



Lawrence + Memorial Hospital (YNHH) and Backus Hospital (Hartford Healthcare) were recognized as the 2020 Nonprofits of the Year.

## Regional Chamber Awards *Celebration*

On July 22, the Chamber celebrated the annual Regional Chamber Awards at Latitude 41° on the Mystic River. The 2020 Regional Chamber Awards criteria included traditional measures of excellence, but added resilience, adaptation, and community spirit in a year of unprecedented challenges. The Chamber also recognized the 2019 winners, who were unable to gather in person, and our Essential Worker Heroes winners. Enjoying one of the best summer nights this season, winners, members, community leaders, and supporters delighted in delicious bites from Coastal Gourmet and played lawn games, accompanied by jazz favorites from Mama Train.

### Thank you to our sponsors



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**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** | Through their commitment to the Chamber, these companies have demonstrated support for the many smaller businesses we serve.





# 2020 Regional Chamber Award *Winners*



## BUSINESS OF THE YEAR Charter Oak Federal Credit Union

Despite the challenges faced by the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a year of strength and stability for Charter Oak, allowing them to meet members' financial needs and ensure the credit union's continued financial success. Charter Oak showed significant growth in assets, deposits, members equity and membership. During the pandemic, Charter Oak set a new record for annual community giving of over \$549,000. Charter Oak helped businesses obtain PPP funds, maintained active business lending, kept employees and members safe, and continued their digital transformation with the launch of their new website and next generation of digital banking.

[charteroak.org](http://charteroak.org)



## NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR Sea Services North America

Sea Services North America is a unique marine services provider for offshore asset management that creates diverse job opportunities for local fishing boats. Powered by a collective of experienced and knowledgeable fishermen with a deep understanding of the shared marine environment, Sea Services provides consulting on fishing and fisheries mitigation, monitoring services, and scouting vessels for offshore projects, including the emerging U.S. offshore wind industry. Sea Services uses a proprietary navigation and monitoring system to ensure marine obstacles, hazards, and changes are recorded and reported in real time.

[ss-na.com](http://ss-na.com)



## BEST PLACE TO WORK Liberty Bank

A 'Top Workplace' by the Hartford Courant every year since 2012, Liberty Bank maintains a longstanding commitment to superior personal service and unparalleled community involvement. Throughout this difficult year, Liberty Bank demonstrated care and concern for employees and customers. Constant communication and care packages kept employees connected. Employees were supported with safety measures, stipends, time off, and flexibility to meet family obligations. Employees were able to focus on their important work in the community, such as serving customers, processing PPP loans to support businesses, recognizing essential workers, and donating to those in need.

[liberty-bank.com](http://liberty-bank.com)



Guests enjoy the Chamber's Regional Awards Celebration on July 22.



Liz Tullo of Pat Munger Construction gives a toast at the start of the Regional Chamber Awards presentation on July 22.





## NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR

### Lawrence + Memorial Hospital (Yale New Haven Health)

Lawrence + Memorial Hospital takes its role as a proactive player in the ongoing promotion of health and wellness to heart, offering an array of community programs, services and opportunities that engage people in the journey toward healthier living. L+M Hospital considers it a privilege to serve the community. Service was especially displayed in the midst of the pandemic when L+M Hospital quickly adapted community programs to remote platforms, opened COVID-19 testing sites and vaccination clinics, all while providing the greatest of care and access to the most advanced clinical treatments and expert physicians.

[lmhospital.org](http://lmhospital.org)



## NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR

### Backus Hospital (Hartford Healthcare)

Hartford HealthCare (HHC) had its first COVID patient admitted on March 13, 2020. It was a moment the entire health system had been waiting for, including Backus Hospital in Norwich. Across the state, HHC's 33,000 colleagues rose to the call, none more so than staff at Backus. Learning new safety protocols, comforting COVID patients who were isolated from their families, holding an iPad so loved ones could say goodbye via FaceTime - staff went above and beyond. Their efforts were rewarded when Danny Donovan, the first COVID-19 patient well enough to transition home, was released in April 2020 (see photo).

[backushospital.org](http://backushospital.org)

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## SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

### Cardinal Honda

A small business with a big heart, Cardinal Honda serves their guests and our community with kindness, integrity, and respect. The family-owned business gives generously to the community and a long list of local non profits. A "Top Place to Work," Cardinal Honda's growing staff of over 70 employees is encouraged to pay it forward with acts of kindness and provide a five star experience to all their guests. Enviromenally minded, they have also earned the Green Dealer Award.

[cardinalhonda.com](http://cardinalhonda.com)



## COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION LEADER

### The Whaler's Inn

The Whaler's Inn has been a site of hospitality and commerce in Downtown Mystic for over 125 years. The Whaler's Inn demonstrates in its thoughtful renovations and high standards of service an ongoing commitment to exceeding the expectations of today's visitor while honoring its own history and unique nautical location on the Mystic River. The Shipwright's Daughter is a welcome addition to Mystic's thriving culinary community. The Whaler's Inn encourages community engagment and leadership development for their staff, making them compelling members of the buiness community.

[whalersinnmystic.com](http://whalersinnmystic.com)



## INDUSTRY INNOVATOR

### ThayerMahan

ThayerMahan is a world leader in undersea sensing, precision imagery and maritime autonomy. Beginning in 2016 with two employees, ThayerMahan has grown to employ a diverse group of over 60 military veterans, young engineers, developers and technicians to meet the needs of both military and industry customers. Poised to play an important role in the burgeoning offshore wind industry, ThayerMahan will apply much of the same technology used perfecting its work in maritime domain awareness and seabed survey to support its offshore wind clients.

[thayermahan.com](http://thayermahan.com)

## 2019 REGIONAL CHAMBER AWARD WINNERS

Business of the Year

**Pfizer**

Small Business of the Year

**Dunklee Cooling and Heating, Inc**

Industry Innovator

**Mohegan Sun**

Community Revitalization Leader

**A.R. Building Company**

Nonprofit of the Year

**Public Library of New London**

Best Place to Work

**Chelsea Groton Bank**

Volunteer of the Year

**Gail Weber**

Young Professional of the Year

**Matthew Spring**

Tourism Leader of the Year

**Bill Furgueson**

Board of Directors Special Award

**Jack Malone**

[Learn more at ChamberECT.com/ecty](http://ChamberECT.com/ecty)





## YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

### Molly Bruno

Molly Bruno is a Realtor®, an ambassador, an advocate, and a community inspiration. A Realtor® with eXp Realty, she advanced her industry with innovation and collaboration during the pandemic. She was selected as Eastern CT Association of Realtors YPN of the Year for 2020 and sits on the Board of Directors. In the past two years, she was instrumental in the establishment of the Women's Council of Realtors of Eastern CT network, focused on creating new leaders in the community and giving back. She has led fundraising efforts that benefited organizations including Reliance Health, Madonna Place, Safe Futures, Girls on the Run, and St. Vincent de Paul Place. As an advocate for small business and local entrepreneurs, she created Hello Home, a retail space for empowering local crafters and artisans.

[mollybrunorealestate.com](http://mollybrunorealestate.com)



## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

### Maria Miranda, Miranda Creative

33 years ago, Maria made the decision to create a different type of advertising agency. That vision became Miranda Creative — a brand management firm, now with 25 team members and clients nationwide. That inner vision guided Maria to support our community through the pandemic — hosting webinars, writing articles, and inspiring businesses to “pivot” under shifting marketing conditions. She went on to create two campaigns with other community-minded entrepreneurs, securing tablets for isolated seniors and boosting morale with the “Let’s Go 860” messaging. Maria also reconceptualized the Chamber Foundation’s annual Holiday Gala into “Every Month is a Holiday” — a video series that secured over \$60,000 in sponsors.

[mirandacreative.com](http://mirandacreative.com)



The Whaler's Inn is honored to be recognized as the Community Revitalization Leader of the Year.



Congratulations to all of the 2019 and 2020 award recipients. We wanted to express our sincerest gratitude to the chamber for their leadership and support.

[whalersinnmystic.com](http://whalersinnmystic.com)  
860. 536. 1506  
[sales@whalersinnmystic.com](mailto:sales@whalersinnmystic.com)



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Congratulations to  
**Matthew Spring**  
*Awarded Young Professional of the Year 2019*

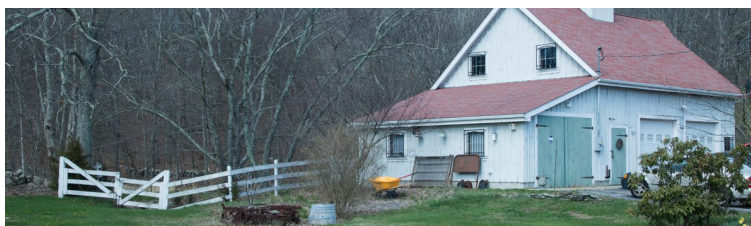
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## MEMBER NEWS



# First Annual Hempstock Festival August 14-15

On August 14th and 15th the first annual “HempStock” festival and fundraiser for BetterTogetherCT will take place in North Stonington.

The nonprofit organization teaches veterans about the hemp business from seed to sale and is located on a working hemp farm run by Dr. Stefana Pecher. The farm serves as a retreat for veterans, first responders, and their communities. It is unique in its community-based approach, and that it provides retraining opportunities for veterans.

This event will bring together the community with musicians, artists, speakers, vendors, and teachers from all aspects of the cannabis and wellness industry in attendance. HempStock features a diverse group of passionate individuals to entertain and inspire you, in addition to some of the best food North Stonington has to offer!

On the heels of full cannabis legalization in CT, HempStock is here with perfect timing, so we can celebrate and raise money together for this wonderful cause.

For more information or to purchase tickets, volunteer, vend or sponsor, visit: [Hempstock2021.com](http://Hempstock2021.com)

## Wireless Zone Announces \$40,000 in Grant Recipients, Backpack Giveaway and More

With over \$40,000 being donated to local nonprofit organizations and the 5th Annual Backpack Giveaway on August 1, 2021, the locally owned and family operated Wireless Zone teams have been philanthropically busier than ever in their communities.

Wireless Zone nominated multiple nonprofit organizations in the Eastern Connecticut and Southern Rhode Island communities to receive grants from the Wireless Zone Foundation in 2021. Each year, local Franchise owners, Scott Gladstone and Neil Ryan elect several charities in their community that display extraordinary dedication to serve their respective organizations and fulfill their unique mission statements. The charities receiving grants in Connecticut are Camp Horizons, End Hunger Connecticut, Girls on the Run International (Greater Hartford), New England Science & Sailing Foundation, High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Inc., Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, Northeast Opportunities for Wellness, TEEG and Waterford Country School.



## Rappel Down Mohegan Sun's Sky Tower to Support Special Olympics, September 3

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Over the Edge, the that challenges everyone to raise money for Special Olympics and rappel more than 30 stories down Mohegan Sun's Sky Tower. Those expected to rappel during this milestone event include individuals and teams representing area businesses, community organizations and law enforcement departments along with Matt Glad - a Special Olympics athlete himself! Special Olympics athletes will also be on hand to cheer on and thank participants. All monies raised will help sustain and grow Special Olympics' year-round sports, health and fitness programs for individuals of all abilities across the state.

No experience is necessary. Participants must raise a minimum of \$1,000 to rappel and weigh 100 lbs. or more. To register, visit Over the Edge at [www.soct.org](http://www.soct.org). For questions email, [specialolympicsct@soct.org](mailto:specialolympicsct@soct.org) or call 203-230-1201.



## Mystic Seaport Museum Announces the Return of The WoodenBoat Show August 20-22

The WoodenBoat Show, hosted in a partnership with WoodenBoat Publications, offers something for all wooden boat enthusiasts and maritime history buffs. More than 100 traditional and classic wooden boats of every type will be on display, from hand-crafted kayaks to mahogany runabouts, to classic daysailers and schooners.

In addition to taking in the historic vessels and beautiful boats, visitors can find everything they need to outfit their own watercraft and learn new skills at demonstrations and workshops throughout the weekend. Concurrent with The WoodenBoat Show this year will be the Museum's Antique Marine Engine Exposition on Saturday and Sunday.

Museum admission provides access to both The WoodenBoat Show and the Antique marine Engine exhibition. Three-day passes are available.

A promotional poster for the Hemp Stock 2021 event. The poster is split into two main color sections: a dark green left side and a light yellow right side, separated by a jagged, torn-paper-like edge. On the green background, the text 'HEMP STOCK 2021' is written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters. Above it, in smaller white capital letters, is the website 'HEMPSTOCK2021.COM'. Below the main title, there is a row of ten white chevron arrows pointing to the right. At the bottom left of the green section, the text 'Visit our site to see the full line-up of events.' is written in white. On the yellow background, there is a large green cannabis leaf icon. Below the leaf, the dates 'AUGUST 14TH AND 15TH' are written in bold black capital letters. At the bottom right, the text 'Live music, food, and events in a celebration of hemp and community.' is written in black.



# SOMETHING BIG IS COMING



Look in The Day for the Best of the Best magazine announcing the 2021 winners on

**SEPTEMBER 12**

Brought to you by **The Day**



## BENEFACITOR NEWS

## Chelsea Groton Bank Proudly Offers Homebuyer Assistance Program for Persons with Documented Disabilities

Chelsea Groton Bank is pleased to partner with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) to help borrowers with documented disabilities to purchase their first home, through the Home of Your Own Program.

The Home of Your Own Program allows borrowers to be eligible for a low-interest rate loan and down-payment assistance if the borrower or a live-in family member of the borrower has a documented disability.

"Keeping in line with our commitment to assisting all qualifying persons to achieve homeownership, we are thrilled to be able to offer a program specifically for the members of our community who overcome challenges each day due to a documented disability. We look forward to supporting the borrowers and their loved ones as they purchase a first home," shared Matt Morrell, VP, Retail Lending Manager at Chelsea Groton Bank.

## Centreville Bank Charitable Foundation Donates \$192,800 to 18 Organizations Throughout Rhode Island and Connecticut

The Centreville Bank Charitable Foundation has awarded \$192,800 in funding to 18 organizations in Rhode Island and Connecticut, today announced Harold M. Horvat, bank President, CEO and Chairman. Centreville Bank. Putnam Bank is a division of Centreville Bank.

Connecticut organizations receiving second quarter grants are Access Community Action, Community Health Resources, Day Kimball Hospital (DKH), Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board (EWIB), Furniture Bank of SECT and Safe Futures.

The Centreville Bank Charitable Foundation was established as a nonprofit, charitable organization in 2006 by the Board of Trustees to further the philanthropic mission of the bank. For more information, or to apply for a grant, visit: [centrevillebank.com/Community/Local-Support/Community-Commitment](http://centrevillebank.com/Community/Local-Support/Community-Commitment)



## ConnectiCare expands Yoga In Our City to reach residents in New London and Willimantic

ConnectiCare is excited to announce that the annual program, Yoga In Our City, has expanded its program this year to reach residents in New London and Willimantic! The program offers free yoga classes taught by local teachers at parks in cities across Connecticut.

Classes are free and open to residents of all ages, backgrounds, and skill-levels, and will take place from now through October 10.

To access the full 2021 class schedule and for more information about the Yoga In Our City program, visit [www.yogainourcity.com](http://www.yogainourcity.com).

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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 40 Boston Post Road, Waterford | (860) 326-5064  
 146 West Town Street, Norwich | (860) 887-2553  
[acehardware.com](http://acehardware.com)

### Babbling Bambinos Childcare

Your child is sure to have the time of his or her life at Babbling Bambinos in Gales Ferry, Connecticut. At our daycare, we give kids an amazing and educational experience that fosters their development.  
 7 Hurlbutt Rd, Gales Ferry | (562) 262-4667 [babblingbambinos.com](http://babblingbambinos.com)

### Catalina's Asian Groceries

Family owned and operated Asian food market with fresh vegetables, rice, noodles, frozen foods, snacks, drinks, ice cream, and much more.  
 740 Colonel Ledyard Hwy, Ledyard | (860) 400-4984  
[catalinasasiangroceries.com](http://catalinasasiangroceries.com)

### Community Design Workshop

Community Design Workshop (CDW) supports good causes, both big and small, from neighborhood redevelopment plans to infill projects, recreation, and sustainability programs.  
 121 Water Street, Stonington Borough | (973) 214-3323 [kimmerle.com](http://kimmerle.com)

### Dan Mackin Construction LLC

Dan Mackin Construction LLC accomplishes site work residential and light commercial. We have a CT septic license and we are able to do soil testing. We also carry a CT Class A demolition license.  
 5 Chinigo Road, Griswold | (860) 376-6591

### FWRD Content

FWRD Content is a multi-platform, full service production company / studio with presence in Los Angeles and Connecticut.  
 26 West Main Street, Mystic | (310) 526-5323 | [fwr-content.com](http://fwr-content.com)

### InnovatorsLINK Corporation

InnovatorsLINK is a small business resource center for entrepreneurs as well as small and medium-sized business owners.  
 973 North Road, Groton | (860) 608-5749 | [innovatorslink.com](http://innovatorslink.com)

### Keith's Appliances - Mystic

Offering quality appliances, including Sub-Zero, Wolf, Viking, Bosch, Jenn-air, General Electric, Electrolux, and Maytag. Call us for any service problem, no job too small.  
 2 Greenmanville Ave, Mystic | (860) 536-4929 | [keithsappliances.com](http://keithsappliances.com)

### Kin D Thai & Sushi Restaurant

Unwind with family and friends while enjoying top-quality Thai cuisine and sushi.  
 123 State Street, New London | (860) 574-9097  
[kin-dthaiandsushi.com](http://kin-dthaiandsushi.com)

### McAllister Marine Engineering, LLC

Our engineering consulting team has been working for close to two decades evaluating port infrastructure as well as to support the burgeoning US offshore wind industry.  
 Rhode Island | (401) 859-1839 | [mcallister-eng.com](http://mcallister-eng.com)

### Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern CT, Inc.

Private, non-profit agency providing crisis intervention, advocacy, and trauma-focused counseling to survivors of sexual violence with no fees for services.  
 90 South Park Street, Willimantic | (860) 456-3595  
[saccec.org](http://saccec.org)

### Southeastern CT Robotics, Inc.

SECTR, Inc's mission is to give the youth of New London County, CT access to technology in a safe place where dreams of careers in STEM fields can become a reality.  
 154 State Street, New London | (860) 876-2721  
[southeasternctrobotics.com](http://southeasternctrobotics.com)

### The Shipwright's Daughter

Located in the heart of downtown Mystic, The Shipwright's Daughter is the newest addition to our beloved town's thriving culinary community.  
 20 East Main, Mystic | (860) 536-7605  
[shipwrightsdaughter.com](http://shipwrightsdaughter.com)

## WELCOME NEW REGIONAL BENEFACTOR



### Blue Water Development

Blue Water is a real estate developer in commercial and hospitality properties. At Blue Water we create an environment where our employees are engaged, empowered and challenged to put the guest experience first.  
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# Leadership Gathers to Celebrate Graduation in August



Leadership participants enjoy their retreat at Waterford Country School in June 2021.

For over 30 years, Leadership Eastern CT has prepared future community leaders to assume positions of responsibility and take on challenges in our region. While no one was prepared for the world to be upended in March 2020, you would not have known it by looking at the adaptable, determined, and creative rising

professionals in the Class of 2021.

Navigating COVID in the midst of their community service project for Habitat for Humanity, the class of 31 from around the region persevered. In shifts of just a few people at a time to limit exposure, the team sawed, hammered, and painted a new handicapped

accessible ramp for Habitat's New London offices. Fundraising efforts exceeded project costs, resulting in a \$5,000 donation to the charity.

The Class of 2021 reimaged Leadership sessions for the incoming Leadership class, arranging interesting

and surprisingly intimate conversations with Eastern CT executives and officials who were leading our community through unprecedented times.

Now, the Class of 2021 will celebrate in person on August 18 at The Spa at Norwich Inn. This welcome gathering will feature keynote speaker Michael Rauh, President and CEO of Chelsea Groton Bank and the Chamber's current Citizen of the Year, who has served on numerous boards and economic development projects.

Leadership graduates often talk about the relationships and network forged in the program. The Class of 2021 shared struggles and support during a time when breaking the isolation with a screen full of friendly faces was an invaluable lifeline. The lessons of COVID taught these burgeoning leaders to anticipate the unexpected and rely on your network in times of need.

## Back to Business...In Person: Fall Calendar of Events

While we have seen each other over the past year, it was primarily in a three-inch box on a Zoom screen. Starting this spring, the Chamber began hosting events in person, and the organic connections of face-to-face meetings quickly bore fruit.

On May 20, the Chamber gathered at Sweet Hill Farm in Gales Ferry with the recipients of the Dominion Foundation grant for minority- and veteran-owned businesses. Businesses quickly identified synergies and suppliers for products and services within the group of 17 attendees.

"I was able to connect with multiple business owners in the area," said Ashon Avent, Chief Visionary Officer of Main Avent Sports custom designed apparel. "It feels good to be able to mingle with like-minded individuals and members of the Chamber to offer services and swap ideas."

A fast succession of ribbon cuttings reflected the economic rebound: CENTURY 21 Shutters & Sails at their Niantic and Mystic locations; Chelsea Groton Bank's Westside Branch in

Norwich, Creative Konnection and Mhoor Art, both in New London, Curaleaf Groton, Ace Hardware of Waterford, and The Botanist, Montville.

"Eastern Connecticut was among the hardest hit in the state during COVID," said Tony Sheridan, Chamber President and CEO. "We are seeing recovery, a rise in entrepreneurs, and businesses looking at new ways to work and provide services based on what they learned during the pandemic. As always, the Chamber is thrilled to play its role in bringing businesses together to expand our economic growth."

Annual favorites the Holiday Gala, Citizen of the Year, and military and social service recognition breakfasts return. Mark your calendar for Business After Hours and Business Breakfasts to get back to in-person connections.

All events will follow the recommendations and requirements set forth by the State of CT. Adjustments will be made to planned events as needed.

### Fall Calendar of Events with more to come!

<b>AUG 25</b>	Business After Hours & YPsocial at <b>Monza Karting, Foxwoods</b>
<b>SEPT 8</b>	Business Breakfast & Mini Expo: <b>The Business of Cannabis</b> , Norwich
<b>SEPT 22</b>	Business After Hours at <b>Waterford Country School</b>
<b>OCT 6</b>	Business Breakfast: <b>Diversity in Leadership</b> , New London
<b>OCT 20</b>	Business After Hours at <b>Florence Griswold Museum</b> , Old Lyme
<b>OCT 29</b>	<b>70th Citizen of the Year</b> honoring <b>Michael Rauh</b>
<b>NOV 5</b>	<b>11th Annual Military Appreciation Breakfast</b>
<b>NOV 18</b>	Business After Hours with <b>TVCCA</b> at <b>Secor Subaru</b> , New London
<b>DEC 1</b>	Business After Hours at <b>The Spa at Norwich Inn</b>
<b>DEC 2</b>	<b>12th Annual Social Service Recognition Breakfast</b> , Norwich
<b>DEC 10</b>	<b>37th Annual Holiday Gala</b> , Mohegan Sun

Visit [ChamberECT.com/events](https://ChamberECT.com/events) to register



### Leadership Class of 2021:

**Jeremy Barstrom**, General Dynamics Electric Boat

**Emma Bayer**, Mystic Seaport Museum

**Karen Butterworth**, L+M Hospital

**David Cochran**, Mystic Aquarium

**Mark Collinge**, Pfizer

**Tricia Cunningham**, Always Home

**Nate Fague**, Mystic Aquarium

**Ivania Garcia**, General Dynamic Electric Boat

**Diana Goode**, CT Council on Problem Gambling

**Kayla Godin**, Charter Oak Federal Credit Union

**Stacy Herr**, Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT

**Daniel Jahne**, Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.

**Yashica Kearse**, Foxwoods Resort Casino

**Teresa Jackman**, Eversource Energy

**Alexis Kahn**, Chelsea Groton Bank

**Lauren La Chance**, ConnectiCare

**YukShan Li**, Town of Windham

**Margaret Milnes**, Mystic Seaport Museum

**Brad Oatley**, Goldblatt Bokoff, LLC

**Elizabeth Pasqualini**, Thames River Innovation Place

**Shanna Reels**, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

**Ann-Marie Michonski-Booth**, Lawrence and Memorial Hospital

**Rebecca Moore**, UCFS Healthcare

**Elizabeth Owen**, Chelsea Groton Bank

**Heather-Renae Paul**, Reliance Health Inc.

**Dave Rodes**, Dominion Energy

**Dean Rowe**, Dominion Energy

**Grace Vandal**, Arvinas

**Mary-Jane Zocco**, UCFS Healthcare

**Denise Tift**, The Arc Eastern CT

**Lisa Wilson**, Dominion Energy

## Military Spouses Have Easier Path to Employment

The Chamber, our Military Affairs Council, Military Liaison Bob Ross, and military members have long advocated that the state support military spouses and families by recognizing professional licenses issued in other states.

On August 2, Governor Lamont signed legislation that enacts new provisions for attaining credentials under the Department of Public Health and Department of Consumer Protections. This important step by state legislators and the governor allows the area to engage these extraordinarily talented people in our region, especially as we strive to grow our workforce to meet expanding industries such as offshore wind.

Eastern Connecticut deeply values our military families, and we will continue to encourage Connecticut to ensure its regulations recognize qualified people who relocate to our state so we may welcome them into the workforce.

According to the release from the governor's office, under the new law the Connecticut Department of Public Health and Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection will issue the appropriate license or credential to a state resident or the spouse of an active duty service member stationed in Connecticut if that person has practiced safely under another state's license for at least four years, meets examination requirements as defined under state statutes, and completes the necessary background checks.

In addition, the legislation requires the Department of Public Health to convene a working group that will examine whether Connecticut should join any interstate licensure compacts that will make this process even easier. Connecticut is one of only eight states that has not joined any interstate licensure compact. The department must report its recommendations by January 15, 2022.

### Department of Public Health

**New Legislation applies to all of the following, but not limited to:**

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### Department of Consumer Protections

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Pharmacy interns  
Hypnotists  
Homemaker-companion agencies  
Locksmiths

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