

January 2012

# THE CHAMBER VIEW

*A monthly newsletter published by the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce*

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## 2011 Year in Review

2011 was an eventful year for the Lebanon Area chamber of Commerce. Many chambers in New Hampshire struggled with membership renewals due to the downturn in the economy. Areas such as Nashua, Manchester and Concord suffered as much as a 20% downturn in their membership renewals. The Lebanon Chamber not only exceeded budget expectations but increased its dues income by 8%. Businesses appreciate the service that the chamber has to offer and continue to support its activities.

There were many issues that faced the chamber this year. The top story was hurricane Irene that blew into the area late one Sunday afternoon. Early on Monday the Chamber put out the appeal to its members to help particularly those residents in Vermont that had been affected by the storm. Immediately Hypertherm, Service Credit Union and Computac turned out their employees to help. The focus was on the Haven in Hartford and our chamber members sorted out food and clothing from contributions then put them out to people affected by the disaster.

Contacting the NH Department of Labor for benefits by the Chamber for displaced employees, unemployment funds were immediately made to the participants.

Shortly there after Hands Across the River was formed by Chamber Director Curt Jacques and his staff at West Lebanon Feed and Supply Store who organized day of work to help the affected people of Vermont. The project was an overwhelming success.

Now, a group made up of the Chamber, The Lebanon Rotary Club, The Fireside Inn & Suites and The Moonlighters are all donating their time for a February 4th dance at the Fireside Inn & Suites. An insert in this newsletter give the details of this event.

The Chamber Also hosted Governor John Lynch (D) for a luncheon who gave a state of the state talk. Both the Lebanon Area and Hanover Area Chambers participated in the event.

Standard events also went very well particularly the 32nd Annual HomeLife Show. This event is also co-sponsored by the Hanover and Lebanon Area Chambers of Commerce. Over 9,000 people attended the event.

The Wechsler Memorial Golf Tournament again brought a great number of players out at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee. Proceeds from the tournament go to the Chamber's Adult Continuing Education Program. With this year's tournament's proceeds \$70,000 has been awarded to adult learners of the Upper Valley since its inception in 1992.

The Annual Holiday Social recognized Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital as the business of the year and John Chaffee retired executive director of the Lebanon Housing Authority as the Citizen of the Year.

The Chamber celebrated a number of events this year. Some being the 120th Anniversary of Bridgman's Furniture, the Ribbon Cutting at Hannaford's new store in West Lebanon, along with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Books-A-Million which took the Borders Book Store.

The Chamber President Paul Boucher was appointed by the New Hampshire Legislature to form a study commission to review how New Hampshire Business Laws affect the business community. An early report to the legislature has repealed several laws already. The commission will reconvene in 2012 to review other laws affecting the business community.

Staffed by the Lebanon Seniors the Information Booth continued to serve more visitors who stopped by looking for information on the Lebanon Business Community.

Lebanon continues to have the lowest unemployment in the State and with the efforts of the Lebanon Area Chamber we are committed to planned growth in our area to continue that tradition.

## Survey: Business confidence flat for 2012

Business owners expect slow economy to continue in 2012, but do not perceive conditions worsening; employment will likely remain flat.

Data from the recently completed 2012 New Hampshire Business Outlook Survey show that business owners are cautious but optimistic about the economy in 2012, expecting the relatively slow growth rate to continue while not expecting conditions to worsen in the coming year. However, they expect current employment levels to remain the same.

Sponsored by the Business and Industry Association and Portsmouth based RKM

and Communications Inc, the eighth annual business outlook survey measured business confidence among a stratified random sample of 300 New Hampshire businesses.

When asked specifically about whether certain issues were major concerns, 61 percent of business owners said the cost of health care and health insurance was a major concern, 58 percent consider the cost of energy a major concern, and 39 percent consider New Hampshire's business taxes a major concern.

To download a copy of the report, visit the Newsroom on [nhbia.org](http://nhbia.org) and click

## Calendar of Events

AVA Gallery and Art Center's **Vision Quest IV** January 13th through February 10, 2012

October 8, 2011 through March 11, 2012. **Native American Art at Dartmouth College's Hood Museum of Art.**

**On-site Fitness Evaluation or Fitness On the Go** Sponsored by The Carter Community Building Association. Set up times for your employees by calling Larry Ruffing Fitness Director at (603) 448-7477 ext 105.

**Indoor Farmers Markets**, 3rd Saturday of each month, November-April Lebanon United Methodist Church.

Lebanon Opera House, February 1, 2012 7 PM, **Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour**. This is the 10th year of the tour.

## Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce 603-448-1203

**President & CEO — Paul Boucher**  
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**Greg Lewis**  
City Manager

Revised October 7, 2011

## Profile Members

Members contributing over \$1,000 annually.

All Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce members are eligible for Profile Member status.



## Points of Interest

- Over the years Lebanon has been honored by a number of Awards such the 10th Best City in the Country to live in, the best recreational area to live in and the largest growing micropolitan area for business to settle in. But, this is a first Paris is the City of Lights London has its fog, New York has its lady Liberty, Lebanon New Hampshire has the most auto part store per-capita in the country. The city recent won this recognition from the Auto Parts Hall of Fame in Youngstown, Ohio
- ARC Mechanical Contractors is proud to announce the recent NORA (National Oil Heat Research Alliance) certification for four of its service technicians, Adam Cate, Shaylor Duranleau Rob Ingalls, and Ray Welch.
- The Small Business Administration is offering free consultation services for New Hampshire Business Owners. They will be held at their office at 25 Capitol Street 3rd Concord NH from 9:30 AM to 11 AM. No appointment is necessary. The next session is January 26, 2012
- Top international scientists have confirmed that the dust swirling around and over Route 12A in West Lebanon was recently observed by Astronauts in the International Space Station
- Reservations are coming in for the Fall Tour. In conjunction with Collette Tours, Milne Travel and the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce a Discover Tuscany Trip is planned for November 4th through November 13th 2012. Highlights include Rome, Assisi, Siena, Florence a Winery Tour and a Tuscan Feast. Due to the fact that some of the towns visited can only hold a small number of visitors the trip registrations have been held to 44

## New Member

**Paychex**  
Lebanon, NH 03766

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 4, 2012 6:00 PM Dinner Dance** at the Fireside Inn & Suites, net proceeds to victims of Hurricane Irene. See insert for more details.

**Business After Hours February 9, 2012** Lebanon Property Management, Trade Center Airport Road West Lebanon, 5:30PM to 7:00 PM. This is a joint event with the Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce.

**March 16, 17, 18th 2012 34th Annual HomeLife Show**, Leverone Field House Hanover. The event is co-sponsored by the Hanover and Lebanon Area chambers of Commerce. Applications have been mailed out to chamber members and previous exhibitors and available on the chamber's web site [www.lebanon.com](http://www.lebanon.com).

**March Business after Hours Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital** day and time TBD

**May 15, 2012 Wechsler Memorial Golf Tournament Lake Morey Resort**. All proceeds go to the scholarship program. Since 1992 the Chamber has provided more than \$70,000 in scholarships to adult learners in the Upper Valley.

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## RECENT ACTIVITY



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## AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES



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# Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce

*At the Crossroads of New England*

The Chamber View  
PO Box 97, Lebanon, NH 03766



## In This Issue

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