



CHAMBER ACTION

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MOHAWK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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In This Issue...

December
Open Enrollment
for Health Insurance
page 3



Chamber Members
Elect 12
to Board of
Directors
page 4-5



Calendar
of Events
page 6



Bank of Utica
Site for December
Business After
Hours
page 8

Chamber Alliance Vision Statement Plots Mohawk Valley's Future for Two Decades

By Robert Fowler, President
Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce

There is hope for the future. For your future, and for your neighbor's future. And for your kids' futures.

There can be job creation — for young and old, in labor and in the professions — in the Mohawk Valley...soon, as in the immediate future, and lasting for the next 20 years, at least.

The same can be said about enhancement of the region's quality of life for all...now, and during the next two decades.

These are among the conclusions in "A Regional Vision Statement for the Mohawk Valley," produced by the Chamber Alliance of the Mohawk Valley and released to the public in early November.

It is a document that should be embraced and promoted by all within the business community. If properly supported by those in business, it can have an immediate effect upon the regional economy and create long-term benefits.

What makes this report sub-titled, "New Directions from the People," so special? First, it was developed and unanimously supported by members of the Chamber Alliance (Boonville, Herkimer County, Marcy, Mohawk Valley, New Hartford, Rome Area, Trenton and Westmoreland Area) which represent over 3,000 area businesses.



Meet the Press — William Guglielmo (left), President of the Rome Area Chamber of Commerce and President of the Chamber Alliance, and Robert Fowler, President of the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce, are interviewed about the Vision Statement at the dinner featuring author David Rusk.

Second, it was endorsed by noted urban government expert David Rusk.

Third, many of its recommendations require a change in attitude more than the spending of money. Such changes can create enormous economic development opportunities as well as positive emotional outlooks in residents.

And fourth, it is a regional statement, not a provincial plan that can benefit only a small segment of the Mohawk Valley's society. Its ramifications are so great, so widespread, someone could enjoy a successful and long-term political career simply by promoting the recommendations and vowing to implement them.

The Vision Statement recommendations center around this quote by Curtis Johnson of the CityStates Group: "Livability is becoming the new fundamental standard for economic

Continued on Page 3



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CHAMBER NEWS

December: Open Enrollment in Health Care Choices Plans

December is the month for Chamber members to make decisions regarding their health care coverages for it is Open Enrollment month for the Health Care Choices program.

Members with 50 and fewer employees are eligible to participate.

During December, qualifying members may enroll in a health care insurance program, change coverages, or add employees to the program. Coverage is effective January 1, 2002.

The Chamber will offer the following plans:

BlueCross/BlueShield of Utica-Watertown Comprehensive (\$100 deductible),

HMO Blue,

HMO Blue Preferred PPO,

HMO Blue Essential,

MVP CoPlan 15,

MVP CoPlan 20 and

Guardian Dental.

If your business qualifies, it may enroll in the Chamber plan at rates traditionally lower than those available to "direct pay" members.

If you would like a brochure identifying various coverages and costs sent via mail, call the Chamber at 724-3151, or you may pick one up at the 520 Seneca Street, Utica, office.



David Rusk (left) chats with Ralph Imundo of Mohawk Ltd., before a dinner at the Hotel Utica sponsored by the Chamber Alliance of the Mohawk Valley.

Chambers Make Many Recommendations For Future Regional Growth and Prosperity

Continued From Page 1

development. Companies do not go to places that are not livable anymore. People refuse to go to places and work in places that are not livable."

Thus we need to enhance our assets, become more livable than we already are, to attract more business.

Top recommendations are to grow leading assets such as higher education and arts and cultural affairs.

There are 10 institutions of higher education with 20,000 students within 20 miles of downtown Utica. There are 70 members of the CNY Community

Arts Council, including Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute.

Also we need to overcome a weakness, a lack of self-promotion. Hence, we tell the world the heart of higher education and arts/cultural affairs in Upstate NY is the Mohawk Valley.

We need to take advantage of tourism assets. Eco-tourism is the industry's top growth area for the next decade and the Harbor Point Plan calls for Phase One being the enhancement of Utica Marsh. With an entrance off Genesee Street, less than a mile from the Thruway, it has the potential to attract at least 100,000 eco-tourists annually. "It could be your area's answer to Chattanooga's Tennessee Riverwalk," Rusk said.

He also liked the recommendation that we learn by studying the success stories of other areas.

"You have everything in place," he said. "You have business poised to try to make change. You have the Vision Statement, the Genesis Group that could act as an advocacy group for the Chamber Alliance. Now you need the will to push for these changes."

If business supplies that will, the future is bright, indeed.

To read the total Vision Statement, log on to www.mvchamber.org

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CHAMBER NEWS



John F. Buffa



Dr. Todd S. Hutton



Robert D. Kelly



Brian B. Loughlin



Thomas W. Burke



Richard F. Callahan

12 Directors Elected to Three-Year Terms on Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce Board

Members of the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce have elected 12 persons to serve on the Board of Directors for three-year terms. The directors' terms will end December 31, 2004. The 12 directors are:

John F. Buffa, Vice President of Commercial Banking for NBT Bank.

Thomas W. Burke, President of Burke Media Services.

Richard F. Callahan, Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for the Savings Bank of Utica.

Dr. Todd S. Hutton, President of Utica College of Syracuse University.

Robert D. Kelly, Commercial Account Executive, IKON Office Solutions.

Brian R. Loughlin, Senior Vice President and Commercial Lending Officer for the Bank of Utica.

John J. Livingston, senior partner in the firm Getnick, Livingston, Atkinson, Gigliotti & Priore, LLP.

Daniel J. O'Toole, Senior Vice President Commercial Lending Syracuse/Mohawk Valley for HSBC.

Sheldon F. Storrier, Vice President of Aspen Events Unlimited.

Judith Vicks Sweet, Chartered Financial Analyst/Executive Vice President of Strategic Investment Advisors, Inc.

John L. Swann, Director of Public Relations at SUNY Institute of Technology Utica-Rome.

Brett B. Truett, Founder and President of Soft-Noze USA, Inc.



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"This is an outstanding group of individuals with the potential to add much to our Board of Directors and, thus, improve our Chamber of Commerce as well as our business community," said Board Chairman Paul J. Drezja, President of Leatherstocking Abstract & Title Corporation.

The Board of Directors has 36 members, 12 elected every three years. A director can serve two consecutive terms, or six years.

Buffa, Burke, Hutton, Kelly, Loughlin, Livingston, O'Toole, Storrier, Sweet and Truett have participated in Chamber programs by fulfilling unexpired Board terms.

Continued on Page 5

CHAMBER NEWS



John J. Livingston



Daniel J. O'Toole



Sheldon F. Storrier



Judith Vicks Sweet

12 Directors Elected to Three-Year Terms on Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce Board

Continued from Page 4

Buffa has served as Chairman of the Chamber's Small Business and Membership councils. A graduate of Mohawk Valley Community College, he lives in Utica with his wife, Nancy, and their two children.

Burke has served four years as Chairman of the Business Expo Committee. He and his wife, Dawn, live with their two children in Whitesboro.

Dr. Hutton has been a member of the Economic Development and Government Affairs councils. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in New Hartford.

Kelly is Chairman of the Small Business Council after serving as Membership Council Chairman. He and his wife, Jeanne, live in Whitesboro with their two sons.

Loughlin, also a graduate of MVCC, has been a director since September, 2001. He resides in New Hartford with his wife and two children.

Livingston is President of the Utica Industrial Development Corporation and a member of the Mohawk Valley EDGE Board. He and his wife live in Clinton.

O'Toole is a graduate of MVCC and SUNY Tech and has been a member of the Government Affairs council and UICD board. He lives in Whitesboro with his wife and two children.

Storrier is the former General Manager at WKTV and a past director who is Publicity Council Chairman. He and his wife, Mary Jane, live in New Hartford.

Sweet, is a member of the Audit and Finance Committee. She resides in Clinton with her husband and two children.

Truett, a graduate of SUNY Morrisville, is a member of the Economic Development and Government Affairs councils.

Callahan is a past director and member of the City of Utica's Partnership Board. He and his wife, Susan, live with their three daughters in Clinton.

Swann has been a past member of the Publicity Council. He and his wife, Patricia, live in Utica with their three daughters.



John L. Swann



Brett B. Truett

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Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 4 - Wednesday, December 5	Second Annual International Day for Small Business Customers, Fleet Bank, 268 Genesee St., Utica, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Thursday, December 6	A Good Old Summer Time Committee, 8 a.m., Chamber offices
Friday, December 7	Publicity and Promotions Council, 8:30 a.m., Chamber offices
Tuesday, December 11	Business After Hours sponsored by the Bank of Utica, 222 Genesee St., Utica 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members
Wednesday, December 12	Small Business Council/Working Solutions, 8 a.m., Chamber offices
Thursday, December 13	Board of Directors Meeting, Hotel Utica, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, December 14	Computer Virus Management Seminar , 10 a.m. - Noon, Utica School of Commerce, 201 Bleecker St., Utica., \$129 per person, \$89 per person for Chamber members, or groups of three or more from one company
Saturday, December 15 - Sunday, December 16	New East Coast Arms Collectors Associates Gun Show , Mohawk Valley Convention Center, New Hartford, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday
Friday, December 21	Membership Council, 8 a.m., Chamber offices
Tuesday, December 25	Christmas Day, Chamber offices closed
Monday, December 31,	New Year's Eve, Chamber offices closed
Tuesday, January 1, 2002	New Year's Day, Chamber offices closed



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CHAMBER NEWS



All signs pointed to everyone having a good time -- and they did -- at the October Business After Hours hosted by Barone, Howard, Hilton & Powers CPAs, PC in New Hartford.

Bank of Utica Site for December BAH

In what has become a holiday tradition, the Bank of Utica will host the Chamber's December Business After Hours. The holiday event will be:

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

222 Genesee Street

Hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and soft drinks will be catered by the Hook, Line & Sinkers.

Reservations are required and a brochure is included in this edition of Chamber Action for that purpose.

Cost is \$5 for Chamber members. This is a perfect affair to introduce non-members to Chamber activities so they may consider joining.

**If you want your business to serve as a site
for a Business After Hours networking event in 2002,
telephone Tammy McCoy (724-3151) to select an available date.**



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The Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce

520 Seneca Street, Third Floor, Utica, NY 13502 • 724-3151 • Fax 724-3177

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Administrative Assistant
Kelley Fischer

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