowner's and Automobile Insurance**



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#### **Credit/Debit Card Fees and Transactions**



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**Email Marketing Tools**



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**New Resident Direct Mail**



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**Advertising**



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**Complimentary Subscription**



Be sure to forward this to your colleagues.  
Chamber membership extends to all employees!  
*Just another benefit of Chamber membership!*



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!](#)

[Forward this email](#)



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