

Actionreport



March 2013

www.metroouthchamber.com

Leading Businesses
 Leading Communities



CHAMBER MISSION

To serve the interests of member businesses while providing community leadership to ensure the economic advancement of the Metro South region.



Christos Tsaganis, page 5



Historic Postcards, page 7



Meghann Kia-Devine, page 11

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"Taste" Event Sizzling with Restaurants, Entertainment

Over 50 food and cultural displays; BHS Jazz Band, Brockton Symphony Quartet to perform

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2013

21st Annual

The Shaw's Center, Brockton
 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

- Sample tastes from area restaurants
- Discover cultural and community service organizations
- Enjoy live entertainment from local performers including the **BHS Jazz Band, Brockton Symphony Quartet & Rob Peters Entertainment** (More acts to follow)
- Enter to win exciting door prizes

Tickets Available Now!

\$35. Must be purchased in advance. Visit: metrosouthchamber.com/taste.html for more information.

For more information, see page 6.

Chamber Celebrates Birthday, Kicks Off Centennial Celebration



Stage decorations provided by BC Tent & Awning and Sign Design



Norm Bossio, Motivational Speaker



Speed Networking

February 14, 2013 marked the Chamber's 100th Birthday and the kickoff of the yearlong centennial celebration that will culminate with the Chamber's 100th Annual Meeting on November 20th at the Conference Center at Massasoit in Brockton.

This chamber has a long, proud history and its leadership performance and good influence began back in the 1880's when it was known as the Brockton Board of Trade. It was during this time that Thomas Edison constructed his three phase underground electric utility in Brockton that would go on to serve as a developmental model for thousands of village and city centers throughout the world. The building that Edison opened as a power plant in 1883 is now home to the Metro South Chamber of Commerce today.

In 1916, President Calvin Coolidge spoke to this Chamber. "It may be of little importance to determine at any time just where we are, but it is of the utmost importance to determine whether we are going. (So,) set the course right." He went on to say, "I have intended to indicate not only that commerce is an instrument of great power, but that commercial development is necessary to all human progress... We ought to demand economic justice, but most of all because it is justice... Let us look at the service rather than the reward."

President Coolidge spoke to this chamber of the empowerment gained by the individual when prosperity was pursued and present within a

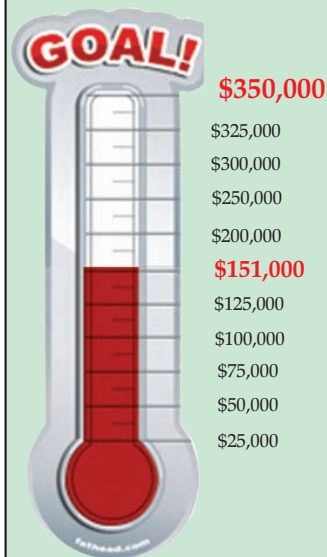
Continued on Page 11

Chamber Testifies Against 6.5% Water/Sewer Hike

Chamber president and CEO Christopher Cooney, CCE testified before the Commission and requested a comprehensive strategic plan be developed by the commission with specific items such as efficiency measures and cost cutting analysis be made prior to any increase. Cooney said, "Brockton is well positioned to provide leadership in the areas of water and sewer for the entire region. A strategic plan to do so is in the best interest of current and future rate payers." Cooney also addressed the six tiered rate struc-

Continued on Page 11

Metro South Building Renovation Project



After a century of encouraging companies to build and invest in facilities in the Metro South area, the Chamber is renovating its historic office building. See page 7.

Legislative Luncheon This April



See Page 6



GOVERNMENT Affairs

The monthly Government Affairs meetings are held at the Chamber and provide an opportunity for member businesses to discuss issues of importance to them with their elected officials.

Friday, March 8, 2013, 12:00 pm

Sponsored by:



Join us on Friday, March 8, at 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm at the Chamber, 60 School Street, Brockton, for our monthly Government Affairs Meeting. The guest speaker will be **State Representative Claire Cronin**.

Claire Cronin represents the 11th Plymouth District (Brockton and Easton), elected in November of 2012. Claire is a graduate of Stonehill College and Suffolk University Law School. Prior to being elected State Representative, Claire maintained a law practice in Brockton.

If you would like to attend this meeting, please contact Yara at the Chamber, 508.586.0500 x 227, ycardoso@metrosouthchamber.com, or register online at metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration. The cost to attend is \$8 for members and \$15 for future-members and includes lunch.



Claire Cronin

Business After Hours at Wood Palace Kitchens

Thursday, April 25, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Join us on Thursday, April 25 from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm for a Business After Hours Networking event in the Wood Palace Kitchens Showroom located at 7 Mill Street in Middleboro.

Wood Palace Kitchens creates excellence in kitchen style and design using natural, corian counter and quartz countertops along with beautiful contemporary kitchen cabinets and kitchen island designs.. Wood Palace Kitchens has been helping people build their dream kitchen/baths for over 30 years. They assist in creating the perfect design for their lifestyle, needs, space and budget. For more information about Wood Palace Kitchens, visit www.woodpalacekitchens.com.

This event is complimentary and includes hors d'oeuvres and refresh-



Wood Palace
KITCHENS, INC.



ments. For more information or to register, please visit www.metroouthchamber.com/calendar-registration or contact Kimberly Prosper, 508.586.0500 x 231, kprosper@metrosouthchamber.com. As always, don't forget your business cards.

U.S. Small Business Programs Offered

Attend a FREE SBA workshop designed to highlight the various SBA programs and services that are available to prospective or current entrepreneurs who need assistance in starting or expanding their business. General information will be provided on the following:

- **SCORE-** Counselors to America's Small Business
- **MSBDC-** Mass Small Businesses Development Centers
- **BIC's-** Business Resource Centers
- **SBA Guaranty Loan Programs:** 7(a), Micro Loans, Patriot & SBA Express Loans & 504-Project Loan Development
- **Government Contracting Opportunities:** 8(a) business Development, HUBZones (Historically Underutilized Business Zones), Small Disadvantaged Business, and Surety Bonding (when applicable - 2 yrs in-business experience required)
- **Disaster Assistance**

The workshop will be held at **CareerWorks**, 34 School Street, Brockton from 2 - 4 pm on the third Wednesday of each month. The next workshops will be held on **March 20, and April 17, 2103**. Contact CareerWorks at 508.513.3400 for further workshop information.

CareerWorks



All Travelers Welcome; All-Inclusive Trip to Asia

Join the Metro South Chamber of Commerce for the adventure of a lifetime...

HONG KONG & THAILAND



November 1-9, 2013



9 Days • Only \$2,899 All-Inclusive*

Bangkok

Visit the Golden Palace containing works of art in Thai and European styles. View The Emerald Buddha. Explore the Art of the Kingdom Exhibition at Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall. Take a Klong Tour passing Wat Arun, a trip on the canals of Thonburi on a long-tailed boat. Visit the National Snake Farm & Leather Shop and Four Face Buddha. Enjoy a BBQ seafood buffet and Ramayana buffet putte dinner show.

Pattaya

Relax during the morning on the beautiful beach at Coral Island. Visit Nong Nooch, a world renowned place for its impressive Elephant and Thai Cultural Shows along with what is considered the biggest and most beautiful botanical garden in Southeast Asia. Take an elephant ride, then visit the Pattaya Four Regions Floating market. Visit World Gems Pattaya and local produce market.

Ayuthaya

Ayuthaya is a ruined city built in 1350 A.D. that had been the capital of Siam. Visit the temples of Wat Yai Chai Mongkol, Wiha Phra Mongkhon Bophit, and Wat Phra Si Sanphet.

Hong Kong

Fly to the city known as the east pearl-Hong Kong. Cross the Tsing Ma Bridge, the longest suspension bridge. Visit the Avenue of Arts, which pays tribute to outstanding professionals of Hong Kong's film industry. Look down from The Peak and get the incredible view of the city and Victoria Harbor. Take a one way ride with Peak Tram. The Ngong Ping 360, consists of a cable car journey and a themed village. Visit the Repulse Bay with its clean and well tended beach. Finally, visit Stanley, a former fishing village.

* Price includes roundtrip airfare, transportation to and from JFK, 3 meals a day, 4 and 5 star accommodations, deluxe bus tours, fluent English-speaking tour guides and entrance to attractions. \$300 deposit due April 20. For more information, contact **Doris Flecchia** at 508.586.0500 x 221 or email doris@metrosouthchamber.com. Presented by the Metro South Chamber and Citilinc, a company that works with over 800 chambers in 49 states to send annually over 20,000 people to China and other Asian destinations.

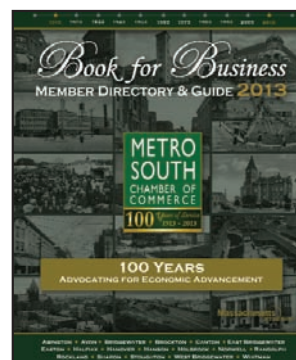
FREE INFO SESSION TO LEARN MORE

Thursday, April 11, 5:30 pm

Bickford's Restaurant, 37 Oak Street Extension, Brockton
Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Alison van Dam, 508.586.0500 x 231, avandam@metrosouthchamber.com

Centennial Book Arriving This Month

The Chamber of Commerce will soon be distributing the **Centennial 2013 Metro South Book for Business**. The book features area dining, lodging, public golf courses, recreation, legislative leaders, community demographics, regional and economic data and a complete membership listing. The book also includes a full color map of the Metro South region, highlighting hotels, golf courses, industrial parks, town halls and other points of



interest. In addition, the 2013 Centennial Book for Business will contain a history of the Chamber and industry within the region over the past 100 years, featuring historic postcards and images.

Copies of the Book for Business will be distributed throughout the region to banks, real estate offices, town hall offices, all

Chamber members, area colleges, and sent to all relocating businesses and families interested in the Metro South area. For more information, contact Alison van Dam, 508.586.0500 x 222.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**OFFICERS**

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William Morse*Mutual Bank*

President and CEO

Christopher Cooney*Metro South Chamber of Commerce*

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Susan Joss*Brockton Neighborhood Health Center*

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Loretta DeGrazia*East Coast Petroleum*

Vice Chair Economic Development

Steve Hall*Prism Energy Services*

Vice Chair Government Affairs

Susan Joss*Brockton Neighborhood Health Center*

Vice Chair Membership Development

Patricia Williams*HarborOne Credit Union*

Immediate Past Chair

Peter Neville*Concord Foods***CHAMBER STAFF****Christopher Cooney, CCE**

President and CEO x 223

Yara Cardoso

Connecting Activities x 227

Kathleen Lynch

Membership Director x 229

DIRECTORS**Jane Callahan** - *On Deck Sports/Promounds***Joe Cardinal** - *National Grid***Peter Dello Russo** - *Bridgewater Savings Bank***Francis Dillon** - *Stonehill College***Gregory Hart** - *Ercolini & Company, LLP***Kim Hollon** - *Signature Healthcare***Richard Hynes** - *Barbour Corporation***Robert Kenworthy** - *Bank of America***Ray Ledoux** - *Brockton Area Transit***Jeffrey Liebman** -*Good Samaritan Medical Center/Steward***Dr. Dana Mohler Faria** -*Bridgewater State University***Jim Murphy LSP** - *GeoInsight***Gerald Nadeau** - *Rockland Trust Company***Jonathan "Jay" Pike** - *Sharkansky LLP***Andrew Raczka** - *Abington Bank***Andrew Schwartz***Law Office of Andrew H. Schwartz, LLC***Larry Siskind** -*Siskind and Siskind Attorneys at Law***Art Sullivan** - *Consultant***Peter Vlaco** -*Brophy & Philips Company, Inc.***Dr. Charles Wall** -*Massasoit Community College***508-586-0500** Front Desk x 221**Kimberly Prosper, IOM**

VP of Programs & Events x 231

Lisa Pearce

Finance x 230

Alison van Dam, IOM

VP of Marketing & Communications x 222

Networking at Events

is one of the most effective ways to grow your business!

MARCH Calendar

5**Executive Committee**

3:00 pm

6**Ambassador Meeting**

8:00 am

8**Government Affairs**

12:00 pm

20**Taste of Metro South**

5:30 pm

*The Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton***27****Board of Directors**

12:00 pm

Coming Up

April**3****Ambassador Meeting**

8:00 am

9**Connecting Activities Partnership Career Day**

8:00 am

*The Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton***11****China Trip Info Session**

5:30 pm

*Bickford's Restaurant, 37 Oak Street Extension, Brockton***11 or 12****Legislative Luncheon (TBD)**

12:00 pm

*Conference Center @ Massasoit, 770 Crescent St., Brockton***15****Patriot's Day - Chamber Closed****23****DCAMM Workshop**

8:30 am

25**Business After Hours - Wood Palace Kitchens**

5:30 pm

*7 Mill Street, Middleboro***29,30****Small Business Summit***Washington, DC*

Save the Date

May**1,2****Membership Drive (& Ambassador Meeting)**

8:00 am

*Stonehill College, Easton***7****Executive Board Meeting**

3:00 pm

10**Government Affairs**

12:00 pm

16**Small Business Awards & Luncheon***The Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton**EXPO (ends at 3:00 pm)**Luncheon*

10:00 am

12:00 pm

22**Board Meeting**

12:00 pm

22**Business After Hours at Abington Bank**

5:30 pm

6 Harrison Avenue, Abington

Note: All meetings are held at the Metro South Chamber Office or Metro South business Assistance Center (BAC) unless otherwise indicated.

GRO-N-THINGS, INC.

Interior Plant Maintenance and Design Service

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**ACCREDITED**
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**CHAMBER MISSION:** To serve the interests of member businesses while providing community leadership to ensure the economic advancement of the Metro South region.**Metro South Chamber of Commerce**

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www.richmorganphotography.com

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The Metro South Chamber of Commerce is solely responsible for the editorial content of this publication.

The Chamber wishes to assure our members of our intention to provide physically challenged participants equal access to all programs. If you or your employees have special needs in this area, please let us know by calling the Chamber at 508-586-0500 at least 48 hours in advance.

Brockton Fair Housing Event

The City of Brockton, Mayor Linda M. Balzotti, Brockton Redevelopment Authority, Brockton Housing Authority, Father Bills and MainSpring, Neighborhood Housing Services and Self Help present the Brockton City of Champions Fair Housing Event on Saturday, March 23, 12pm-6pm at Westgate Mall. A day of answers to questions regarding a variety of home issues, help for homeowners or potential homeowners, foreclosure prevention assistance, rental assistance, lead paint issues and more. The event will feature forty vendors consisting of banks, credit unions, realtors, financial organizations, non-profit agencies and more.

White Re-Elected to Mutual Bank Board

Glen S. White, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Mutual Bank, has been re-elected to a three-year term as a director of the bank. White assumed the post of Mutual Bank's Chief Executive Officer in 2003, and joined the board of directors in 2000. Under his leadership, Mutual Bank has grown from four to nine locations and will open a tenth branch in 2013. He joined the bank in April 1982 from Charlestown Savings Bank, and has served in a variety of roles, including Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer, President, and Chief Executive Officer.

Crescent Credit Collects Coats

Crescent Credit Union once again partnered with local cleaners to collect and clean winter coats, which were then delivered to non-profit organizations for distribution to those in need. The collection began in October and ran through January 12. This year's collection brought in approximately 300 coats for the community. Crescent has participated for four years with a grand total of over 1,700 coats collected. In Brockton and Norwell, Crescent branches collected coat donations in partnership with Anton's Cleaners, who cleaned the coats at no charge and distributed them via BU Medical Center's Outreach Van, Catholic Charities, Community Giving Tree, Cradles to Crayons, MA Coalition for the Homeless, MASSCAP, The Salvation Army, and other organizations.

Bridgewater Savings Bank Donates

The Bridgewater Savings Bank Charitable Foundation donated \$5,000 to the East Bridgewater Music Parents Association. The East Bridgewater Music Parents Association conducts several fundraisers to help raise money for the East Bridgewater Marching Band Program. The Marching Band was able to participate in several events last year including the East Bridgewater Viking Football home games, the UMass Marching Band Band-Day

event, and some MICA events.

Sharkansky LLP Joins BDO Seidman Alliance

Sharkansky LLP has joined the BDO Seidman Alliance, a nationwide association of independent accounting, consulting, and service firms. As an independent member firm of the BDO Seidman Alliance, Sharkansky has direct access to the expertise and resources of BDO USA, LLP (www.bdo.com), a leading tax, accounting, and financial advisory services firm with over 2,000 professionals nationwide. Membership provides the company with access to the knowledge base of more than 200 independent alliance firms, plus the resources of the international BDO network, the fifth largest accounting and consulting network in the world with more than 48,000 professionals in 135 countries. For more information, contact Sharkansky LLP at 508-584-2120 or email partners@sharkcpa.com.

Brockton Garden Club Scholarships

The Brockton Garden Club is pleased to award a scholarship in the amount of \$1000.00 to a graduating student in the Class of 2013 or to an individual who will pursue a graduate program in Horticulture, Floriculture, Forestry, Landscaping, Agronomy or any of the sciences that are tangential to these majors. Our goal is to reach as many students as possible. The deadline for applications submission is April 16, 2013. Questions or to obtain a form, please contact Carla Ganter at 508-583-7491.

HarborOne Credit Union Donates

The Board of Directors of HarborOne Credit Union in Brockton announced that it had made recent donations to the following community-based organizations: Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to the Old Colony Boy Scouts Council, Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to the Cape Verdean Association's Summer Afterschool Program, Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to the Special Olympics of Massachusetts South Section Basketball Assessment Round, One thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) to the Sturdy Memorial Hospital Foundation.

Employment Law Update

Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehané will be hosting their 20th Annual Employment Law Update on March 14, 7:30 am - 12:45 pm at The Boston Marriott Hotel in Quincy. Topics will include lessons from the year's top cases, regulatory and statutory update, the broad impact of recent legal rulings on established employer policies and practices and health care reform, what do you need to do now. For more information or to register, please contact

Monty Vaughn at mvaughn@mhtl.com, 617-691-1951.

Farland Corporation Formed

Thompson Farland, Inc. (A Full Service Civil Engineering and Land Surveying Company) www.ThompsonFarland.com is pleased to announce their sister company Farland Corporation, Inc. (Farland Corp.) www.FarlandCorp.com started by Christian A. Farland, P.E., LEED AP and his wife Elizabeth R. Farland. Farland Corp. is a full service site contracting company specializing in residential and commercial site development for the private and public sector. Farland Corp. is located at 398 County Street New Bedford, MA 02740. Farland Corp. is connected to their clients along with fellow and potential business partners through social media such as Face Book, Twitter and LinkedIn and through a full service website www.FarlandCorp.com. Please contact Rasa St. John at 508.717.3479 or Jay Lanagan at 508.717.3480 for more information.

Old Colony Elder Services Collections

Old Colony Elder Services (OCES), a private, non-profit agency designated as an Aging Services Access Point (ASAP) located in Brockton, helped a number of seniors and others in need over the holiday season. OCES held a holiday food drive among their staff to help support Father Bills & Mainspring homeless shelter of Brockton, which has experienced a marked increase in young adults and veterans seeking assistance. Each year, OCES holds a holiday food drive for a different organization in an effort to provide support to those most in need. Last year, OCES' food drive collections were donated to The Charity Guild food pantry and thrift shop located on Main Street in Brockton. The staff at OCES also gave back to the community's youth by participating in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program. OCES provided more than 35 gifts to children in the community.

7th Annual Mardi Gras Madness

Saturday, March 9: Brockton Day Nursery's 7th Annual Mardi Gras Madness Fundraiser, 7pm, an authentic New Orleans style event presented by Cumberberland Farms/Gulf Oil at The Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton. Sample a wide range of authentic Cajun cuisine and American foods, participate in the silent auction and raffle drawings, and more. The Grand Marshall is Patrick Pass, former New England Patriot. There will also be live entertainment, cash bar, and more. Casual or festive attire recommended. Tickets are \$50 per person, \$80 per couple, or \$450 for a corporate table. Call 508-

588-2700 or visit www.brocktondaynursery.org. Sponsors, advertisers and auction donors still needed.

Hope Hospice CE Presentation

Wednesday, March 6: Hope Hospice presents a CE Presentation on Understanding Dementia and Assessing Pain in the Cognitively Impaired Adult. Participants will learn an overview of disease progression of Alzheimer's disease, compassionate care approaches and the effect of some medications in late stage dementia and tools to assess and quantify pain in the cognitively impaired adult. 5:00pm-6:00pm at St. Joseph Manor Health Care, 215 Thatcher Street, Brockton. Hearty appetizers and wine will be served! 1 CCM for Case Managers and 1 CE for Nurses and Social Workers. Please RSVP to mdunton@SJMbrockton.org or call 508-583-5834.

Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 10: The Rotary Club of Brockton will host a Service Above Self, Pancake Breakfast at VFW Post 1046- 238 N. Quincy Street in Brockton from 7am-1pm. \$5 per person, children under age 5, free. Fun, food, raffles and entertainment. Guests who bring a donation for the Rotary Food Pantry Drive will be entered into a drawing for a \$20 George's Cafe gift certificate. Sponsorships available. For more information or tickets email: brocktonrotaryclub@gmail.com.

Brockton Symphony Orchestra

The Brockton Symphony Orchestra will present a Chamber Music Concert on March 10, 3:00 pm at the Christ Congregational Church, 1350 Pleasant Street, Brockton. Brockton Symphony Players and Feinberg winners will be performing intimate music in small ensembles. The Symphony will end their season on Sunday, April 28, 3:00 pm at West Middle School in Brockton with a program entitled Love's Eternal Flame. For more information, visit www.brocktonsymphony.org or call 508-588-3841.

SHUP Konbit 2013

South Shore Haitians United for Progress Inc., (SHUP) will host their 8th Annual Fundraising Dinner Gala, Konbit 2013, on Saturday April 6 from 7pm-12am at the Tirell Room, 254 Quarry Street in Quincy. Tickets are \$75 per person. Couples are \$140 and a table is \$700. Tabou Combo Feature Artist: Malida. Please RSVP by March 15 to acheiver.dd@gmail.com or amamhea@msn.com, or by calling 857-244-5512.

Chamber Mourns Passing of Christo's Founder

Excerpts courtesy of The Enterprise

Christos Tsaganis, a longtime restaurateur, philanthropist and "Greek Salad King," passed away on February 4, 2013 at Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital after a brief illness. He was 87.

Chris Tsaganis migrated to America from Greece and began working at Peter's Lunch, a downtown Brockton Diner in the 1950's as a dishwasher. In 1964, Tsaganis and his late wife, Bessie, opened Christo's restaurant in Brockton. In 1978, he opened Christo's II, now the Massasoit Conference Center, next door to his restaurant. He was inducted into the Food Industry Hall of Fame in 2007 and into the Restaurant Hall of Fame in 2001.

"He's a local icon. He really mirrors what the American dream is all about. You come here and work hard and nothing is in your way," said Robert Creedon, Plymouth County Clerk of Courts.

Gov. Michael Dukakis designated Tsaganis the "Greek Salad King." His bottled dressing is now sold at local supermarkets.

"He was absolutely one of the most benevolent givers this city has ever seen," former Brockton Mayor John T. Yunits Jr. said. "He gave to everything, everything."

Tsaganis donated food and money to several Greek Orthodox churches in the area each year for their food festivals, including in Brockton, New Bedford, Fall River and Quincy. He is known as "The Godfather" of the Annunciation Greek



Christos Tsaganis

Orthodox Church in Brockton. The appellation signifies that Tsaganis was the largest contributor to the building's construction. Tsaganis earned the distinction of "archon" in the Greek Orthodox church for his service. He helped found the Alpha Omega Council, a national group of

professional Greek-Americans dedicated to education and philanthropy, in 1976.

Tsaganis' generosity extended beyond the Greek American community. He served as a trustee of Stonehill College from 1989 to 1995 and on the board of directors at Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital. He also served on the Brockton Redevelopment Authority for 17 years. He was a benefactor and former trustee of the Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline. In 1986, he became the first recipient of Stonehill's Genesis Award recognizing his talent, creativity and generosity. Tsaganis funded a scholarship in his wife's name at Stonehill.

Chris was also a member and long time-supporter of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce. "The Chamber will be forever grateful to Chris, Bessie and their entire family for the many years of positive influence they have had on the City and the Chamber. Chris named the Business Assistance Conference Room at the Chamber for his wife, Bessie, so we think of them often," said Chamber President & CEO Christopher Cooney.

Company Field Trip to The Mattress Maker



The Brockton Area Connecting Activities Partnership visited The Mattress Maker of New England in Brockton for a Company Field Trip. The tour, led by David Teixeira, Managing Director of the Company detailed the manufacturing, preparation, and styling from how mattresses are assembled to how they present the products in the beautiful display room. Students featured above are from the Keith School in Brockton (Autumn Taylor, Irismar Janey, Damien Reyes and Nick Grushkin). The Brockton Area Connecting Activities Partnership connects schools to businesses to provide structured work-based learning experiences for students, relates students' academic lessons in school with their career ambitions, and utilizes the Massachusetts Work Based Learning Plan to guide learning and productivity on the job. If your company is interested in providing a company field trip tour for our students, please feel free to contact Yara Cardoso at ycardoso@metrosouthchamber.com or (508) 586-0500 x227.

Calling All Businesses; Support Career Day

April 9, 2013, 8:00 am - 11:45 am



We are very pleased to announce the Sixteenth Annual Connecting Activities Career Day sponsored by the Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board, Metro South Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Brockton. This initiative is designed as an opportunity to build stronger connections between schools and the community. By connecting schools with area businesses and organizations, students can see the relevance and authenticity

of what they are learning in school, invigorating the school culture and the classroom, while they begin to consider their potential careers. The event, which will be held on, Tuesday April 9th from 8:00 am to 11:45 am at The Shaw's Center, Brockton, will provide high school students with the opportunity to explore careers in the following areas:

Education and Human Services, Finance, Business Management, Sales and Marketing, Manufacturing and Construction Trades, Information Technology, Arts, Media & Communication, Cosmetology, Armed Services, Health and Science, Government, Court System and Law Enforcement, Travel /Hospitality, Retail, Animal Care, and Architecture.

Each business will be provided with a display table; electricity is limited but can be provided upon request. Please remember that our intent is to provide students with information about careers in a variety of areas. When developing your presentation, be mindful that this is not a job fair but a career awareness activity. For more information, please contact Yara Cardoso, Connecting Activities Coordinator at ycardoso@metrosouthchamber.com or (508) 586-0500 x227.

Connecting Activities Job Shadow Program



The Brockton Area Connecting Activities Partnership is continuing the National Job Shadow Program throughout the academic year. One of the many job shadows took place at one of six Fire Stations in Brockton, with Public Education Officer, Lieutenant Robert Hendrigan.

Pictured: Connecting Activities student, Arthur Wamness from the North River School (middle), stands amongst four of Brockton's fire fighters from the Station 1, Pleasant Street Fire Station. Arthur was able to join the fire fighters on more than 10 calls and enjoyed his experience with what he says he hopes "could be his future career."

Whether you are a participating employer, educator, or volunteer host, participating in job shadowing is easy and fun. Job shadowing immerses each student in the world of work, where they can get first-hand information about job skills and careers. By bringing students into the workplace to see a marketing professional or a health care technician at work, very real and tangible options come alive for them. Job shadowing provides exciting reasons why students should stay in school. It creates a critical link between education and success.

Small Businesses Key to Economic Recovery

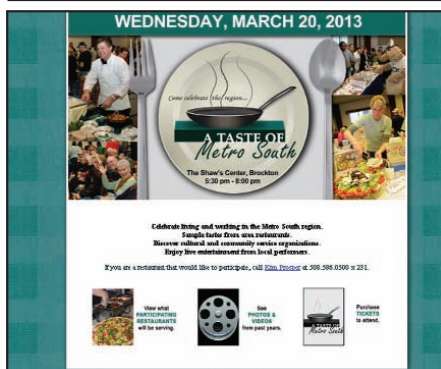
Massachusetts Small Business Profile for the States and Territories

In a recent report released by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), shows positive economic changes in Massachusetts, largely due to the increase in small businesses.

- Massachusetts' economy was strong in 2011, with real gross state product increasing 3.7 percent and private-sector employment increasing 0.9 percent.
- The state's unemployment rate decreased by 0.9 percent in 2011.
- During the midst of the economic recession, the employment situation from 2007-2010 was weak, and small businesses in Massachusetts had a new job loss.
- Small businesses in Massachusetts employed 1.4 million workers in 2010 with most of the employment coming from firms with 20-499 employees.

For more information or to read the full profile, visit www.sba.gov/advocacy/848.

Your Guide to the Restaurants, Online



- View participating restaurants and organizations with full contact information and websites, updated daily
- View what each restaurant will be serving
- Learn where to buy your tickets, or purchase tickets online
- View photos and videos from past years
- View the lineup of entertainment acts

www.metroouthchamber.com/taste.html

Follow the Taste on Facebook!

Visit the Taste of Metro South Fan Page and click the "Like" button! You will receive live feeds of newly added restaurants and media, learn what restaurants are serving, and expand the Metro South Community. Your support will help the event grow and continue to become more successful. Spread the word of the social and food event of the year! Visit www.facebook.com and search for Taste of Metro South. Also, like the Chamber on facebook at www.facebook.com/metroouthchambercommerce.



Legislative Luncheon - Let Your Voice Be Heard!



The 2013 Legislative Lunch is scheduled tentatively for **either April 11 or April 12 at 12:00 pm.** The event will be held at the Conference Center at Massasoit, 770 Crescent Street, Brockton. The Legislative Luncheon offers Chamber members and the community an opportunity to hear from state and federal elected officials. With an attendance of over 250 people, it is also a great networking opportunity. Past speakers have included Former U.S. Congressman Bill Delahunt, Speaker of

the House Robert DeLeo, Senate President Therese Murray, Attorney General Martha Coakley and Governor Deval Patrick. The cost is \$39 for members and \$49 for future-members. To register or for further information, call the Chamber at 508.586.0500 ext. 231 or register at metroouthchamber.com/calendar-registration.

Sponsored by:



Take Part in the Region's Most Anticipated Annual Food Event!



750+ POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS IN ATTENDANCE!

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WWW.METROOUTHCHAMBER.COM

or at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, 60 School Street, Brockton (Across from City Hall), Monday-Friday, 9 am-4:30 pm.

Ticket Price: \$35. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Call 508.586.0500 x 231 for tickets and more information

More than 50 Restaurants are already signed on, including: Bickford's Grille, Buffalo Wild Wings, Crocetti-Oakdale Packing Co., Harry's Westgate Pub, Lobstern Barn, McGuigan's Pub, Texas Roadhouse, the Brockton High School Fine Arts Cafe, Petti's Market, Stoneforge, and many more.

Entertainment to include: The Brockton Symphony Orchestra, The Brockton High School Jazz Band, Rob Peters Entertainment, and more!

Calling All Restaurants; Taste of Metro South

We invite your restaurant to participate in the widely popular and anticipated "Taste of Metro South."

Celebrate living and working in the region with a night of food and entertainment. You provide your speciality in sample sizes for 500 people, and we provide the opportunity to market your business to the ideal target audience.

Participating restaurants will be listed on our website with a logo and link, receive promotion in "The Action Report" newsletter, receive mentions on facebook and social media, will have their logo and contact information placed in the program and event presentation, and receive the opportunity for radio and television promotion.

Sponsorships are also available. For more information, please contact Kim Prosper at 508.586.0500 x 231 or email kprosper@metroouthchamber.com. Download the vendor application and see photos from last year's event at metroouthchamber.com/taste.html

IS THERE A RESTAURANT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE PARTICIPATE?

Let us know! Call 508-586-0500.

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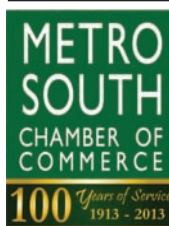
110 North Leyden Street
Brockton, MA 02302

508-586-2000

visit our website at www.holmesmcduffy.com

NW-CN12873289

Chamber Centennial Campaign Fundraiser



We're excited! After a century of encouraging companies to build and invest in facilities in the Metro South area, the Metro South Chamber of Commerce is renovating its historic office building. The historic Thomas Edison power plant, donated to the Metro South Chamber of Commerce in 1988, to serve as the Chamber's headquarters, is a landmark building and serves many businesses and organizations within the region. With more than \$120,000 in cash received from Mutual Bank, Concord Foods, HarborOne Credit Union, Signature Healthcare and the Law Office of Andrew H. Schwartz, we are on our way.

We hope you're excited too, because for individuals and corporations located in Metro South, a renovated Chamber facility reflects well on each of us. It means high visibility for the Metro South region among relocation and expansion prospects. It means a state-of-the-art conference room available for the use of Chamber members. It means a more efficient Chamber to serve you better. It means the reinvestment and renaissance will be spreading to all of us who live and work in Metro South. This will reflect very well on the reputation of all of us who live and work here.

We need to raise an additional \$250,000. to renovate the Chamber's School Street building into an updated operational facility. We need to rehabilitate the masonry, replace the roof, rebuild the façade panels, paint, put in a lift to provide handicapped access and bring the building up to current code.

Now it's your turn. We need your very generous investment in the Metro South Building. This is an investment which will have permanent impact on the Chamber and the region it serves. Your corporate or private gift of \$25,000. will renovate a conference room which will be used to generate more investment in the region. Your gift of \$10,000 will renovate an office. Even a gift of \$1,000 will put the Chamber closer to our common goals of a healthy regional economy and a high quality of life.

Why help the Chamber? Because the Chamber helps you. The Chamber encourages corporations to locate and invest in the region, which raises the quality of our services and lives. It helps its members expand their businesses in Metro South. It retains professional help to represent your views to state and federal governments. It serves as a catalyst for you and other business people to communicate and solve common problems. It offers your company group health insurance plans. It provides you with many business-related services which are available at little or no cost.

For more information, visit www.metroouthchamber.com/programs/capital-campaign or contact Christopher Cooney at 508.586.0500 x 223, chris@metroouthchamber.com.

Regional Vintage Postcards; Population

A Look at Changing Populations in the Metro South Region



Abington

1913: 5,455

2013: 15,985

Textile Machinery Works



Avon

1913: 2013

2013: 4,356

Avon Baptist Church



Bridgewater

1913: 7,688

2013: 26,563

Town Hall



Brockton

1913: 56,878

2013: 93,810

Main Street



Canton

1913: 4,797

2013: 21,561

Public Library



E. Bridgewater

1913: 3,363

2013: 14,098

Elmwood River



Easton

1913: 5,139

2013: 23,112

Ames Library & Hall



Halifax

1913: 550

2013: 7,518

Town Hall & Church



Hanover

1913: 2,326

2013: 13,879

Old Fellow's Hall



Hanson

1913: 1,854

2013: 10,209

Cranberry Bog



Holbrook

1913: 2,816

2013: 10,791

First Electric Tram



Norwell

1913: 1,410

2013: 10,506

Main Street



Randolph

1913: 4,301

2013: 32,112

Old Stetson Hall



Rockland

1913: 6,928

2013: 17,489

South Union Street



Sharon

1913: 2,310

2013: 17,612

Town Hall



Stoughton

1913: 6,315

2013: 26,962

Stoughton Square



W. Bridgewater

1913: 2,231

2013: 6,916

The Dam



Whitman

1913: 7,292

2013: 14,489

Toll House

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The Patriot Ledger 617-786-7180
The Enterprise 508-638-5580

Metro South Region is Bio Ready; Chamber to Represent Region at Int'l Conference



Massachusetts leads the country in the BioTechnology Industry with over 500 companies located within the state. It also receives the highest per capita NIH funding. The Metro South region is home to over 45 of these companies.

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce will be representing the Metro South region at the upcoming **2013 Bio International Convention** taking place from **April 22-25, 2013** in Chicago, Illinois. The BIO International Convention is the largest global event for the biotechnology industry and attracts the biggest names in biotech, offers key networking and



partnering opportunities, and provides insights and inspiration on the major trends affecting the industry. The Metro South Chamber also displayed a booth at the 2012 BIO International Convention which drew 16,505 industry leaders from 49 states and 65 countries.

For a copy of the Metro South BioTechnology brochure (excerpt below), contact Doris Flecchia, doris@metroouthchamber.com, 508.586.0500 x 221. For more information on the Convention, visit convention.bio.org.

Biotech Companies Currently Located in the Metro South Region

EMD Serono, Inc.	Rockland
Organogenesis, Inc.	Canton
Pharmasol Corporation	South Easton
Cell Sciences, Inc.	Canton
Pressure Biosciences, Inc.	South Easton
Biotech India	Randolph
Sanofi Pasteur Biologics Co.	Canton
Lynne Laboratories	Brockton
Merit Medical Systems	Rockland
Armstrong Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Canton
Stonehill College	Easton
Bridgewater State University	Bridgewater
Polyvalence Group	Avon
Massasoit Community College	Brockton
Engineers Training Center	Canton
Signature Healthcare	Brockton
Good Samaritan Medical Center	Brockton
New England Sinai	Stoughton
Kindred Hospital	Stoughton
Steward Medical Systems	Brockton
Cranberry Specialty Hospital	Hanson
Veterans Health Administration	Brockton
Amego	North Easton
Brigham & Women's	E. Bridgewater
Adcare Hospital	Bridgewater
Childrens Hospital of Boston	Brockton
Journey House	Bridgewater
Surgi Center	Brockton
Pura Vida H2O, Inc.	Randolph
Hd Supply Waterworks Group, Inc.	Brockton
Abington Rockland Joint Water	Rockland
Confidential Care	Norwell
Cool Comfort Technologies	Rockland
Easton Win Water Works	Easton
MA Department of Public Health	Canton


Call Christopher Cooney,
508.586.0500 x 223 for more info

Location & Value: The Metro South Region . . .

provides the resources and opportunities of Boston at an exceptional value. Featuring **New England's only desalination plant and an expanded and upgraded Water Reclamation Facility**. Offering many **attractive and reasonably priced sites** with available 43D approved buildings ranging in size from 50,000 sq ft to over 700,000 sq ft. Developable land ranges from five acres to 20+ acres. There are also Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), Historical Tax Credits, New Market Tax Credits and competitive development incentives.

The Metro South region, designated as a **Regional Economic Development Organization**, is prepared to streamline permitting for pre-designated districts and buildings. In addition, the region's education is first rate, featuring three institutes of higher education and three technical schools, ensuring a **skilled workforce** with premium training facilities.

The Metro South region also contains exceptional health care facilities, including four major hospitals and is rich in culture, home to symphonies, a craft museum, children's museum, and various historic museums. It also contains many recreational activities, including baseball outings, golfing and many parks and lakes for walking, biking, and fishing. With over 500 hotel rooms, the Metro South region is a great place to stay and competitive housing costs offer affordable and varied living opportunities.



Centrally located in the heart of Eastern Massachusetts on routes 24, 128 and 495, the Metro South region offers easy access to Boston, Providence, Plymouth and Cape Cod. **Boston, only 18 miles away**, is easily accessed via numerous commuter rail stations providing **full service to Boston in only 35 minutes**.

Photos: EMD Serono Headquarters; Brockton Rox Baseball; Bridgewater State University Science Center; Johnson Square Solar Houses; Commuter Rail to Boston

Bio Ready Certifications
(Massachusetts Biotechnology Council)

The designation recognizes these communities as having superior facilities and resources to provide the best suited buildings and sites for the expansion of Biotech companies within Massachusetts. The communities have adopted local policies that greatly ease the pathway for renovation or new construction of biotech laboratory and manufacturing facilities.

- Canton, MA**
Platinum Designation
- Southfield (Abington, Rockland and Weymouth)**
Platinum Designation
- Brockton, MA**
Gold Designation
- Randolph, MA**
Bronze Designation
- W. Bridgewater, MA**
Bronze Designation

Cutting-Edge Technology Educational Facilities

Bridgewater State University (new science center); Stonehill College (new science center); Massasoit Community College; Porter & Chester Institute; Sullivan & Cogliano Training Center; Lincoln Technical Institute; University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute; Within close proximity to University of Massachusetts Boston, Curry College and Fisher College.

www.metroouthchamber.com

Station Lofts Break Ground in Brockton



Station Lofts Rendering

Developer Jason Korb, principal of the Cambridge based Capstone Communities LLC and the City of Brockton recently broke ground on Station Lofts, the \$9 million redevelopment of the former Knight Building located at 124 Montello Street in Brockton.

Station Lofts will feature 25 apartments with a mixture of full-priced rents and subsidized housing for working families and artists. Station Lofts is being financed through a mix of public and private lenders as well as housing tax credits and historic tax credits with support from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the state Department of Housing and Community Development, MassDevelopment and The Property and Casualty Initiative.

Station Lofts marks the start of an economic revitalization downtown. Across the street, demolition has begun on the Gardner building as part of Trinity Financial's \$100 million redevelopment of The Enterprise block.

Workers May Qualify; Earned Income Tax Credit

Low to moderate-income families in the Greater Brockton area are again eligible for this free service. Most people can get their state refund in 3 to 5 days and their federal refund in about 7 days saving hundreds of dollars in tax preparer and loan fees. Workers can claim both the federal and state EITC, even if they do not owe income tax. You will receive a state credit equal to 15% of the federal amount. Millions of eligible workers risk missing out on these important federal tax benefits which are also matched to a lesser degree by the state.

Assistance is available at **HarborOne's Multi Cultural Banking Center**, 68 Legion Parkway, Mondays 4-7pm through April 8 with the exception of February 18. Assistance is also available at **Self Help's Healthy Housing and**

Community Resource Center, 142 Crescent Street, Thursdays 6-9pm, Saturdays 9am-3pm or by appointment by calling 508-591-5479.

Who Is Eligible?
Earned Income Credit Income Limits
Tax year 2012

# of children	Single	Married	Receive
none	\$13,980	\$19,190	\$475
one	\$36,920	\$42,130	\$3,169
two	\$41,952	\$47,162	\$5,236
three +	\$45,060	\$50,270	\$5,891

Taxpayers should bring: All household W-2 and /or 1099 forms, Social Security Cards for yourself, your spouse and all dependent children from your household. Also bring a valid driver's license or photo ID and proof of health insurance.

Call For Small Biz Award Nominations

Thursday, May 16; Call for Nominations

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce recognizes the achievements and contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs in creating new jobs and economic opportunities in the Metro South region. All members are invited to participate in the selection process to name the 2013 Annual Small Business of the Year and Entrepreneur of the Year award winners.

Nominating someone is easy...

You may nominate your own business or any other business you deem worthy (maximum of one nomination per category). Submit a summary of your reasons for the nomination, based on the criteria listed here. You may include any additional documentation that will help illustrate why the business is deserving of the award. Nominees do not need to be members of the Chamber. Nominees must be a for-profit business.

Criteria...

Small Business of the Year Award:
50 or less full-time equivalent employees (Two part-time employees = one full-time); in business more than 3 consecutive years under the current ownership; for-profit business.

The Entrepreneur of the Year Award:
10 full-time employees or equivalence; in business less than 3 years; a for profit-business.

Companies will be rated on their creativity and imagination in the development of their business, their demon-

Sponsored by:



stration of growth, and a reflection on internal and external social responsibility.

Nominations are due by April 6, 2013. Visit www.metroouthchamber.com to download the nomination form. Winners will be announced at the Small Business and Entrepreneur Luncheon on **May 16th, 2013** and will receive an engraved plaque and publicity. For more info, call Kimberly Prosper at 508.586.0500 x 231.

Prior Small Business of the Year Recipients

- 2012 Vicente's Tropical Grocery
- 2011 McGuigan's Pub
- 2010 Prisco's Market
- 2009 MCG Partners
- 2008 Heights Crossing
- 2007 Westgate Lanes
- 2006 Cindy's Kitchen
- 2005 Northeast Wholesale Nail & Fastener Supply Co.
- 2004 Dupliron, Inc.
- 2003 Modern Auto Body
- 2002 United Furniture, Inc.
- 2001 Robert Sharkansky & Company, CPA

Prior Entrepreneur of the Year Recipients

- 2012 Billy Michaud, Sparky's Import Repair
- 2011 Al Ata, Elie Baking Corp
- 2010 Patricia Winberg, Topnotch Design Studio
- 2009 Michelle Cully, XPressman Trucking & Courier
- 2008 Robert Monahan of UPPAbaby
- 2007 Howard Wright of Wright Technology
- 2006 Rob Peters of Rob Peters Entertainment
- 2005 Jeffrey Chrzanowski of Spark Street Autobody
- 2004 Charles Bernard of The DJ Experience
- 2003 James Messinger of The Crazy Chefs Caterers
- 2002 Jerome Offutt of Top Quality Staffing
- 2001 Randy Yanoff of Eye of the Tiger Karate

Small Business Program to Feature Import/Export; EXPO



The Small Business Luncheon & Awards Program will be held on May 16, 12:00 pm -1:30 pm at the Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton

The top of the Small Business Luncheon is the Trade. At the Luncheon, representatives from the Import Export Bank of United States (Ex-Im Bank) and the U.S. Chamber will be speaking. Ex-Im is the official export credit agency of the United States. Their mission is to assist in financing the export of U.S. goods and services to international markets. The Ex-Im Bank enables U.S. companies to turn export opportunities into real sales that help to maintain and create jobs and contribute to a stronger national economy. They provide working capital guarantees, export credit insurance and loan guarantees and direct loans. No transaction is too large or too small.

In conjunction with the Small Business Luncheon there will be a Business Expo running from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. For table prices and information, or to purchase lunch tickets, please contact Kimberly Prosper, 508.586.0500 x 231, kprosper@metrosouthchamber.com, or register online, www.metroouthchamber.com/calendar-registration. The cost to attend is \$35 for members and \$45 for future-members and includes lunch and a very special Metro South Chamber Centennial Give-away.

DO YOU HAVE AN HR QUESTION?
Email info@metrosouthchamber.com

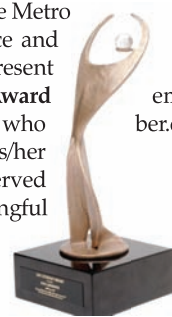
ATHENA Award Recognizes Women

Thursday, June 13; Call for Nominations

On Thursday, June 13, the Metro South Chamber of Commerce and Crescent Credit Union will present the 14th Annual **ATHENA Award** to an exceptional individual who has achieved excellence in his/her business or profession, has served the community in a meaningful way, and has assisted women in reaching their full leadership potential.

The ATHENA Awards Program was created in 1982 and has expanded to over 500 cities in the United States, Russia, Canada, China, The United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. The Metro South Chamber of Commerce believes in the values underlying the ATHENA Foundation's philosophy of incorporating the talents and expertise of women into the leadership of our businesses, communities and government.

To nominate an individual for an



ATHENA award, or for more information, please call Kim Prosper at 508.586.0500 x 231, or email kprosper@metrosouthchamber.com. The deadline is May 4, 2013.



Prior ATHENA Recipients

- 2012 Ruth Bramson, Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts
- 2011 Elaine Reiser, Brockton Area Multi-Services
- 2010 Anne DeMinico, St. Joseph Manor
- 2009 Sue Joss, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center
- 2008 Vanessa Tierny, Brockton Area Multi-Services
- 2007 Susan Szachowicz, Brockton High Principal
- 2006 Loretta Degrazia, East Coast Petroleum
- 2005 Marianne Wroble Cox, WXB 1460am Radio
- 2004 Shailah Stewart, Brockton Public Schools
- 2003 Linda Faria Braun, The Adult Learning Center
- 2002 Christine Karavites, Proteas Consulting
- 2001 Barbara Duffy, My Turn, Inc.
- 2000 Noelle Foye, Brockton Elementary School Nurse
- 1999 Janice Cunningham, East Bridgewater Police

Grant for Small Business to Increase Export Sales

The Massachusetts Office of International Trade and Investment (MOITI), in collabora-



tion with the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center (MSBDC) and the Massachusetts Export Center (MEC), recently launched the Massachusetts State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) Grant Program through a grant from the United States Small Business Administration (SBA).

The STEP grant program offers financial assistance to eligible Massachusetts small businesses seeking new and increased export sales of their goods and services. The grant program is intended to help offset international business development and related marketing costs for small businesses.

Grants under the STEP Program will be capped at \$10,000 per business to reimburse for costs associated with projects, activities or services undertaken during the period September 30, 2012 to

September 23, 2013. Each grant recipient will be required to provide

a match to cover 25% of the total approved cost for any project, activity or service.

The STEP Program is intended to help offset international business development and related marketing costs for small businesses. Grants will be awarded on the likelihood of leading to new or increased exports sales, job creation and demonstrated commitment to increasing export sales.

MOITI will accept submissions from March 1-May 30, 2013.

To apply for the STEP program, companies or firms must meet the U.S. Small Business Administration definition of small business. To apply, visit www.mass.gov/hed/economic/eohed/moiti/exporting/step-program. To learn about SBA's definition of a small business, visit www.sba.gov.

Brockton Commercial Site Finder



www.brockton21.com/site-finder.aspx

The Brockton Site Finder is a unique tool which notifies interested parties about real estate opportunities in the City of Brockton. It matches individuals looking to buy or lease commercial or industrial property with sellers and landlords. Search criteria includes type, location, building size, land size, zone and more. For more information, email info@brockton21.com or visit www.brockton21.com.

Prosper, van Dam Named Vice Presidents



Kimberly Prosper



Alison van Dam

Kimberly Prosper and Alison van Dam have been named vice presidents at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce where they each have worked for the past six years in the role of Director of Programs and Director of Communications respectively.

Prosper and van Dam each earned the designation of IOM, after completing an executive training program in organizational management. The IOM is awarded by the United States Chamber of Commerce after participants enroll and complete coursework at one of five academic sites within the United States over a four year timeframe. Prosper and van Dam each recently graduated from IOM at Villanova University in Philadelphia, PA.

Kimberly Prosper has been in chamber work for ten years and holds a BS degree in Hospitality and Tourism Administration from Lasell College in Newton, MA. In addition, she recently completed a certificate for woman in

politics and public policy from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Alison Van Dam has been in chamber work for six years and was ranked #1 in her class at Brockton High School. She also holds a BFA degree in Computer Arts/Animation and Music from the University of Massachusetts Amherst where she was a graduate of the Commonwealth College.

"We are pleased to acknowledge the professional development Kim and Alison have pursued and completed within their divisions while here at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce. The addition of Vice President to their titles reflects the confidence I have in them and the advancement they have earned through their commitment to the chamber and their professional development within the industry," said Chamber President and CEO, Christopher Cooney, CCE.

Upcoming Centennial Events

To learn more about any of these events, please visit metrosouthchamber.com/events/annual-monthly-events.

Tuesday, March 20: Taste of Metro South
(5:30 pm - 8:00 pm, The Shaw's Center, Brockton)

April 2013 (TBD): Legislative Luncheon
(12:00 pm - 1:30 pm, Massasoit Conference Center, Brockton)

Thursday, April 25: Business After Hours
(5:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Wood Palace Kitchens, Middleboro)

Thursday, May 16: Small Business Award Program
(10:00 am - 3:00 pm, The Shaw's Center, Brockton)

Wednesday, May 22: Business After Hours
(5:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Abington Bank, Abington)

Thursday, June 13: ATHENA Award Program
(8:00 am - 11:00 am, Location TBD)

Wednesday, October 9: Legislative Reception
(5:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Donahue Hall, Stonehill College, Easton)

Wednesday, Nov. 20: Centennial Annual Meeting & EXPO
(TBD)

WELCOME New Members

Making an Investment in Our Community

**South Shore Haitians
United for Progress (SHUP)**
Ms. Rose Dorly Dossous
P.O. Box 571
Brockton, MA 02301
(508) 857-0272
www.sshup.org
**Human Service Organizations
Agencies/Associations**

Premier Properties
Ms. Paula Odierno
620 Washington Street
South Easton, MA 02375
(508) 559-2782
www.massrealtor.com
**Real Estate-
Residential & Commercial**

RENEWINGMembers Thank You !

Affordable Closet Systems
Alphonse Leduc - Robert King, Inc.
Associação Caboverdiana De Brockton, Inc.
Battles Farm Company
DeSantis Chevrolet
Edible Arrangements
Edward J. Thibeault, CPA
Harrington Insurance Agency, Inc
Independence Insurance Agency
James E. Holmgren, CPA
Leahy Title / Peter & Elaine Leahy
Loureiro Engineering

McLaughlin Chevrolet, Inc.
Michael Haikal Real Estate
National Grid
Parker Property Management Inc.
Rich Morgan Photography
Rockland Ice Rink
Special Olympics MA
The Brockton Rox
The Children's Museum in Easton
Timberline Construction Corporation
Waste Management of MA
Westgate Lanes and Pub

Chamber Affiliation News & Events

To become an affiliate organization of the Chamber, contact Christopher Cooney at 508.586.0500 x 223 or email chris@metrosouthchamber.com.



The **Bridgewater Business Association (BBA)** will host the 2nd annual Meet & Greet event on Wednesday, April 10 from 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm, hosted by Sullivan Tire, 300 Bedford Street, Bridgewater. Join us for this free event open to all businesses in Greater Bridgewater and beyond. Includes complimentary food and cocktails, guest speakers, networking, hourly door prizes and raffles to benefit the BBA Charity Fund. For more information or to sponsor, visit www.bridgewaterbiz.biz.

The **Stoughton Chamber of Commerce** will host its April Meeting on Monday, April 1 at Smokey Bones, 301 Technology Drive, Stoughton, from 11:00 am -1:00 pm. Topics will include What Does it Cost When You Hire the Wrong Person and Do You Have Your Elevator Speech. For more information or to register, visit www.stoughtonma.com.



The **Norwell Chamber of Commerce** wil host their Awards Dinner at Barker Tavern in Norwell from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. For more information, visit norwellchamberofcommerce.com.

The **East Bridgewater Business Association (EBBA)** was founded in 1993 to promote a healthy business environment in East Bridgewater and to provide services to assist its members including education, networking and fellowship. For more information, visit www.eastbridge-waterbiz.com.



The **Avon Industrial Park Association** recently unveiled a new website at www.avonindustrialpark.com. The website contains featured businesses, recent news, information on the association, and a directory of members.

SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATOR SPACE
Now Available at the Chamber • Call 508-586-0500 x223

Birthday Kicks Off Chamber Centennial Celebration on Valentine's Day

Photos by Rich Morgan Photography. Sound by Rob Peters Entertainment.



Featured Speaker Norm Bossio, Motivational Speaker



Chamber Staff Kathleen Lynch, Membership; Yara Cardoso, Connecting Activities; Kimberly Prosper, Programs & Events; Alison van Dam, Marketing & Communication



Mayor Linda Balzotti and State Representative Michael Brady (middle) present Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO (left) and Bill Morse, Chair (right) with citations from the City, House & Senate.

Sponsored by:



Corporate Table Sponsors:

Old Colony Elder Services, Sign Design, Crescent Credit Union, Bank of America, Baypointe Rehabilitation Center & Heights Crossing, Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board, Bridgewater Savings Bank, HarborOne Credit Union, Bridgewater State University, Jack Conway & Company, Mutual Bank, Mayor Linda Balzotti & the City of Brockton



Cake provided by Montilio's Baking Company



Michele Wein Crelly, Michele's Massage Studio picks up her personalized FUN Enterprises Inc. customized card holder



Brockton Symphony Orchestra Plays Happy Birthday

Members Make New Business Contacts During Speed Networking



Angel Nieves, AFLAC



Shirley Donahue, HarborOne Credit Union



Meghann Kia-Devine, Baypointe Rehabilitation Center



Over 300 attend the Chamber 100th Birthday Celebration

Cooney Promotes Workforce Training Funds

Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO recently joined Elaine Stewart of Massasoit Community College, Sheila Sullivan Jardim of the Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board, OSHA representatives, Adam Russo of The Phia Group and Mike Corcoran, Supervisor of Operations for the MA Workforce Training Fund at Massasoit Community College to speak about the MA Workforce Training Fund.



Christopher Cooney

Topics included the state unemployment system and the grant program which awards up to \$250,000 to various organizations for the education and training of employees and employers in the recognition, avoidance and prevention of unsafe or unhealthy conditions in the workplace.

Program applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the year. For more information, contact Mike Corcoran, 617-626-6426 or visit mass.gov/wtffp.

Your Input is Needed! Brockton Community Survey

Brockton Residents' input is needed on the City's U.S. Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant 5 year plan. These plans are a requirement by HUD. This quick survey is anonymous and can be found in the Brockton Redevelopment Authority Office at 50 School Street, Brockton, or by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/s/2KNSX6R. We invite you to assist the City in establishing community needs and priorities. For more information, call 508-586-3887.

Chamber Celebrates Birthday, Continued From Page 1

democracy. He also spoke of the cultural and educational enrichment that resulted within civic life when prosperity was encouraged and allowed to flourish. Many of these same principles were in the hearts and minds of our thirteen founders and written into our articles of incorporation. Later, they appear in our by-laws and mission statement. As a result, the service and leadership this chamber continues to provide on issues big and small is extremely valuable to the future of the Metro South region. We ask you to recommit yourself to your chamber involvement and spread the word that this chamber is part of the solution to some of the biggest challenges facing our region in the years to come.

—Chamber Testifies Against 6.5% Water/Sewer Hike, Continued From Page 1—

ture that dissuades business from Brockton referring to data that was collected from communities within the region and several gateway cities. "Brockton's six-tiered structure is stacked against business and dissuades them from growing here. This structure is from the days when Brockton was out of water capacity. Now, Brockton has ample water resources and would be well served by making water use more attractive to businesses with a more progressive and innovative water rate schedule," said Chamber President &

CEO, Christopher Cooney, CCE. Cooney presented data showing comparative water/ sewer pricing for Brockton businesses when compared with many gateway cities and surrounding towns. Brockton's rates were among the highest yet it has the ability to adjust its schedule to become more attractive to large water users. The Chamber has requested the water commission update the six-tiered schedule to reflect the new reality that Brockton has a valuable asset (desalination plant) it could use to attract and retain business.

Buy Local From These Chamber of Commerce Members

New England Expansion Strategies



Cheer Pack North America Ribbon Cutting

17 Piccadilly Way, Westborough
508-366-4859 • www.NEexpansion.com

We provide project management services for companies that are expanding, relocating, renovating or building new facilities, primarily in the areas of government incentives and permitting. We build bridges between business and government to get projects done and provide substantial cost savings to our clients by obtaining government incentives. We recently helped Cheer Pack North America in its relocation and expansion project in W. Bridgewater.

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258 Tosca Drive, Stoughton • 781-436-5941
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We make a variety of Aids to Daily Living, making it easier for the elderly and disabled to live more independently at home. Our products include Reachers, Sock-Aids, Shoe Horns, Hip Kits, Leg-Lifters, Bath Safety Equipment, and many more aids that make life at home easier for those recovering from joint surgery, or those with everyday mobility challenges. We produce the best products of their kind in the World and strive for 100% customer satisfaction!

Yamato Japanese Steakhouse



510 Westgate Drive, Brockton • 508-588-8881
www.yamatosushi.com

Yamato Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi is now open next to the Westgate Mall in Brockton! Yamato is a fine Japanese steak house where talented chefs cook before your eyes. Excellent food, service and entertainment make a unique dining experience. Featuring sushi, a bar, and delicious hibachi. Open Monday-Thursday, 11 am - 10 pm; Friday-Saturday, 11 am - 11 pm; and Sunday, 11:30 am - 10:00 pm. Take out, reservations, walk-ins, private parties and catering available.

JOIN THE CHAMBER FOR GREAT BENEFITS

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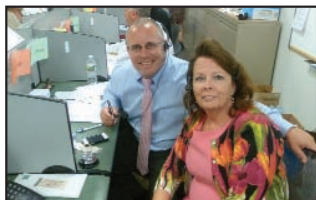
...When You Join the Chamber.
Call Kathleen at
508.586.0500 x 229, or email:
klynch@metrosouthchamber.com

60 School Street, Brockton • 508-586-0500 x 229
www.metroouthchamber.com

Join the Chamber and network your business to success! The Chamber hosts informative meetings, networking events, and puts you in touch with your legislators. We also offer marketing and advertising opportunities, referrals, publicity and exposure. In addition, we offer Health Insurance packages and access to Comcast Savings, Discounts, and Energy Purchasing Programs. Call Kathleen to learn more today!

April is Membership Month; Join Now! Membership Drive May 1 & 2

Call for Volunteers



Brian Droukas, Whelan Associates;
Heather Nelson, Sovereign Bank

April of 2013 is an important month for the Metro South Chamber of Commerce as we focus on growing our membership in honor of our year-long 2013 Centennial Celebration. The membership campaign will culminate in a Membership Telephone Drive on May 1 & 2, 2013 at Stonehill College in Easton. If you are a Chamber member who would like to participate in the drive in order to form a stronger business community and express to others what Chamber membership has meant to you, please contact

Kathleen Lynch at 508.586.0500 x 229 or email klynch@metrosouthchamber.com.

Becoming a member of the Metro South Chamber provides your business opportunities to accelerate its growth. For more information, email klynch@metrosouthchamber.com or visit metrosouthchamber.com.

Call for Prize Donations; Gain New Potential Customers

The Metro South Chamber asks for your support in this valuable campaign by donating a prize to the 2013 Membership Drive. This is a simple way to promote your business, gain extra visibility and introduce your business to new, potential customers. Suggested donations include: gift certificates, savings bonds, bottles of wine/liquor, free passes to cultural or education events, tickets to concerts/sporting events, free ads, clothing, vacation get-aways, promotional products (pencils, mugs, mouse pads), sports memorabilia and other traditional or creative prizes.

For your donation, you will receive recognition in the May and June Action Report Newsletters, recognition on the Chamber website (hundreds of views daily), the Chamber e-Update (sent to 3,500 subscribers weekly), direct promotion to 100 campaign volunteers, and listed as a sponsor/donor in press releases sent to our media outlets.

For more information or to donate a prize, contact Kathleen Lynch at (508) 586-0500 ext. 229, or email klynch@metrosouthchamber.com.

BUSINESS EVENTS Planner

March 8

Government Affairs

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm

Metro South Chamber of Commerce

60 School Street, Brockton

Discuss issues of importance with elected officials relevant to the current business climate.

Tickets: \$8 members, \$15 future-members

Please RSVP at 508.586.0500 ext. 225

March 20

Taste of Metro South

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

The Shaw's Center

1 Feinberg Way, Brockton

This family event is a great opportunity to sample restaurants from throughout the region while enjoying live entertainment. www.metroouthchamber.com/taste.html

Tickets: \$35. Must be purchased in advance.

For more information, call 508-586-0500 ext. 231

April 11

Hong Kong/Thailand Trip Info Session

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Bickford's Restaurant

37 Oak Street Extension, Brockton

Learn more about the All-Inclusive Trip to Asia running from November 1-9, 2013. Open to all travelers. RSVP required for the info session.

Trip: \$2,899 All Inclusive. Info Session Free to Attend

For more information, call 508-586-0500 ext. 221

IT'S EASY TO REGISTER!

508-586-0500 x 231 ☎

508-587-1340 📠

E-mail: info@metrosouthchamber.com ✉

Online: www.metroouthchamber.com

Send reservation and payment to: 🏠

Metro South Chamber of Commerce
Sixty School Street
Brockton, MA 02301-4087



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April 11 or 12

Legislative Luncheon

12:15 pm - 1:45 pm

Conference Center at Massasoit

770 Crescent Street, Brockton

Join other Chamber members for this opportunity to interact with legislators. Speaker and date TBA.

Tickets: \$39 members, \$49 future-members

For more information, call 508-586-0500 ext. 231

April 25

Business After Hours

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Wood Palace Kitchens

17 Mill Street, Middleboro

Enjoy networking at a Chamber member business. Refreshments will be served. Do not forget your business cards!

Tickets: Complimentary

For more information, call 508-586-0500 ext. 231

May 16

Small Business Awards

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

The Shaw's Center

1 Feinberg Way, Brockton

Join us for a lunch with Trade theme, awards program, and Business EXPO. Nominate a company for an award! See page 9 for more information.

Tickets: \$35 members, \$45 future-members

For more information, call 508-586-0500 ext. 231