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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

July 2015
e-Channels



President's Message

Well, our 2014-2015 Chamber season has come to a close, capped off by a June breakfast final . We had much to be proud of this Chamber season. Here are just a few successes in case you missed the breakfast:

Over the past fiscal year, our membership has grown to more than 950 members, and the percentage of members that remain with the chamber year after year is above the national average for chambers of our size and demographics - with nearly 90% of members renewing this past year.



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Our events topped nearly 5,000 in combined attendance. The national average runs between 8 and 12 percent but the ACCGS averaged nearly double that - a clear indicator that we are doing something right and you, our members, are responding.

But it is not just events that bring value, it is also the work behind the scenes. We continue to partner with MGM to provide opportunities for our members to reap the benefits of the \$50 million of goods and services that MGM will procure from local vendors.

With education and workforce development critical to our region, the ERC5 provided more than \$16,000 in financial support to assist the schools and students in the five communities it serves. The PWC provided scholarships to non-traditional women returning to college to empower them and provide increased opportunities for career advancement.

On the legislative front, we had many triumphs this past year. Under the leadership of Western New England University's Bob Ziomek, our legislative steering committee was at the forefront of advocating and influencing legislation that reduces the cost of doing business, improves the region's competitiveness, strengthens our workforce capacity and bolsters our region's commerce.

We were successful in retaining a single tax rate in four of the five ERC5 communities. The City of Springfield adopted the ACCGS' recommendation to lower the business tax rate - not only lowering the financial burden but freezing the gap between what the business community pays and what the homeowner pays.

We defeated the ballot questions which would have repealed the expanding gaming law and expanded the bottle bill - both which would have had significant negative economic impact if passed. The unemployment insurance tax remained frozen and, of course, we were the first stop for the Governor as he had his first major business address at our Outlook event.

Federally, we continue to advocate for waivers to some requirements of the Affordable Care act to help curb Massachusetts health care costs. And our very own Congressman Neal played host to the ACCGS on our successful bi-annual Washington Symposium; a unique tour of the region's Union Stations, and a ride on the inaugural Knowledge Corridor Express commuter rail.

And, once again, members and the public alike voted the ACCGS as the Reader Raves Best Chamber of Commerce for the second consecutive year. Click [here](#) to take a look back at the year.



We have much to be proud of, and you were with us every step of the way. I thank all of you for giving of your time, talents and energies on our boards and committees, your commitment to our cause and your investment in our organization. I would be remiss,



Affiliated Chambers of
Greater Springfield, Inc.

ACCGS Annual Golf Tournament
July 13, 2015
The Ranch Golf Club
65 Sunnyside Road, Southwick
11 a.m. - Noon:
Registration/Practice/Lunch
12:30 p.m.
Shotgun start
Dinner immediately following

REGISTER 



**Welcome These New
Members!**

**[Commonwealth Care
Alliance](#)**

101 Wason Avenue
Springfield, MA 01107
Health Care

**[Greater Springfield Credit
Union - East Longmeadow](#)**

157 Shaker Road
East Longmeadow, MA
01028
Credit Unions

[Raymond James](#)

1500 Main Street, Suite 1700
Springfield, MA 01115
Financial Services
Referred By: Market Mentors

[Raymour & Flanigan](#)

665 Boston Rd,
Springfield, MA 01119
Furniture Dealers-Retail

[Stone Transportation](#)

257 Hampden St., Suite 4
Chicopee, MA 01013
Insurance

as well, if I did not acknowledge the tireless efforts of our staff, their unwavering support and their steadfast commitment to doing what is right for our members.

Thank you to you all for another great year! Until next time, thank you for your investment in the Chamber, and we hope to see you at the ACCGS Golf Tournament July 13.



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Celebrating Our Members

In this [special supplement](#) to e-Channels, look for news from the City of Springfield, Dowd Insurance, Dakin Humane Society, GCAi 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](#), [Chamber Health Coop](#).

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

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Making the News

ACCGS President Jeff Ciuffreda was a recent guest on the Comcast Newsmakers New England show. Hear what he had to say about MGM, I-91, energy and health care - all issues of importance to our members and to the greater Springfield region.



Congratulate These Members on their Chamber Anniversary!

1 Year

North Brookfield Savings Bank
Tricia Walker
Bertha Hickling
Sandy Cassanelli
Koren Berrio
Michelle Depelteau
Mary Rose DiMauro
Allison Garriss
Kristine Allard
Cindy Landry
Joanne Gloster

5 Years

BusinessWest
Kate Campiti
Milone & MacBroom, Inc.
Appleton Corporation
Springfield Technical Community College
Assistance Corp. Technology Park

10 Years

Paul Robbins Associates, Inc.
Cheryl Marrewa

15 Years

Donna Roundy
CB Richard Ellis

25 Years

Catalys Corporation

MEMBER BENEFITS



Chamber Health Coop

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And the Survey Says...

Last month, we sent a survey to all of our members seeking feedback on our 2014-2015 events, the value you find in those events and in your Chamber investment overall. The results provided us with very valuable feedback as we begin work on our 2015-16 Chamber year. While we are still analyzing the data, here are just some of the results:



- Nearly 90% said that participating in events was **worth their time**
- 93% said we provide **useful information**
- 95% said that the ACCGS is an **effective legislative advocate** and an **influential force** in the community
- 96% agree that we **effectively communicate** with our members
- and, in the end, 93% of respondents said they would **renew their membership** with the ACCGS.

While we got high marks in many areas, there is always room for improvement. Over the coming months, we will continue to look at what these numbers tell us and identify areas of opportunity to better serve you. Look for more information shortly.

THANK YOU to all of our members who participated - your feedback was invaluable! And special thanks to Brian Kivel from Health New England. He was the lucky winner of the \$100 Visa gift card!

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Open House

Join us as we welcome our newest neighbor Raymond James! This Open House is open to all at no charge!

July 16, 2015
 5:30-8:30 p.m.
 Raymond James
 1500 Main Street, Suite 1700
 Springfield

Grand opening of Springfield location with special guest Tash Elwyn, president of Raymond James & Associates, PCG
RSVP by July 9 by [email](#) to Susan Natale



TSYS
 Save on Credit Card Transactions



Save on dental insurance for businesses with as little as 1 employee!



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Closing the Wage Gap

Women in Massachusetts earn just 82 cents on the dollar, African-American women earn 61 cents, and Latina woman earn just 50 cents. But Massachusetts Treasurer Deborah Goldberg is looking to address this issue. Let your voice be heard and participate in this roundtable discussion on July 17. Click on the image below to register.

Treasurer Deb Goldberg and the Office of Economic Empowerment

invite you to a

REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON WAGE EQUALITY BEST PRACTICES:

SPRINGFIELD



**Friday, July 17, 2015
12-1:30 PM, UMass Center at Springfield
Tower Square, 1500 Main Street
Springfield, MA 01115**

Treasurer Deb Goldberg's Statewide Advisory Committee on Wage Equality is holding regional roundtables across Massachusetts to get input from businesses and the public in order to develop innovative strategies to close the wage gap.

Panelists include Treasurer Deb Goldberg and members of the Advisory Committee. The discussion will be followed by a question and answer session.

RSVP at
www.mass.gov/treasury/springfieldroundtable

Follow us @EmpowermentMA
and join the conversation at
#EqualPayMA

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Peep This!

Check out the new art project from the Springfield Central Cultural District! Five storefronts have been transformed with installments from seven local artists. The installations will remain in place until September, so the next time you are out and about town - check out these spaces:

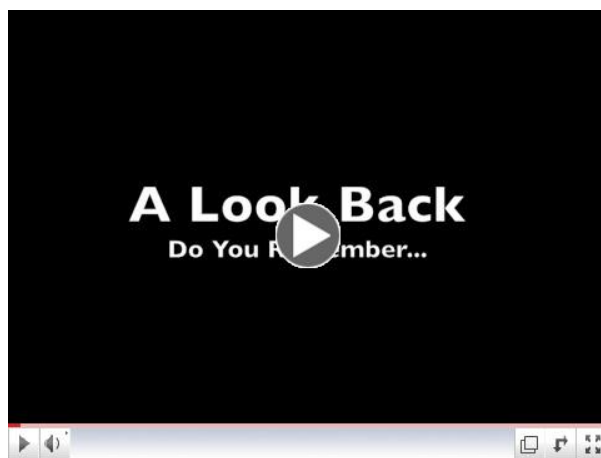


- 1391 Main Street
- 1373 Main Street
- One Marketplace Corridor
- 15 Taylor Street
- 176 Worthington Street

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Photo Gallery

- **ACCGS After 5:** There was some serious tailgating going on! Check out the online [photo gallery](#) to see who was a cornhole winner!
- **ERC5 Feast in the East:** Take a peek at this online [photo gallery](#) to see what great foods you missed!
- **PWC Woman of the Year:** Congratulations to Microtek's Anne Paradis on this year's honors! View our online [photo gallery](#) to check out off the festivities!
- **ACCGS June Business@Breakfast:** Our breakfast finale celebrated all things successful - the ACCGS Year in Review, Kate Kane as this year's Richard J. Moriarty Citizen of the Year, and the talent and energy that Katie Stebbins brings to her new role as Assistant Secretary of Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Special thanks to United Personnel for sponsoring our breakfasts all season long! Check out our online [photo gallery](#) to see who was there! Want a recap of the year? This video will bring all the memories back!



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Happy Anniversary, ACCGS!



The ACCGS recently received a Better Business Bureau of Western Massachusetts Torch Award in recognition of its 10 years as a BBB member! Art Jasper, ACCGS board member and ambassador, accepted the award on behalf of the ACCGS. Proudly displaying the award is Jasper with the BBB's Angela Rocheleau and its President/CEO Nancy Cahalan.

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



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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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