Celebrate Good Business News
2012 Proved to be a banner year for a lot of businesses
Nothing but good news for a lot of great companies  pg 8

Speed Networking Scheduled for April
Bring your marketing SWAG and get ready to spread the good news
about your business pg 4

School District Honored
Federal Way Public Schools honored with recycling award pg 10

Employee Perks
Always a good idea pg 11

Keeping Pace with New Elected Leaders
Changes in City Council and House of Representatives ensure solid
future for Federal Way pg 15
Thank you to our Speaker

Mayor Skip Priest


Skip believes that a strong economy, safe streets and neighborhoods, excellent schools, a healthy environment and vibrant parks are essential to Federal Way’s quality of life. He has been proud to serve on many local organizations working on these issues, including the South King County Multi-Service Center, Advancing Leadership, Friends of the Hylebos and the Federal Way Kiwanis, among others.
Dear Chamber Members,

For those of you who attended the annual Economic Forecast Breakfast, I hope you caught the same message I did: create the identity, roll up your sleeves, get to work, and King and Pierce County leadership teams are ready to help us.

The FW Chamber had a great “Economic Forecast Breakfast” on January 28th and we were in a super position to showcase the efforts of Cascadia Velocity and its new position working in tandem with the Cascadia Med Tech. This is long overdue - and a welcome signal to our regional economic development partnerships.

The message landed solid for many and I received some excellent feedback. Further, an attendee at the event marched straight up to the front of the room and announced, “I have a business here in Federal Way and I would like to learn more.” I’m counting that as icing on the cake. And the take-away, of course, is that the more we tell our story, the better our chances are of success. Can I enlist each chamber member to share our story – our vision – of the possibilities for Federal Way?

At that same event, I was able to name the members of this newly formed board to the broader public: Highline Community College, Weyerhaeuser, University of Washington/Tacoma, Washington Small Business Development Council, and more. Our regional leadership voiced their pleasure that Federal Way had taken steps to bring such a well qualified group together. Allow me to offer profound thanks again to all of our new partners in this endeavor.

Most recently, I spent some time in Olympia to better the mission of possibility for Federal Way and I left Olympia with a profound sense of support for this new level of partnership between the Cascadia ventures. State Senator Tracey Eide, State Representatives Linda Kochmar and Roger Freeman (30th District) and Gael Tarleton (34th District) are encouraged by this newly cemented partnership.

Looking forward into 2013, I suspect this new partnership will bring forward incredible results in securing Federal Way’s position as regional “partner” as a center of innovation. Are we ready to take on that partnership role? From what I am hearing, I think so…

Cheers,

Patti

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**Event Calendar**

**MAR 6**

- **Membership Luncheon**
  - Twin Lakes Golf & Country Club
  - 11:30 AM—1:00 PM
  - $25 w/RSVP
  - $30 at the door

**MAR 15**

- **Networking Breakfast**
  - Best Western Plus Evergreen Inn & Suites
  - 7:30—9:00 AM
  - $17 w/RSVP
  - $20 at the door

**MAR 20**

- **Business After Hours**
  - 5:30—7:00 PM
  - Free

**MAR 25**

- **Grand Opening**
  - Hobby Lobby
  - 8:30—11:00 AM
  - Ribbon Cutting 9:00 AM
  - Free

**APRIL 3**

- **Membership Luncheon**
  - Twin Lakes Golf & Country Club
  - 11:30 AM—1:00 PM
  - $25 w/RSVP
  - $30 at the door

**APRIL 19**

- **Networking Breakfast**
  - Best Western Plus Evergreen Inn & Suites
  - 7:30—9:00 AM
  - $17 w/RSVP
  - $20 at the door

**APRIL 17**

- **Business After Hours**
  - BECU
  - 5:00—7:00 PM
  - Free

**APRIL 26**

- **New Member Reception**
  - Best Western Plus Evergreen Inn & Suites
  - 5:00—7:00 PM
  - Free

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**Daylight Savings Time**

**March 10**

- Set your clock forward
April Membership Luncheon
Chamber Birthday Celebration
and Speed Networking

Get Connected!
Federal Way Chamber!
April 1953—April 2013
Join us as we celebrate the Big 60!

Speed Networking is about creating relationships. It has a proven record of being one of the most effective marketing venues. It’s face-to-face networking in a comfortable setting. You will meet more people, make more contacts, make friends, and generate more business ideas in one short luncheon, than you ever thought was possible at a networking event!

Thank you to our Sponsor

In a recent global survey undertaken by Harvard Business Review Analytic Services:
79% said that in-person meetings are the most effective way to meet new clients to sell business....
and 95% said that face-to-face meetings are a key factor in successfully building and maintaining long-term relationships.
We have been in senior health care since 1976. We realize the tremendous need for transitional assistance. We have seen the emotions involved with moving from a family home. After assisting several seniors with the downsizing and moving process we decided to become certified as a senior transition specialist, and launch Affinity Senior Transitions. We believe there is a better way for seniors and their families than having to deal with the additional stress of all that is involved with moving from a home full of memories and special items, that are memories not just "stuff." We put compassion and empathy into what we do and truly care about making your transition seamless.

Cindy Slettevold is a sales rep with First American Title in Federal Way. She has been in the title insurance and closing business for over 20 years. She works very closely with the real estate and lending community, assisting their transactions, informing, educating and helping them grow their business. She is a creative problem solver (a must-have quality in her business) and serves with passion, dedication and determination. Your successful closing is her highest priority!

Grace Church is a large-hearted collection of people with varied religious backgrounds, diverse life experience, and a fresh and growing commitment to follow Jesus. We are normal people determined to make a difference in our world because Jesus has made a difference in our lives. Founded in 1990 by Pastor Mike McIntosh, Grace Church is now led by his son, Jon, and endeavors to make a positive, sustainable impact on our city. The historical doctrines of the Christian faith secure our own faith, and we are a part of the Foursquare family of churches. There's a place at Grace for you! Together we are..."touching lives and transforming communities."
New Members and Profiles

Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc
Retail – Arts & Crafts
Jenny Bergstrom
35020 Enchanted Parkway So
Federal Way, WA 98003
(253) 661-9945

Hobby Lobby, headquartered in Oklahoma City, has over 520 stores across the nation. We offer more than 65,000 crafting and home décor products in our stores. Departments include floral, fabric, needle art, custom framing, baskets, home accents, wearable art, arts and crafts, jewelry, and paper crafting supplies. Store hours are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and all Hobby Lobby stores are closed on Sunday.

For more information about Hobby Lobby, our weekly specials, coupon offers, store locations and online shopping, visit our website at www.hobbylobby.com or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hobbylobby.

New Troas Church
Church – Community Out Reach
Victor Rivera
P.O. Box 4435
Federal Way, WA 98063
(253) 344-9750
NewTroas.org

New Troas Church (NTC) was born in order to share life, community, and service with our neighbors. It aims to become an involved partner within the community, organizations, as well as with businesses and city leaders in order to help transform Federal Way for a better and brighter future. We are committed to build relationships, learn more about community needs, and become involved in our neighbors’ daily life rhythms. Home gatherings are at the core of NTC’s ministry. Our desire is to learn from each other and contextualize the communities within Federal Way’s diverse population.

US Bank
Banking
Arold Robert
1436 S 312TH St
Federal Way, WA 98003
(253) 839-2454

U.S. Bank specializes in providing tailored business solutions to fit your needs. As your small business advisor, I can help create solutions that help you with cash flow, payments, and loans for future growth. We offer Equipment Financing with a simplified application process to easy ways to accept payments for your business. Talk to me about our Payment Solutions Meet or Beat offer today. I can offer you custom solutions, best in class service and a strong dedication to your business.

To learn more, contact Arold Robert at 253 839 2454 or by email at arold.robert@usbank.com

R-Jay’s Scoreboard
Restaurant – Pub
Robert Sides & Janae Webb
1200 So 324th St
Federal Way, WA 98003
(253) 839-4791

After 30 years of success with the Scoreboard Pub, Ron Zaffino has confidently handed the keys over to three new local faces. We are younger than Mr. Zaffino, but we bring experience, energy and some new ideas to your local neighborhood bar. We are R-Jays Scoreboard! We are offering Federal Way’s best happy hour, 40 HD TV’s and a new game viewing lounge complete with big screens and couches for that VIP atmosphere. We are proud to offer an experienced and highly motivated serving staff as we take pride in our high level of service, friendliness and consistency. In addition, we are offering live music every Saturday night featuring some local favorites, and up and coming bands.

Thank you to our Speaker and Sponsor of the February Networking Breakfast

Speaker: Chris Doyle, Topic: Electronic Document Management

The February Networking Breakfast was well received. Chris Doyle is an interesting, knowledgeable, and animated speaker, and he got our members thinking about the way they currently manage both electronic and paper-based information. Chris specifically discussed document management, security and how companies can quickly access information in an easy-to-find electronic system that can automatically manage retention schedules specific to your business or departmental compliance requirements.

Chris talked about some of the technologies we can look forward to. Of particular interest is a machine (currently available in Japan) that allows for the reuse of paper that has previously been copied or printed on by erasing and making it blank. Upon regulatory approval, this technology is slated to hit the U.S. market by the 1st quarter of 2014.
Spotlight on Renewing Members

45+ Years
Waste Management of South Sound
(253) 804-5730
WM.com

New Lumber & Hardware
(253) 839-1313
NewLumber@comcast.net

35+ Years
John L. Scott Real Estate - Michael Ford
(253) 839-6650
JohnLScott.com

Federal Way Library
(253) 838-3668
KCLS.org/FederalWay/

Weyerhaeuser Company
(253) 924-5940
Weyerhaeuser.com

Twin Lakes Golf & Country Club
(253) 838-0432
TwinLakesGolf.net

Wild Waves Theme Park
(253) 661-8000
WildWaves.com

25+ Years
Omni Properties, Inc.
(253) 661-8095
kjzier@comcast.net

Eagle Tire & Automotive
(253) 838-2424
EagleTire.com

Neo-Life Health & Fitness (GNLD)
(253) 835-8911
IsabelTessier.gnld.net

Jet Chevrolet
(253) 838-7600
JetChevrolet.com

Mark Freitas CCIM, Commercial Real
Estate Consultant
(253) 838-8327
MarkFCCIM@cs.com

St. Francis Hospital
(253) 944-4129
FHSHealth.org

Berger/ABAM Engineers
(206) 431-2300
ABAM.com

Metropolitan King County Council
(206) 296-1007
KingCounty.gov/vonReichbauer

20-24 years
Brantley Janson Yost & Ellison
(253) 838-3484
BrantleyJanson.com

Evergreen Eye Center
(253) 874-3969
EvergreenEye.com

10-14 Years
Foundation House
(253) 838-8823
BrookDaleLiving.com

15-19 Years
Martinson, Cobean & Associates
(253) 838-3302
MCaps.com

Federal Way Public School District No. 210
(253) 945-2010
FWPS.org

Valley Cities Counseling & Consultation
(253) 833-7444
ValleyCities.org

Birth to Three Developmental Center
(253) 874-5445
BirthToThree.org

UW Medicine Neighborhood Clinics - Federal
Way Clinic
(253) 839-3030
UWMedicine.org/uwpn

MultiCare Urgent Care and
HealthWorks-Federal Way
(253) 874-2000

Johnson and Nagaich
(253) 838-3454
ElderCounselor.com

5-9 Years
New York Life Insurance Co.
(253) 854-7374
MarkLSims.com

American Family Insurance - Karl Kuntz Agency
(253) 946-4505
KarlKuntzAgency.com

The Kiwanis Club of Federal Way
(253) 951-9976
FederalWayKiwanis.org

BECU - Federal Way Pavilion
(206) 439-5700
BECU.org

1-4 Years
Historical Society of Federal Way
(253) 945-7842
FederalWayHistory.org

Yvonne San Luis Design
(206) 282-8926
YSanLuisDesign.com

Pattison's West Skating Center
(253) 838-7442
PattisonsWest.com

IT Source
(253) 835-1200
ITsource.com

Edward Jones - Jonathan McVety
(253) 529-0551
EdwardJones.com

Auburn Regional Urgent Care &
Occupational Medicine
253-874-2000
RegionalClinics.com

Thank you to the businesses
who continue to invest with the
FW Chamber of Commerce.
Office Depot and OfficeMax Announce Plans to Merge

Excerpt from New York Times by Michael J De La Merced

Office Depot and OfficeMax announced plans to merge on February 20, 2013. By uniting, the two companies should be able to reduce costs and better negotiate prices.

“In the past decade, with the growth of the Internet, our industry has changed dramatically,” Neil R. Austrian, chairman and chief executive of Office Depot, said in a statement. “Combining our two companies will enhance our ability to serve customers around the world, offer new opportunities for our employees, make us a more attractive partner to our vendors and increase stockholder value.”

Strategically, the deal makes sense, as the companies face a changing competitive environment. In announcing the deal, the two companies emphasized their new financial heft.

Good news from Weyerhaeuser

For the full year 2012, Weyerhaeuser reported net earnings of $385 million, up from $331 million for the full year 2011.

“As I look forward to 2013, I am excited by the opportunity to build on the momentum of this past year,” said Dan Fulton, president and chief executive officer. “In 2012, we began to realize the results of our work to position the company to capture the benefits of an improving housing market. As a result, our bottom line improved significantly, the Board increased the dividend, and our total shareholder return exceeded 50 percent, one of the best in our industry.”

Congratulations to Weyerhaeuser on a fantastic 2012!

Strong Growth for Kelley Imaging Systems

Established in 1974, Kelley remains one of the few locally owned and operated office technology companies in the Puget Sound area. For the year ending December 2007, Kelley had 26 employees and revenues of just over $4.5 million. Kelley has thrived in the face of a recession and now has 73 employees with revenues in excess of $12.5 million for the year ending December 2012.
King County Planning Policy Affects City’s Quality of Life
*Excerpt from Federal Way Mirror by Greg Allmain*

The Federal Way City Council voted to write a letter in support of amendments to the King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs), rules that will dictate growth and development throughout the county and the city.

“The goals of the CPPs update are to ensure consistency with the multi-county planning policies contained within Vision 2040,” Clark said. The goal is to ensure consistency with the Growth Management Act, reflect current terminology, and establish the policy framework for the Vision 2040 regional growth strategy, Clark said.

Clark said Vision 2040 is a planning strategy to attempt to meet the forecasted population of five million people and three million jobs in the Puget Sound region by 2040.

St. Francis earns gynecology honors ~*excerpt Federal Way Mirror*

Federal Way’s St. Francis Hospital and two of its physicians were named Centers of Excellence in Minimally Invasive Gynecology (COEMIG) and COEMIG designees by the AAGL and Surgical Review Corporation.

The COEMIG program distinguishes surgeons and facilities that demonstrate an unparalleled commitment and ability to consistently deliver safe, effective, evidence-based and coordinated care.

At St. Francis, physicians who earned the honor were Susan Johnson, MD, and Myong Roe, MD.

Port News

Double-digit growth in both imports and exports propelled a 16 percent gain in the Port of Tacoma’s 2012 container volumes.

The Port handled 1.7 million TEUs (20-foot equivalent units) in 2012, marking its best year since 2008. For 2013, the Port forecasts 14 percent growth in container volumes, along with a 7 percent boost in auto imports and moderate gains in grain and log export.

Port of Seattle, the owner of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, buoyed by an influx of international passengers, set a new passenger traffic record last year with 33.22 million passengers passing through the airport in 2012. New figures from the Port of Seattle show overall passenger traffic at SeaTac International Airport increased by 1.2 percent last year while international traveler numbers jumped by 8.8 percent.

Port of Seattle cargo also saw an increase for the second time in the last three years with a 1.4 percent increase. The 2012 total of 283,500 metric tons is the largest total at Sea-Tac since 2008.

The Ports of Seattle and Tacoma are lead economic engines for our region. Looks like both had record breaking years since 2008! Nice work to both of our regional Ports for their tremendous impact to Puget Sound!
Airbus could Double Washington State Business in 10 years
excerpt from Puget Sound Business Journal by Steve Wilhelm

The volume of Airbus work handled by Washington state aerospace suppliers could more than double in the next decade.

Airbus wants to increase its spending in the U.S. from $10 billion in 2009 to $20 billion by 2020, said David Williams, vice president of procurement for Airbus America.

“Clearly this is a major aerospace hub, one of the states we focus on very strongly,” he told the Puget Sound Business Journal in an interview after his speech. He added that while Airbus’ overall growth strategy suggests a doubling of business, “I would expect it to be more than that, because you are an aerospace hub, where a lot of the skills and expertise and technologies are.”

More than 100 Washington aerospace companies supply Airbus, making the state second only to Southern California in the number of supplier companies making nonengine aerospace parts, Williams said.

School District Honored for Recycling 40 Percent of Waste
Excerpt from Federal Way Mirror by Greg Allmain

Federal Way Public Schools (FWPS) was chosen as the winner of the Leadership in Recycling Award, an announcement made at the city council’s Feb. 19 meeting.

Councilmember Dini Duclos recounted the district’s efforts, “The students, staff and administration have embraced waste reduction, recycling and composting options in many ways, and their efforts are paying off with environmental and financial savings. The district recycled over 40 percent of its overall waste in 2012.” Along with normal recycling practices, food scrap recycling practices have been put in place in more than a dozen Federal Way schools, which has added to the drastic increase in the district’s recycling power. “Annual savings, due to the recycling and food waste diversion programs, are expected to exceed $50,000 a year,” Duclos said. “Just think what that money can be used for in terms of educating our students.”

Attend the next Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony
Hobby Lobby Grand Opening
March 25, 8:30—11:00 AM
Ribbon Cutting at 9:00 AM
doors to open immediately following.
35020 Enchanted Parkway S
Federal Way 98003
Snacks and drinks to be served.

Kickoff a grand opening of your business by contacting
Deborah Davidek at 253-838-2605 x103

ENews
It’s easy to join our Electronic newsletter.
Just send your email address by text message:
Text FWCHAMBER to 22828 to get started.

Promote, Promote, Promote Your New Business!

Your Ad Here
A Business Card ad is only $65.
Full-Color Flyer only $290.
Advertise in the
Federal Way Chamber of Commerce
Business News
253-838-2605
Anyone who has lost track of time when using a computer knows the propensity to dream, the urge to make dreams come true and the tendency to miss lunch. ~Tim Berners-Lee

**Should Your Business Go PC-Free?**

*Excerpt from Entrepeneur.com by Polly S Traylor*

In the spring of 2010, when the Apple iPad was released with overwhelming fanfare, analysts and pundits across the board quickly dismissed its business relevance.

The newer story is that smaller companies with high percentages of mobile employees and an affinity for cloud apps can feasibly run their entire businesses on tablets and phones.

What's made this viable is the large number of business tools and apps now available for tablets, the prevalence of cloud-based services for rote, PC-intensive tasks such as invoicing and billing, and business-friendly add-ons such as wireless keyboards and digital pens.

Replacing PCs with tablets and phones won't work for every business or employee. But for salespeople, executives, project managers, field workers and other employees who are highly mobile and customer-facing, shedding clunky PCs for lighter and faster devices could help their companies get to the next level.

**Get Creative with Job Perks**

*Adapted from More Creative Job Perks Help Morale and Retention by Dennis McCafferty at Baseline Magazine*

Money, benefits and flexible job schedules are the most effective ways to boost employee retention, but a quarter of workers say unique perks can help, so it's worth considering doing something out of the ordinary for your employees.

Here are a few unusual perks employees say would make their workplace more satisfying:

1. 40% would love half-day Fridays (really, just 40%?)
2. 20% would like an on-site fitness center
3. 18% would enjoy wearing jeans to work
4. 17% like the idea of daily catered lunches
5. 16% would like massages
6. 12% say they’d like a nap room

You don’t have to offer perks like these all the time, but offer them creatively as you see an opportunity, say after a big project is completed. Startups are
Our BAHs are anything but stuffy with great food and drinks, unusual locations, and friendly, outgoing people from the community and local businesses. 

**A BAH is a Free Benefit for Chamber Members.**

We want to help you make better connections...high quality contacts. Through events, programs and services as diverse as our members needs, we are helping our members build beneficial business relationships.

**Business After Hours at Emeritus at Federal Way**
February 2013

**Testimonials**

“Our Chairman Circle Sponsorship has been terrific. Patti and her team developed a creative, customized approach that leverages our favorite events and elements, with the added bonus of a sustained presence throughout the year. And without significant increase to our annual investment! Every Chamber will tell you they are all for championing its members, isn't it fantastic The Federal Way Chamber of Commerce actually does?”

~Bridget O'Connor, Business Development Representative
Red Canoe Credit Union

Thank to the Federal Way Chamber for all their support they give to the Federal Way Community. Over the years it's been wonderful to see the growth and development. Thank you to Patti for reevaluating the Corporate Contracts. She wanted to make sure business owners are getting the best bang for their buck by creating a more customer friendly approach.

~Janice Siebenaler, AVP, Branch Manager
Heritage Bank

**Why become a Chamber Ambassador?**

Ambassadors gain business exposure by being the first to meet and greet Chamber members and community leaders. The events and meetings keep you in-the-know for current happenings in the Chamber and the Community.

**Congratulations Janice Siebenaler**
January 2013
Ambassador of the Month

**Congratulations JR Lester**
February 2013
Ambassador of the Month

To learn more about becoming a Chamber Ambassador, contact Cindy Ducich at 253-632-2312.
A Day in the Life of a School Outreach Coordinator

“What were your high school years like? Do you remember them fondly, or would you rather erase them from your memory? Whether your time was positive, negative, or somewhere in between, I think I can safely say that for many of us, being an adolescent wasn’t easy! Constantly sleep-deprived, covered in acne, and overly self-conscious about everything, I remember looking forward to leaving high school behind me.

Years later, I am back in high school—and thrilled to be so! To be more specific, I am at Federal Way High School as the School Outreach Coordinator with Communities In Schools of Federal Way. Before I started this position, I knew that my work would be meaningful. After all, my job is to collaborate with school staff and community members and organizations to connect students in need to academic, physical, and/or social services. If that isn’t meaningful, I don’t know what is.

As the academic year progresses, however, what surprises me is how profoundly my position moves me. Every day I am in awe of and humbled by the numerous students who lead lives full of hardship. Some students’ families cannot afford to purchase glasses or shoes. Unfortunately, not only do the students I work with struggle financially, but many are deprived of connections with caring adults, something that Communities In Schools believes that every student needs and deserves. Given that even adults crave a connection with others, children and teens need it even more because they tend to be more vulnerable.

I really appreciate the community volunteers and organizations that give their time and money to Communities In Schools. We live in a world where much emphasis is placed on wealth and status, and plenty of individuals shun activities that don’t lead to financial gain or publicity. As such, it is most inspiring to see mentors, volunteers, and generous donors give their time because they understand the value of seeing beyond themselves and their surroundings. For example, when National Honor Society and I held food drives at Top Foods and Albertsons to gather non-perishables for Thanksgiving, the generosity of the people in Federal Way amazed us. They donated enough food to fill one van and two cars!

On any given day, I may give students binders donated by Boeing, coats donated by Zumiez, food donated by a teacher, or soap donated by a mentor. Every day, I check in with students to see how they’re doing. They trust me, and know that Communities In Schools is there to see them succeed. I hope they will come to understand that the existence of Communities In Schools is made possible by thousands of caring individuals. And one day, I hope that they will find themselves in a position to eagerly give back to and strengthen the bonds within their own communities.”
Challenge yourself, Change the world.

Transformative leadership training for people living or working in Federal Way.

Applications now open for the 2013-14 class:

WWW.ADVANCINGLEADERSHIP.ORG
Thanks to Our Legislators

Senator Tracey Eide and newly elected Representatives Linda Kochmar and Roger Freeman met with Federal Way Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs team in January to review the 2013 Legislative Agenda. Elected officials voiced their interest in several areas including transportation and education. Federal Way is exceedingly proud to have such dedicated officials working hard for our district.

Welcome New City Council Members

We want to extend a note of sincere congratulations to new City Council members Diana Noble-Gulliford and Kelly Maloney.

20 candidates were interviewed during a public process.

The Legislative agenda for the City of Federal Way means that all councilmembers will be hard at work in 2013.

We want to thank committee members Debbie Willis, Bob Roegner, Russ Wolfe and Mark Sims for taking time to meet with our legislators. Advocacy for sound policy decisions is a #1 priority for the Federal Way Chamber.

CEO Patti Mullen visited legislators on February 20th to review several issues. Along with representatives from the Tacoma-Pierce County and Greater Seattle Metro Chambers of Commerce, Patti offered formal testimony to the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee in opposition to SB 5594 (proposing a state-wide sick leave policy.)
2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Federal Way Chamber of Commerce represents approximately 500 businesses employing an estimated 25,000 workers in the South Sound Region. Our vision is to create a strong local economy through business advocacy in the South Sound Region. Federal Way is the 5th largest city in King County and 11th largest in the State and recognized collectively and strategically vital to international trade and commerce in our state, we have unanimously developed the following 2013 legislative priorities:

Transportation:

A fully functional South Sound economic transportation corridor is critical for our economic vitality, creating sustainable jobs, and moving goods to and from one of the largest distribution hubs in Washington. The Federal Way Chamber of Commerce continues to support the full funding and construction of the I-5 / SR 18 interchange and the SR 18 / SR 161 intersection, also known as the “Triangle Project.”

We recognize that we are part of an economic interdependent region and state, with diverse needs and interests, and that no one area can progress without another. We encourage the state legislature to formulate a transportation package for submission to the voters that merges infrastructure needs of highways, mass transit, bridges, ferries, and transportation corridors. Any legislation should recognize our need to move both products and people in a manner that enhances our economic capacity. The package should seek to protect our many years of investment by adequately funding current maintenance and operations needs along with expanding our transit network for future growth opportunities. Legislation should include recognition of key corridors such as I-5, SR 167, SR 509 and other interconnecting mass transit and structural improvements.

We recognize that to gain broad support for funding will be a difficult, yet crucial, step in preparation of a solution. We encourage the legislature to consider a balanced approach from its array of revenue options that does not diminish our competitive position but seeks to enhance.

Federal Way Chamber of Commerce recognizes the necessary investment of mass transit / light rail to meet the growing demands of a growing residential and business community. We welcome Sound Transit’s investment in South King County and encourage Sound Transit to evaluate an alignment that is favorable to economic development and commuter demands.

Business Climate and Global Competitiveness:

Puget Sound is engaged in a constant national and global competition for our precious employers and revenue generators. Puget Sound’s efforts to retain its position as a key competitor in a global economy mandates that policies be embraced which stimulate economic competitiveness and do not burden our private sector businesses to balance a deficit.

FWCC recognizes Port activities in Puget Sound as significant to the overall health or our region and encourages a closer look at developing regional cooperation between our two ports.

The Federal Way Chamber of Commerce recognizes the power of destination dollars for our region and supports reinstatement of the State’s Department of Tourism and/or providing financial support to private sector entities.

Education/Workforce Development:

Address Washington’s constitutional obligation to amply fund basic K-12 public education.

Protect business and individual economic prosperity by adequately funding the community and technical college system.

Ensure students have access to post-secondary education and training by keeping tuition affordable and maintaining financial aid programs.

Reduce or minimize unfunded mandates to insure educational requirements contribute to improving outcomes and academic achievement. As an example many Community Colleges are finding that complying with new building requirements for High Performance Buildings is adding 1-3% to the costs of improving aging campus facilities. This can amount to significant fiscal impact on each project with no state money provided to offset these additional costs.

For more information, contact Patricia Mullen at (253) 838-2605 ext. 105 or via email at pmullen@federalwaychamber.com
Building a stronger Federal Way...

It takes a joint effort - and a consistent effort - to build a stronger Federal Way. It takes strength in leadership to improve our business climate, build our schools, maintain safety, and foster a sense of pride through our communications, to attain clarity and shared vision in our “image” of Federal Way.

We all know that building a great city is, in large part, dependent upon the local schools ability to serve and prepare our youth. We should all stop just a moment and look at our Federal Way schools with an immense sense of pride. Indeed, when one visits greatschool.org it leaves you with a smile – Federal Way has a lot of “star ratings” which speak volumes about the experience our local kids are having.

Federal Way Public Schools Superintendent Rob Neu and the School board have declared the future of Federal Way Public Schools as “Leading the Nation in creating the leaders of tomorrow.” And they know that Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) are a critical foundation for our future leaders and innovators.

Washington States Economy ranks 2nd in the country in the “New Economy” (knowledge-based, global, entrepreneurial, and innovation-based). Keeping in step with the Puget Sound vision for creating jobs – along with the need for our youth to be able to “fit into” the new economies, the Federal Way Chamber is likewise looking to the future and taking steps to engage our local business community in the world of innovation.

The new partnership between Cascadia Velocity (business incubator) and Cascadia Med Tech promises exciting opportunities for our City – and our need to engage LOCALLY in emerging technology and growth opportunities.

Keeping an eye on the jobs of the future – and the need to train a competitive workforce – Highline Community College remains intimate to the evolving nature of this relationship. Their new partnership with our Cascadia Velocity venture is their “high five” to our new work to showcase the growing number of local innovators, inventors and entrepreneurs (a delightful distinction that brings forth the curious mind of Cascadia Velocity CEO, Graham Evans.)

Federal Way Public Schools Superintendent Rob Neu points out in “How to think like Leonardo DaVinci," Michael J. Gelb reminds us that in the last 500 years we’ve moved from a world where everything was certain and nothing changed to a world where nothing is certain and everything changes. Neu adds that, “… it is imperative that we train our youth to meet the future with an attitude of confidence and ease with innovation. Moving forward, their world will be all about change, and it’s important that they can navigate - and steer - change successfully.”

Indeed, we have amongst us students whose names are linked to: National Merit Scholarship and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) – and let’s applaud the Thomas Jefferson HS Math Team for taking Regional, State and National Championship ranking!

The partnership and vision to build Federal Way is taking hold.

Tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it...

Ancient African proverb
Your Business. Your Community.

The Chamber is your advocate and we are there for you when you need us. Membership continues to grow and is active and engaged in our community. We appreciate each and every member, and we are grateful for the Board of Directors that leads with vision—encouraging us to meet the challenges businesses face.

MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
January 9, 2013  Photos by Ed Streit Productions

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR RECEPTION
January 16, 2013  Photos by Federal Way Mirror

MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
February 6, 2013  Photos by Ed Streit Productions
A vision of what the "Prosperity Partnership" means to Puget Sound in 2040
The success of The City of Federal Way is an exciting story as we set our sites on the future. Harnessing our waterways, our innovation and technology sector, and maintaining our foothold in aerospace and international trade are only a few of the key strategies being implemented to secure the future of our region.
Top Soil
Custom Screening, Design Mixes

Equipment
Compactor Equipment, Water Trucks, Excavators & Loaders (all sizes)

Services
General Contracting, Underground Utilities, Trucking, Engineering & Design, Material Supply, Tank Removal

Mention this ad and receive 10% off retail and all residential work and product picked up or delivered.

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