



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

First and foremost, **thank you** for being a valued member of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut.

Our Chamber has served the business community for 115 years and represents over 1,300 member organizations – from small businesses to nonprofits to large corporations. By investing in the region's oldest and largest business organization, you show that you are dedicated to driving growth, innovation, and impact at all levels of our community. As a regional chamber of commerce with dedicated partnerships in tourism and economic development, we are uniquely positioned to be a champion and convener on your behalf.

Take advantage of the following opportunities to get the most visibility out of your membership and amplify your message. We have created platforms to help you grow your business, build connections and credibility, and share your story with our wonderful community.

We are proud to be an inclusive voice for eastern Connecticut's business community and even prouder to serve you. Thank you for being a valued part of our mission.

All the best,

Tony Sheridan
President/CEO



2025 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Thank you for considering a sponsorship of an upcoming Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut program or event. As a sponsor, you not only gain **valuable exposure** to regional decision makers, you also fuel the Chamber's important community efforts, from **workforce development** to **entrepreneurial programs** to **public policy advocacy**, ensuring that local businesses have the resources and representation they need to **thrive**.

Sponsorships vary in price and provide a wide array of benefits, including name or logo recognition, website link placement, event tickets, marketing shout-outs, and more.

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AWARDS & APPRECIATION EVENTS

Annual Meeting and ECTys Celebration

Attendance: 250+

When: March

Held in the first quarter each year, the Chamber membership is invited to elect the incoming leadership of the Chamber, review the past year with the debut of our Annual Report, and celebrate our signature “ECTy” Awards (named in the style of the Grammy or ESPY awards), presented to 10 companies and individuals for business growth, economic impact, community engagement, innovation, and collaboration. Following the meeting segment, the event generally features a cocktail hour and dinner, or a heavy hors d’oeuvres reception.

Investment Levels:

Gold Sponsor: \$2,500

Silver Sponsor: \$1,500

Bronze Sponsor: \$750

Centerpiece Sponsor: \$850

Entertainment Sponsor: \$1,250

Signature Drink Sponsor: \$850

Program Ads: \$125 Full Page / \$75 Half Page

Reserved Tables Available

Annual Citizen of the Year

Attendance: 450+

When: May

For over 70 years, this annual banquet honors an extraordinary citizen (or citizens, as applicable) who has contributed significantly to the civic and business community of eastern Connecticut. The program features a networking cocktail hour, live entertainment, plated dinner, remarks by the honoree’s friends, peers, or family, and a special Legacy Video.

Investment Levels:

Gold Sponsor: \$5,000

Silver Sponsor: \$2,750

Bronze Sponsor: \$1,750

Centerpiece Sponsor: \$1,750

Entertainment Sponsor: \$1,750

Signature Drink Sponsor: \$1,250

Program Ads: \$175-\$1,000

Reserved Tables Available



AWARDS & APPRECIATION EVENTS, CONTINUED

Annual Military Appreciation Breakfast

Attendance: 200+, including 100 Active-Duty Service Members

When: September

An impactful morning that brings the business and service community together, featuring the presentation of our Military Community Support Awards, remarks by senior service leaders from the US Navy, US Coast Guard, and US Army National Guard, and a patriotic performance by a local school choir. Sponsorships allow the Chamber to extend complimentary invitations to over 100 active-duty personnel as well as steeply discounted attendance for veterans.

Investment Levels:

Presenting Sponsor: ~~\$4,000~~ **SOLD**

Supporting Sponsors: \$2,000

Centerpiece Sponsor: \$850

Military Table Sponsor: \$450

Program Ads: \$125 Full Page / \$75 Half Page

Annual Social Service Recognition Breakfast

Attendance: 200+

When: November

A 'feel-good' holiday-time program that features the presentation of five 'Social Service Awards' to dedicated nonprofit leaders and volunteers and a keynote addressing topical issues for nonprofit management. Sponsors allow the Chamber to extend complimentary invitations to every member social service agency as a token of our community's appreciation.

Investment Levels:

Award Sponsor: \$2,500

Presenting Sponsors: \$2,000

Supporting Sponsors: \$1,000

Centerpiece Sponsor: \$850

Program Ads: \$125 Full Page / \$75 Half Page

Service Person of the Month

Attendance: Varies

When: Monthly

Each month, the Chamber partners with a local service club (Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions) and a command from the US Naval Submarine Base, US Coast Guard, or US Army/National Guard to present an award to a service member, nominated by their Commanding Officer for outstanding military service and dedicated community engagement.

Contribution Level: 12 gifts valued at \$25 or more (one per SPOM)



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Leadership Eastern Connecticut

Cohort Size: 30-35

When: 10 sessions per year, September – June

For more than 38 years, Leadership Eastern Connecticut has prepared future business and community leaders for positions of responsibility by acquainting them with significant procedures and issues that affect our region. In this two-year development program, promising mid-career professionals explore behind-the-scenes across the region, meet with established leaders, forge lasting connections, and give back to the community with a capstone service project. Also includes Clifton Strengths Finder 2.0 Assessment.

Investment Levels:

Tuition: \$1,125

Program Sponsor (includes 1 tuition): \$2,500

Session Sponsor: \$650

Graduation Sponsor: \$1,500 (*priority to Program Sponsor)

Entrepreneur Academy

Cohort Size: 40

When: Fall

Participants will learn how to start a business in Connecticut or online through the Chamber's 8-week Entrepreneur Academy, designed to help emerging entrepreneurs turn their ideas into profitable ventures. Participants receive expert training, mentorship, and access to local resources, culminating in a public business pitch event. Ideal for big thinkers in the concept phase or early stage of business, the academy offers a comprehensive curriculum crafted by a professor of entrepreneurship at Wesleyan University. The Academy is a notably diverse and inclusive program, with upwards of 50% of participants from underrepresented or marginalized groups.

Investment Levels:

Program Sponsors range from \$5,000-\$25,000

Sponsorships allow the Academy to be offered for free, with cash prizes for the Most Promising Ventures.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP CONTINUED

Regional Innovation Center

Launched in late 2023, the Regional Innovation Center offers a full-service entrepreneurial ecosystem with co-working stations, private offices, administrative support, programming, meeting space, and more, designed to drive economic development in our urban center and beyond. Located in an Enterprise and Opportunity Zone in downtown New London, it is conveniently accessible by car, rail, ferry, or bus and features amenities such as a shared kitchen/cafe, printing & mail services, high-speed Wi-Fi, Zen Den, and outdoor courtyard. The Center is operated by the Chamber, whose office is located on site. It was founded in partnership with the Chamber Foundation, State of Connecticut, City of New London, and regional corporate donors.

Investment Levels:

Capital Campaign – Charitable Donations of Any Amount

Custom Sponsorships & Advertising Available

Eastern Connecticut Career Fair

Attendance: 200+ Students

When: March

Presented by the Chamber's Education Council at CT State Three Rivers, high school students from schools across the region learn soft skills and gain firsthand insight from diverse leaders in growing industries, including manufacturing, technology, finance, marketing, and more.

Investment Levels:

Career Fair Sponsor: \$1,000

Speaking & Volunteer Opportunities Available

Regional Job Fair

Attendance: 500+

When: Spring and Fall

Find your future employees at the bi-annual Regional Job Fair, hosted in partnership by The Day, multiple Chambers of Commerce, American Job Center, HRLA, and other workforce agencies. Typically held at Hilton Mystic, please inquire for booth pricing. Chamber members receive \$50 off any booth reservation.



NETWORKING & SPEAKER EVENTS

Business Breakfast or Luncheons

Attendance: 125-175+

When: 6-8 programs per year

These topical forums feature key business and political leaders addressing issues impacting our region. Each event begins with a hot meal, networking time, and Chamber updates. Recent speakers and topics include: Governor Lamont, Congressman Courtney, Senator Blumenthal, Senator Murphy, Tourism, Offshore Wind, Human Resources, Diversity in Leadership, Tribal Update, AI & Emerging Technologies, Workforce Development. Sponsorship levels offer speaking opportunities, tickets, collateral distribution, logo visibility, program ads, and more.

Investment Levels:

Presenting Sponsor: \$2,000

Supporting Sponsor: \$1,000

Display Table: \$300 (\$200 Nonprofit)

Program Ads: \$125 Full Page / \$75 Half Page

Business After Hours

Attendance: 75+

When: Monthly

Perhaps the most quintessential "Chamber event," these casual after-hours gatherings put the focus on networking, and are held at attractive destinations throughout the region. Guests enjoy quality networking, beverages (wine/beer/soda), hors d'oeuvres, and door prizes. Hosting a BAH is one of the best ways to present your brand to diverse business leaders.

"Sponsorship" of a BAH requires providing space, food, drinks, and usually a door prize. Inquire about hosting/co-hosting opportunities – *hurry, our slots fill quickly, up to 12 months in advance!*



NETWORKING & SPEAKER EVENTS CONTINUED

Coffee & Contacts

Attendance: 25-35

Similar to a Business After Hours in mission but tailored for smaller gatherings in intimate venues, attendees enjoy their morning coffee while making new connections and connecting with Chamber team members. Inquire for hosting opportunities.

Young Professionals of Eastern CT

Attendance: Varies per event type, usually 30+

YPECT targets young adults and early career professionals and offers a platform for professional and social networking, personal development, and community engagement. Sponsorship opportunities vary by event type or annual commitment.

Annual Golf Tournament

Attendance: 128-136

When: First Monday in June

Our beloved Golf Tournament engages leaders from a broad range of businesses, small and large, blending friendly competition with strategic relationship building. Golfers enjoy a memorable round of golf at the meticulously maintained course at Stonington Country Club, along with lunch, dinner, contests along the course, and prizes.

Investment Levels:

Title Sponsor: \$5,000 (inc. foursome)

Awards Sponsor: \$2,500 (inc. foursome)

~~Dinner Sponsor: \$2,000~~ **SOLD**

Lunch Sponsor: \$1,500

Golf Cart Sponsor: \$1,250

Beverage Sponsor: \$1,250

Hole Sponsor/Hole-in-One Sponsor: \$500

Contest Sponsors: \$350

Tee Sponsors: \$150

Foursome: \$900

New Member Mingle & Orientation

Attendance: 15-25+

When: Quarterly

In this casual morning mixer and onboarding presentation, new members are invited to meet one another, connect with Ambassadors, and learn how to maximize the membership experience.

Investment Level:

Mingle Sponsor: \$250 per event/\$1,000 per year

'State of' Municipal/Regional Updates

Attendance: 50+

First selectmen/mayors, superintendents, and economic development specialists present updates and answer questions for the hyperlocal business community.

Investment Levels:

Presenting Sponsor: \$850

Supporting Sponsor: \$500



CHAMBER FOUNDATION EVENTS

The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that supports and promotes education and economic development, especially for children and families, in the Chamber's service area. Governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors, the Chamber's staff manages administrative and event services.

NOTE: The Chamber Foundation is a **distinct** entity from the Chamber of Commerce. Charitable contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Annual Holiday Gala – December

Attendance: 350-450

The Holiday Gala, hosted by Mohegan Sun, is the Foundation's premier event, bringing together caring community members for a memorable evening in support of our neighbors in need. Guests enjoy a champagne reception, dinner and dessert buffets, photo stations, and live music. The Foundation's signature live auction, one of the largest in the region, is emceed by WFSB's Roger Susanin and led by professional auctioneer Max Wolf. Every dollar makes a difference!

Investment levels start at \$325. Donations to the Live and Silent Auctions are welcome.

Annual Bowl-A-Thon – April

Attendance: 56 (14 Teams)

Supporters form teams of 4 and compete to be the best bowlers *and* the best fundraisers, with prizes awarded for both, including a YEAR of free bowling from our host, High Rollers Luxury Lanes and Lounge. Bowlers enjoy casual networking, door prizes, and refreshments during 2+ hours of bowling. Proceeds support the Foundation's scholarship fund, empowering local high school students to pursue higher education.

Investment levels start at \$500. Door prize donations are welcome.



ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & ADVERTISING

Online Business Directory

An online profile of your business is included with your membership. Add your logo, address, website, social media handles, and a description of your business. To increase your search hits, don't forget keywords and engaging images. You can choose to include an email for website visitors to contact you about services (addresses are not displayed publicly; a contact form is generated automatically). Log in to the membership dashboard to customize your listing at any time.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies

Celebrate your grand opening, milestone anniversary, relocation, or significant renovation with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Chamber provides support with our giant scissors, invites to elected officials, media advisory, and marketing to our network of Ambassadors and neighboring members. Ribbon cuttings are an included membership benefit, there is no fee.

ADVERTISING OPTIONS

The Chamber produces a weekly eNews sent to over 6,000 email addresses, along with engaging social media campaigns, seasonal offerings promotions, other communications, and we host a highly trafficked website.

eNews Ads: \$40 per graphic ad (*Members, don't forget to utilize your 2 **free eNews ads** each year!*)

eNews "Powered by" Placement: \$250 per 2 editions

Website Ads: \$45 to \$65 per month, based on placement – *ask about annual rates!*

Customized e-blast: \$1,000

No art? No problem. The Chamber's creative professionals will design an ad to your liking for just \$25.



CALENDAR

JANUARY

Business After Hours

Business Luncheon
with Congressman Joe Courtney

FEBRUARY

Business After Hours
at The Barn

Business After Hours
at United Theatre

Tourism Conference

Job Fair

Coffee & Contacts
at GG at Home

MARCH

Business After Hours
at Garde Arts Center with Breezeline

Annual Meeting &
ECTYs Celebration
at Foxwoods

Career Fair
at Three Rivers

YPsocial
at SuperCharged

APRIL

Business After Hours
at USCG Academy

Business Breakfast
Artificial Intelligence

Bowl-a-thon
at High Rollers, Foxwoods

New Member Mingle

Coffee & Contacts
*at Holdridge Home & Garden with
Reworld*

MAY

Business After Hours
at Shutters & Sails

74th Citizen of the Year
Honoring Jeff Hamilton

YPsocial
at Bleu Ginger

Cocktails & Contacts
at Hyatt Place Mystic

JUNE

Business After Hours
at Michael's Dairy

Business Luncheon

'State of' New London

Golf Tournament

at Stonington Country Club

New Member Mingle

JULY

Business After Hours
at Lake of Isles

'Leadership Eastern CT'
Program Enrollment

AUGUST

Business After Hours
at La Grua Center

Business After Hours
at The Spa at Norwich Inn

'Entrepreneur Academy'
Enrollment

SEPTEMBER

Business After Hours
at Stonington Vineyards

Annual Military
Appreciation Breakfast
at Mystic Marriott

OCTOBER

Business After Hours
at Joshua's Worldwide

Business Breakfast:
Diversity in Leadership

New Member Mingle

NOVEMBER

Business After Hours
at Secor Subaru with TVCCA

Annual Social Service
Appreciation Breakfast

DECEMBER

Business After Hours

Business Luncheon

Annual Holiday Gala
at Mohegan Sun