



Build your network and your golf game!
32nd Annual Chamber Golf Tournament
Monday Oct 19 | 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM | Fox Hopyard
Visit ChamberECT.com/golf to register.

Upcoming Webinars:
Email Marketing 101
Wednesday Sep 23 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM
Visit ChamberECT.com/events to register.



Leadership class of 2019 enjoys an informative boat tour through the Mystic Seaport Museum during their Tourism and Arts session.

“Discussing these uncertain times with our most respected leaders provided incredible insight to managing during financially and emotionally difficult times.”

Leadership Eastern CT Program More Valuable Than Ever

Leadership’s essential role is amplified during a crisis. Business, government, and nonprofit leaders in eastern CT have stepped up to the challenges presented by COVID-19, navigating impacts across the community.

Learning about leadership at a time when it is being tested adds a new dimension to the Chamber’s Leadership Eastern Connecticut program. Rising leaders have tapped into this valued resource for professional growth and regional connections for 33 years, and while the format may be different, the timing couldn’t be better.

When events turned virtual this spring, area executives demonstrated their commitment to the program, and ability to pivot, by offering the same direct access to our Leadership participants via Zoom.

Class of 2021 participant Stacy Giacchi, director, On the Spot Catering, shared, “During COVID-19, I believe that these discussions were even more valuable, as everyone was dealing with crisis. Discussing these uncertain times with our most respected leaders

provided incredible insight to managing during financially and emotionally difficult times. To hear someone speak of their successes is motivational and encouraging, but to be able to share real concerns and vulnerabilities has been invaluable.”

The Class of 2022 is forming now. Applications for the two-year program are available on ChamberECT.com/leadership-program through September 8.

Participants interact directly with top-tier executives in the region, and the wide-ranging curriculum highlights the interacting forces that affect the region. Participants study factors that may be impacting the success of their own organizations, helping them identify synergies to partner effectively. The emphasis on networking with the class and with presenters, as well as with alumni of the Leadership program, contributes to a powerful web in the region that benefits all involved.

Beginning in October, thematically organized sessions explore industry, government, services, and regional

organizations. The group also exercises their skills with a capstone community service project, fully implemented by the participants. In the second year, participants coordinate sessions for the incoming class, advancing their networking and leadership execution.

Sponsorships to support the regional program are available for the 2020-21 year and include program tuition and long-term recognition opportunities. Chamber Vice President Megan Gilbert can share details at mgilbert@chamberect.com.

Thinking about the unique challenges we are facing, Ms. Giacchi described the importance of her relationships with people in her class and community leaders. “Especially during quarantine and as we continue through the re-opening phases, these connections have been invaluable. Staying connected through the program- albeit virtually- has offered some semblance of normalcy and strengthened my commitment to my classmates and community.”

We’re always here for small business.

The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT has been a resource for our community for 110 years, and we are keeping the business community connected now. Connected to reliable information on economic assistance. Connected with government. Connected with each other.

Connect with us at ChamberECT.com, info@chamberect.com or call 860-701-9113.

Chamber Connects Businesses During COVID Crisis

Being here for businesses—large, medium, and especially small—has looked different over the past five months. Pivoting to the new model, Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT continues to do what we do best: convening, connecting, collaborating, and supporting.

The Chamber finds ways to keep organizations connected to essential guidance, elected officials, economic opportunities, and business to business:

- One of the Chamber’s most important functions is reaching out to businesses one-on-one. Our team has been answering questions, connecting businesses with resources, helping owners navigate the path forward, and supporting continued membership with flexible options.
- ChamberECT.com links to reliable information and valuable resources. ChamberECT.com/Reopening connects to state guidelines and members with services and products needed to operate safely: PPE, cleaning services and supplies, construction materials and services, rental equipment, signage, and HVAC.
- During the initial shortage of PPE, we acquired and distributed free masks to help local businesses. Masks are still available at ChamberECT.com/masks.
- Elected officials share updates and answer questions in virtual events: Senator Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney, Governor Lamont, DECD Commissioner David Lehman, and regional state senators. Town Hall Updates beginning with New London, Town of Groton, City of Groton, East Lyme and Waterford are available on Facebook. Visit ChamberECT.com/events.
- President and CEO Tony Sheridan sat on the state’s Reopen Connecticut Small Business Implementation Task Force. He keeps eastern CT connected to state issues as

chair of CT Airport Authority and CT Metro Chambers of Commerce.

- Roundtable events with restaurants, hospitality, and real estate professionals let us hear from business owners directly and convey their views to government officials.
- Timely workshops and blogs offer insights from experts in marketing, finance, industrial sanitation, human resources, insurance and more. We create platforms where our member professionals can educate, collaborate, and connect. Business After Hours events moved online, too.
- Promoting small businesses has been a focus in our blogs and communications. We joined with a team of local business to help launch the shop local #LetsGo860 campaign.
- The Chamber with the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce became the Eastern Regional Tourism District’s administrative partner. Working with the 41-town board, the Chambers are supporting tourism through its most challenging time.
- Work with the American Jobs Center and job training with the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board continues and expanded to meet needs of unemployed workers and employers’ changing business models.
- The Chamber Foundation shared generous donations from business leaders with local food banks to address immediate needs in the community.
- All the while, the Chamber is planning for the future. We are exploring economic development initiatives that will foster diverse industries and support growth in the region.

Let us know how we can help you. Connect with the Chamber at info@chamberect.com or call 860-701-9113.

STAYING SAFE STAYING OPEN

The Chamber reminds everyone that the best way to support businesses now is to help them meet state guidelines by following all the safety rules.

Wear a mask. The virus spreads mainly from person-to-person through talking, coughing, sneezing—via respiratory droplets. You don’t have to have symptoms to be infected and contagious so cover your mouth and nose to slow the spread. Don’t forget to wash your hands, too.

Keep your distance. Stay at least two arms’ lengths away from other people. Businesses have marked distances in wait lines and set up space between tables. Be sure to observe the signs.

Before you go, check the rules. See if a museum, shop, restaurant, or doctor’s office has special procedures. Check out their website or social media page to plan your visit.

Explore business offerings. Many stores and restaurants continue to offer curbside service or delivery. Shop local and stay safe with the options that work best for you. Limit contact to one member of the household.

Observe social distancing measures, even with friends. Private parties are leading to outbreak clusters in the state. Guidelines limit the size of gatherings and social distancing measures are included in the plans. Masks and six feet buffers are important ways to keep friends and family safe.

Monitor your health. Watch for fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Information on other symptoms is available at CDC.gov. If you have symptoms, follow CDC guidance and stay out of contact with others.

Let businesses put all their energy into creating a great experience. Help them out by observing all state guidelines so they can stay safe and stay open.



ChamberECT.com/reopening.
Reopening CT guidelines, resources and more.

THANK YOU TO OUR REGIONAL BENEFACTORS

