

Thank You!

A BIG THANK YOU on behalf of the Avon Chamber of Commerce goes out to the following members for donating items to our networking events in April:

Wade Horsey of **Horsey & Company** for donating a bottle of wine for a drawing at the April 2006 “Morning Business Network Connection.”

William Raveis Real Estate – Team “HPR” for donating two bouquets of tulips for the drawing at the April 2006 “Business After Hours/2nd Annual Bring A Non-Member Business” event.

Networking with the Chamber @ The Simsbury Bank

The Chamber thanks the following businesses for their donations to our June 14 “Business After Hours” drawings:

- **Lyn Evans for Potpourri Designs** - two \$25 gift certificates
- **Magda & Associates** - glass paperweight
- **Oma’s Pride** - \$40 gift certificate



The Chamber welcomed a record number of new members to its ranks at the June “Business After Hours”. Pictured here enjoying the networking event are new members Ron Locandro, Jr. of **Mr. Handyman** (left) and Alan Friedman of **Investment Property Services**.



Martin Geitz (left), President and Chief Executive Officer of **The Simsbury Bank**, welcomes Chamber member Les Zinner of **Cabinet Studio of Connecticut** to the June “Business After Hours.”



New Chamber members Drs. Jennifer and Mark Stagg (center) of **Whole Health Associates** are welcomed by current Chamber members Ira and Marcia Nozik of **Logo Concepts** at the June “Business After Hours.”



Cal Miller-Stevens of **Miller Foods and Oma's Pride** (left) shares a laugh with Jeanne Eisenhaure of **River Ridge at Avon** and chair of the Chamber’s Meetings & Events committee at the June “Business After Hours.”

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Member News



Hartford Federal Credit Union recently held an Alex's Lemonade Stand at all four branch locations and raised \$300 to benefit the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation and the fight against pediatric cancer. Pictured from left to right is Farmington Valley Office Branch Manager Erin Shea and Teller, Anna Gabrielle.

The Investors Center, Inc. will feature the art of Jim Kingston at a wine tasting by Super Cellar with food by Chives Catering on September 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. To attend, call Kathi Boratko at 677-8808 or e-mail her at kathib@theinvestorscenter.com.

Send your business news to avonchamber@sbcglobal.net or fax it to 675-0469. The deadline for the November/December issue is **October 10**.

Members Participate in CT-EGG

Earlier this year, the Avon Chamber of Commerce partnered with the University of Hartford and the Connecticut Economic Gardening Group (CT-EGG) to pilot a no-cost program to assist Chamber members in growing their businesses by providing them with comprehensive business needs assessments.

According to the group’s brochure “the Economic Gardening concept was first developed in Littleton, Colo., in 1987. The CT-EGG program was established to help ‘nurture’ small business” in the state.

Two students from the University’s Barney School of Business were assigned to each of the six participating Chamber businesses. Working closely with the member businesses over a two-month period, the students created a market analysis for each. At the end of the program, they presented their findings to the owners along with their recommendations for enhancements or improvements.

The Chamber would like to thank the following members for their participation in this program: **Boucher Building & Renovations; Dill, Joyce & Thresher Insurance; Farmington Valley Arts Center; Inkjetwarehouse; Old Avon Village; and Robert Hensley & Associates.**



Old Avon Village participated earlier this year in the CT-EGG pilot program. Pictured is Ann August (center) of Old Avon Village with University of Hartford students Crystal Morris (left) and Arjun Karivaradhan (right).

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Deadline for the November/December issue: **October 10**.



Upcoming Events

September 6 / October 4 – “Morning Business Network Connection,” 8 to 9 a.m. Hosted by Cosi, 385 West Main Street (Route 44) Members free.

September 11 / October 2 – Government Affairs & Economic Development Committee meeting, 5 to 6 p.m. Chamber office.

September 12 / October 10 – Avon Chamber Operating Committee meeting, 7:30 a.m., Chamber office.

September 13 – Membership Committee meeting, 8 to 9 a.m. Nathan Powers & Co./NPD Payroll, 200 Fisher Drive.

September 13 – “Business After Hours” – A Pig Roast. 5 to 7 p.m. Hosted by Cove Creek Mortgage; Dill, Joyce & Thresher Insurance; Marriott Residence Inn-Avon; Susan Wolfe, Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley, on the grounds of the Marriott Residence Inn, Ensign Drive. Members free. \$20 non-members.

September 14 / October 12 – Communications Committee meeting, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Chamber office.

September 19 – Marketing Boot Camp: Session 1 – “Marketing 101,” 4:45 to 6:30 p.m., taught by Kathy McAfee, The Marketing Motivator and President of KMC Brand Innovation. Avon Free Public Library, 281 Country Club Road. Members free.

September 20 / October 18 – Education Committee meeting, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Cosi, 385 West Main Street (Rt. 44).

September 20 – Avon Chamber Board of Directors meeting, 4 p.m., Avon Old Farms Hotel.

September 21 / October 26 – Meetings & Events Committee meeting, 4 to 5 p.m. River Ridge at Avon, 101 Bickford Extension.

September 29 –2nd Annual Wow! Forum (Women Of the World), 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Warner Theatre & The Nutmeg Conservatory of the Arts, Torrington. Sponsored by the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce. Members, \$125.

October 11 – Membership Committee meeting, 8 to 9 a.m. Marriott Residence Inn-Avon, 55 Simsbury Road (Rt. 10)

October 11 – “Business After Hours” – Miller Foods’ famous Turkey Dinner, 5 to 7 p.m. Hosted by Miller Foods and Oma’s Pride, 308 Arch Road. Members free. \$20 non-members.

October 17 – Marketing Boot Camp: Session 2 – “Resources for Success and How to Use Those Resources in a Marketing Campaign,” 4:45 to 6:30 p.m., taught by Alice Pentz and Andrea Garbus, Reference Librarians, Avon Free Public Library and Lewis Green, Founder & Managing Principal, L&G Business Solutions, at Avon Free Public Library, 281 Country Club Road. Members free.

The Connection

September/October 2006



In Memoriam

The Avon Chamber of Commerce is deeply saddened by the loss of two members over the summer

Loren Bristol of Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) passed away on July 10 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was a longtime Board member, committee member, colleague and friend, and his love of the Chamber and the people that comprise it will never be forgotten.

Martin McCarthy passed away on July 30. Husband and number one advocate of Carol McCarthy of New Era Telecommunications, Martin was a friendly presence at many of the monthly “Business After Hours” networking events.

Our most heartfelt condolences go out to both their families.



Member Benefits

ConnectiCare will begin offering its Wellness Program free to small businesses that sign up for insurance through a participating Chamber of Commerce. In responding to the desire of small business owners to have more control over healthcare costs, ConnectiCare is expanding efforts to bring wellness programs to company worksites.

Worksite wellness programs save employers an estimated \$80-\$225 per employee each year. ConnectiCare’s wellness programs work to change unhealthy habits and focus on the primary drivers of health care costs. Employers can choose from a variety of programs including Stress Management, Blood Pressure Screenings, and Sleep Counseling.

All small businesses with 10 or more employees who have insurance through a participating Chamber of Commerce are eligible for this program. Groups with fewer than 10 employees can purchase a program at an affordable price through ConnectiCare.

For more information on this or other insurance programs for Chamber members, please contact the Avon Chamber at 675-4832.

Mailing sponsored by Chamber Insurance Trust/ ConnectiCare
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Scenes from the 41st Annual Chamber Business Meeting



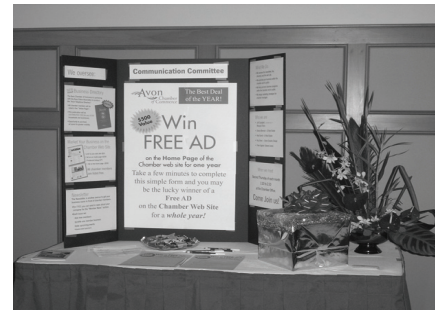
Attending the 2006 Annual Meeting were Communications Committee members (left to right) Kay Green of **Green Graphic Design**, Committee Chair Jeff Campbell of **Measure Twice** and Peter Vignati of **Edward Jones**.



Enjoying the festivities at this year's Annual Meeting are (left to right) Susan Wolfe, Financial Advisor with **Morgan Stanley**, Sandra Trudeau of **Oma's Pride** and Lissette Buccheri of **Sovereign Bank**.



Committee members Robin DiNicola of **Farmington Savings Bank** and Lewis Green of **L&G Business Solutions** show off the Education Committee's table at the Annual Meeting.



The Communications Committee sponsored this outstanding table for the Chamber's 2006 Annual Meeting. Members that participated in the committee's survey had a chance to win a free ad on the Chamber's Home Page for one year or the beautiful floral arrangement (pictured above) donated by **Barrett Florist**.

The Committees' Contest Prize Winners

The Avon Chamber of Commerce committees worked very hard in devising innovative table themes to display as part of the 2006 Annual Meeting. Each table captured the essence of that particular committee and its projects. Congratulations to all committees on a job well done!

The idea of committee tables had its inception at the 2005 Annual Meeting as a means to help fellow Chamber members learn about the various committees, the projects on which they work and the many members who volunteer their time and energy making them a success.

Inspired by the Education Committee, which last year held a drawing to encourage members to participate in a brief survey designed to garner their views on future seminars and computer classes, other committees joined in the fun this year by offering surveys and drawings of their own to gather vital information from members that ultimately will help them increase the value of the Chamber's programs and services.

The Chamber would like to thank those members who participated in the committee surveys and congratulate the lucky members who were this year's winners of the following drawings:

Communications Committee:

- Winner of a home page ad for one year on the Chamber's Website – Janina Cummings of **Shear Artistry Day Spa & Salon**
- Winner of a floral arrangement donated by Barrett Florist – Joe Shiman of **Robert Hensley & Associates**

Education Committee:

- Winner of a dinner/pasta basket, including a gift certificate to Cusi – Stephen Cadieux of **Stephen Cadieux, CPA**

Membership Committee:

- Winner of an overnight stay compliments of the Marriott Residence Inn-Avon – Ron Huston of **State Farm Insurance**

The Chamber would also like to thank the following members who donated items for the various committee drawings: **Barrett Florist**, **Cusi** and **Marriott Residence Inn-Avon**.



COCC was one of two recipients to be honored at this year's Annual Meeting with the first annual "Large Business of the Year Award." Seated with Richard Leone, President and CEO of COCC are colleagues (left to right): Allison Palau, Lisa Jacobi and Carol Krawski.



Current and retiring Avon Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors got together for a group picture at the Annual Meeting. Back row, left to right: **Attorney F. William O'Connor**, Joe Shiman of **Robert Hensley & Associates**, Bruce Shein of **Avon Executive Offices**, Avon Chamber of Commerce President Ronald Evans of **People Management International** and John C. Carmon of **Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center**. Seated are (left to right): Ileen Roth of **Avon Old Farms Hotel**, Loren Bristol of **CL&P** and Susan Wolfe of **Morgan Stanley**.



The New England Pasta Company was recognized with the first annual "Small Business of the Year Award" at the Annual Meeting. Pictured (left to right) are proud owners Scott and Kim Morrison along with Anne Bradford of **Selborne** who presented them with this honor.



Jennifer Cadieux of **Realty Works** and her husband, Stephen Cadieux, of **Stephen Cadieux CPA** were two of the 100 plus members and guests who enjoyed this year's Annual Meeting, which was held at the Golf Club of Avon.



Reflexite Corporation was a co-recipient of the first annual "Large Business of the Year Award" handed out at this year's Annual Meeting. John C. Carmon (left) of **Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center** presented the award to Diane Edwards and Gary Gauer of Reflexite Corporation.

Holly Kingsford Wins First Annual "New Member Advocate of the Year" Award at Annual Meeting



Congratulations to Holly Kingsford of **Canton Insurance Center**, this year's recipient of the first annual "New Member Advocate of the Year Award." Holly won the award by recruiting three new members to the Chamber in 2005/2006.

The 2006 Annual Meeting marked the beginning of a new tradition for the Chamber: the initiation of the new "**New Member Advocate of the Year Award**." The award was created to recognize, on an ongoing basis, the member or members who play an active role each year in recruiting new members to the Chamber, while also providing a little friendly competition in the process.

The award consists of a crystal vase inscribed with the name of the award, which the winners may display proudly at their place of work, along with a brass plate inscribed with the winners' names and places of business that will be on display at the Chamber office.

Any Chamber member in good standing is eligible to compete for this award. The recipient is chosen based upon the number of completed/paid-in-full membership applications received at the Chamber in which a member's name is cited as being the sponsor. Qualified applications are those received starting in June after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting to the beginning of May of the following year.

To see just how the competition is stacking up, each newsletter will have a tally box (see below) showing the names of those members who have recruited new members during the preceding months, along with the total number of new members they have recruited to date.

The following Chamber members have recruited new members since June of this year:

- Holly Kingsford of **Canton Insurance Center**: 2
- Jeff Campbell of **Measure Twice**: 1
- Cheryl England of the **Marriott Residence Inn-Avon**: 1
- Dave Gillard of **MW Financial Group**: 1
- Beth Markowski-Roop and Cheryl Rio of **Hartford Federal Credit Union**: 1
- Scott Nardoizzi of **The First National Bank of Litchfield**: 1
- Bruce Shein of **Avon Executive Offices**: 1
- Peter Vignati of **Edward Jones**: 1

You, too, can be among the members listed here who are helping our Chamber grow, and who are eligible to win this great award!