

TRI-CITY CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

The spirit of Manchester is alive and well

The spirit of Manchester, the largest city in northern New England and the financial center of the state, is alive and well, and the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) is proud to be a part of this vibrant region and community.

As New Hampshire's largest business association, the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce's mission is to be a member-focused organization that drives the greater Manchester business environment and the economic health and vitality of the region by supporting business growth, professional development and networking opportunities, while advocating for our membership. Incorporated in 1911, the Chamber today is the most active business organization in the Manchester

region, focusing its efforts primarily on the 10 communities of Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Derry, Goffstown, Hooksett, Litchfield, Londonderry, Manchester and Merrimack.

The Chamber's board of directors, more than 350 volunteer committee members and a professional staff of eight are supported by the Chamber's membership. Throughout the decades, the Chamber has served as the incubator of exciting community initiatives, such as the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport expansion, the



Robin Comstock, president

development of the Verizon Wireless Arena, establishment of Intown Manchester, and a full-service Manchester Welcome Center, developed in partnership with the city and the Manchester Art Commission, and the establishment of an alliance of 13 communities now known as the MetroCenter.

Manchester and the surrounding towns provide an eclectic blend of urban amenities and country atmosphere. Nationally known performers

light up the stage at the Palace Theatre in downtown Manchester and at the Dana Center at Saint Anselm College in nearby Goffstown. The city also harbors an AHL hockey team, the Manchester Monarchs, and a AA baseball team, the New Hampshire Fisher Cats.

Greater Manchester also boasts an exceptional public and private educational system and nearly a dozen colleges and universities that are vital to the economic climate of the region, providing the community with an educated workforce and contributing significantly to the cultural life of the area.

The Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce's offices are located at 54 Hanover Street in downtown Manchester. For more information, call 603.666.6600 or visit www.manchester-chamber.org.

Check out Concord, the creative capital of N.H.

Fifty-thousand people in downtown Concord for Market Days. A weekend of headliner bands at Granite State Music Festival on the river. Broadway shows at the "Cap Center." Black Ice Pond Hockey tournament drawing 50 teams from all over the northeast. Multicultural festivals, art gallery tours, outdoor movies in the downtown...

Have you checked out Concord lately? It is morphing into the new cultural center of New Hampshire.

The creative economy is on the move. A vibrant downtown is anchored at one end by the Capitol Center for the Arts, the state's largest performing arts center, and at the other end by the State Capitol building. In between are the new independent Red River Theatres, the Museum for New Hampshire History, and a host of restaurants and shops in historic buildings recognized on the National Historic Register. The new McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center has

tripled the size of the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium on the NHTI campus. The Concord Community Music School is rated among the top in the country. Malls and mega retail combine with downtown boutiques, farmers markets, and arts markets creating a shopping destination. The list goes on and on.

There is something very special about a community that successfully combines the sophistication and vigor of a state capital with the charm and quality of life of a small New England city. Rated number one out of 578 micropolitan communities four out of the last 10 years by Policom Corporation and number four among American micro-cities in retail sales, both quality of life and economic opportu-



Timothy G. Sink, president

nity are strong.

The Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce is in the business of creating opportunities for our 900-plus membership. Average attendance at monthly Business After Hours is more than 200. The Concord Young Professional Network (CYPN) is equally vibrant and attracts young professionals (and some older ones!) from throughout the region. The Chamber's involvement in public-private partnerships has

resulted in the redevelopment of Concord's "opportunity corridor."

Our new Visitor Information Center and headquarters in the Smile! Building in downtown Concord hosts rotating exhibits by the New Hampshire Furniture Masters and the New Hampshire Art Association,

making the Chamber a destination gallery and helping the Chamber fulfill its role as an information clearinghouse serving tourists from around the world seeking information on New Hampshire. The Business and Education Partnership conducts youth leadership development among high school sophomores and provides grants for area teachers to bring innovative new programs directly into the classroom. The Government Affairs Program puts members in front of their elected officials and provides a voice for the business community before local and state government

The Chamber provides ongoing opportunities for members to expand their client base and grow their business through networking and business development programs. Membership in the Chamber is both a good buy and a wise investment. Check our website at www.concordnhchamber.com to find out more.