

2018 Annual Report of the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce

The past year has been a year of significant change at the Chamber, the most critical being the installation of PJ Prunty as the New President/CEO of the organization. A central tenant of the Chamber's activity was focused on the essential premise of increasing our engagement with members by offering more opportunities for members to participate in Chamber functions and to avail themselves of Chamber resources. This year's past work include such highlights as;

- Increasing our active membership roster to 671 members.
- Welcoming 5,827 total attendees to our signature Previdi Award Luncheon, Eggs & Issues Breakfast, Chamber Golf Classic, Economic Forecast Breakfast, and our Home & Leisure Show.
- Creation of two new councils;

Legislative Council- This Council is designed to engage our Membership on key policy issues in the State of Connecticut. The Council is comprised of Chambers members from a wide array of industries. The Legislative Council is charged with creating the Chamber's Public Policy Agenda on a yearly basis. The Council will be tasked with organizing several major legislative events each year.

Young Professionals Council- The intent of the Young Professionals Council is to encourage our young professionals to live, work, and grow professionally throughout the Greater Danbury area. Focus will be to foster an environment that promotes new connections, build careers, and grow as future leaders in our area by contributing back to the community.

- Continuation of the great work of the Women's Business Council, which is devoted to the continuing personal and professional growth of business women in the Greater Danbury community.
- A greatly increased focus on inviting members to provide input for Board seats, Council participation, and related activities.
- A relocation of the Golf Classic to Ridgewood Country Club here in Danbury, which was wildly well received by all players.
- Continuing our work with Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board which helps to connect employees with employers, and thru which we will be hosting a jobs fair this year.
- Continuing our work with Nelson Merchan from the CT SBDC, and helping to connect new and existing businesses to his valuable services.
- Continuing our Leadership Danbury program which continues to be one of our most popular programs. We held our first "Leadership Graduation & Alumni Reunion", which was a huge success.

I'd also like to recognize and the outstanding work and devotion of our Chamber staff, JoAnn Cueva and Amelia Anderson. Both of these individuals proved to be invaluable professionals during this year of transition, and are deserving of our collective appreciation.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. James J. Arconti-Board Chairman

November 2, 2018