

Grow your business: join the Chamber

As a Chamber member, you'll have visibility and credibility in the community and access to resources that will help you expand and manage your business. We can enhance your marketing through our communications channels, provide practical how-to information through seminars and programs, and give you access to shared purchasing, including our Chamber Blue health insurance.

Grow your network

The Chamber offers the best opportunities in the region to meet new customers, future employees, and trusted suppliers. Our Business After Hours, Early Bird Breakfasts, the Business Expo, golf tournament, awards dinner, and other events put you in touch with the region's business elite. And being an active Chamber member, serving on committees or volunteering, will enhance your reputation in the community.

Grow your influence

Your Chamber takes seriously its mission to influence public policy on behalf of the region's businesses. We are a visible presence in Augusta and work with elected officials at all levels of government on behalf of our members. We work tirelessly for sensible regulations, fair taxes, and smart public investments that allow our economy to grow.

Grow our community

Your Chamber membership supports programs that serve young professionals, build leadership capacity, bring educators and business people together, and promote employee wellness. More importantly, by being a part of the Chamber, you are signaling your support for a more vibrant and sustainable community, something your colleagues and customers will recognize the minute they learn you are a member.

MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT:

Chamber attracts new members

By **Betsy Vickery** Membership Chair

Bangor Region Chamber membership in 2014 increased by 95 new members and we have seen a resurgence of energy and interest from our existing members. Chamber member involvement is at an all-time high, we want to continue to ride that wave into 2015.

Kate Grover, the VP of Membership and Marketing, is moving into her third year with the chamber in early 2015 and continues to be passionate about the success of the chamber members and the entire regional community. Again, this year, Fairpoint has graciously and generously sponsored our Membership Drive for 2014. The first 50 new members that join after October 15, 2014 will have a

\$100 credit on their account for their membership dues, all on Fairpoint's tab. We want to thank Fairpoint and our local contact, Rick Bilodeau for their continued support of the Chamber and our members.

2015 will be a dynamic year for our members. We are reevaluating our brand in the marketplace, staying on top of the new businesses that are popping up and celebrating in the success of our region. We will be going on the road to visit our communities that are part of our Chamber outside Bangor and Brewer. We have 19 other communities that make up our strong membership, they deserve a little TLC.

WELLNESS COUNCIL OF MAINE:

Good Health is Good Business

By **Paige Allen** Wellness Council Chair

The Wellness Council of Maine continued building relationships in 2014. In January, the state-wide steering committee was re-organized to work on four subcommittees: sponsorship/membership, events, awards, and WellBiz ME, the small business starter program supported by Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield in Maine. These committees are comprised of incredible expertise to support the work of the WLCME.

The awards committee has been crafting a process with the National Wellness Institute for a national workplace well-being award. NWI has shown to be a strong partner growing workplace wellness in the era of overall employee well-being. This helps support our employers beyond the physical realm of their workforce to better retention, recruitment, and productivity.

The WLCME hosted over 100 at the 5th Annual Well Workplace Symposium in Bangor on the first day of spring. On a not so nice a spring day, this educational event offered a national keynote presenter, Judd Allen, who is an expert on creating healthy cultures. There were 8 breakout sessions and round table networking at a terrific venue, Spectacular Event Center.

Our fall event, the Maine Wellness Leadership Summit and Awards Luncheon, was co-hosted by the Wellness Council of Androscoggin County and brought 80+ to the Lewiston/Auburn area featuring 3 trending topics, Kathy Hunt, Starboard Leadership Consulting, as keynote and recognized 4 leaders in wellness from across the state with the WLCME Empower Awards.

The WLCME is supported by strong wellness partners in Maine and has added new supporters to our sponsor list. Membership continues to grow and represents all counties at the end of 2014—truly a state wide representation of employee health.

We enter 2015 anxious to beta test our WellBiz ME program with Maine's small businesses and begin offering companies national recognition for their commitment to employee well-being with the NWI award process.



2014 Empower Award winners recognized at the Fall WLCME Summit.