

BUSINESS NEWS

Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce- Monthly Newsletter

CHAMBER WELCOMES NEW STAFF

BY MICHELLE HURLEY
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, CHAMBER

Since July, the Chamber has added three new staff members. These staff members will help to accomplish all of the work the Chamber is involved in, including (but not limited to) advocating for businesses both locally and at the state level, connecting members to each other and the community and providing professional development opportunities.

Joining the full-time staff are Ana P. Galietta, Vice President and Michelle Hurley, Executive Assistant Josh Lentine, Marketing Assistant is part-time.

Ana Galietta recently retired from ExxonMobil with 38 years of service. At ExxonMobil, Ana was the Community Relations Advisor for the Clinton site and sat on several boards, including the Chamber's Board of Directors. In January, Ana joined the Chamber as the Vice President. Ana is excited to work with the committee chairs and volunteers coordinating Chamber signature events, as well as working with our Advocacy, Economic Development and Membership committees.

Michelle Hurley has a diverse background, formerly working as an Executive Assistant for 6 years at Triad Tool as well as spending 5 years as a Teacher of Biology at Edison HS. She acts as the first point of contact for New Members and works to assist Current Members in finding ways to utilize the assets of the Chamber to fit their businesses. Michelle is happy to help members make the most of their membership!



Above: The Chamber Offices are located in the Large House at 119 Main Street Flemington.



Ana P. Galietta
Vice President



Michelle Hurley
Executive Assistant

Josh Lentine returned home to Alexandria Township this past fall after five years at Harvard University. For most of the past 11 years, he primarily worked in athletics, bringing events such as the Boston Marathon, SEC Football Championships, and the NCAA Frozen Four to the masses. He has also been an assistant to the Office of Global Programs at M.I.T., building relationships with higher education institutions throughout the world. Lentine splits his marketing and communications experience between the Chamber and his family's business - A Andersen Sheet Metal. (continued on Page 6)

A LOOK AT THIS ISSUE:

WOMEN'S BUSINESS FORUM &
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT-4
UNITY BANK CENTER FOR BUSINESS &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP COURSE GUIDE-8



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

HUNTERDON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWSLETTER

Greetings,

As we move into the month of March, it seems as though the Chamber is in full gear for 2019. I want to thank the numerous organizations and individuals who have supported our Annual Meeting held on February 22, at the Ryland Inn, in Readington Township. This event for me is a great evening in which we take time to celebrate all the accomplishments of 2018 and our goals for 2019. In 2018 the Chamber continued its commitment to “create an environment for healthy economic growth,” in Hunterdon County and to provide superior value for our membership. Your support enables the Chamber to focus on this economic growth for our county, which benefits you, our members.

This past year, the Chamber continued to take a very active role in advocating on a variety of issues that impact all of us in Hunterdon County. One example is our support of the redevelopment plan for the Flemington Borough. This will ultimately result in jobs to our local area but most importantly, it will bring confidence back into the commercial real estate market that is so needed today. New jobs mean more business for our local professional services, restaurants, shops, etc. All these pieces of the puzzle make for a strong county-economy. There are many other examples in which we act as an active advocate for businesses and organizations here, in Hunterdon County and throughout the State.

Here are some other areas that the Chamber will continue to focus on in 2019. The Chamber will work towards economic growth in our county:

- Representing business interests on a federal, state, county and local level
- Our active support and engagement with Opportunity New Jersey
- Informing members of critical issues worthy of their attention and/or action
- Supplying member services and communication tools that connect business with opportunity
- Connecting individual companies toward specific identified outcomes
- Sponsoring cost effective learning/educational programming for all organizational levels, such as our annual Women’s Leadership Summit or Unity Bank Center for Business & Entrepreneurship
- Developing community leaders through Leadership Hunterdon
- Maintaining a forum for discussion and action on industry-related issues

As our county faces increased competition, like the rest of our region and state, the “Business Voice” of Hunterdon County needs to be heard now more than ever. The competition for business will continue and the Chamber is committed to retaining a strong business community and strong economic growth for our Business Community.

Sincerely,

President & CEO

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UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

MARCH

- 6 - LEADS NORTH
- 8 - UNITY BANK CB&E COURSE: AM GET THE SECRETS TO SUCCESS IN SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING - PRESENTED BY INKYMA
- 8 - UNITY BANK CB&E COURSE: LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE EXECUTIVE BRIEFING PRESENTED BY SANDLER TRAINING
- 13 - LEADERSHIP HUNTERDON INFORMATION SESSION
- 18 - FUTURE MEMBERS BREAKFAST
- 20 - LEADS CENTRAL SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER SHARON SKIBBEE OF PAYCHEX
- 20 - HEALTHY HUNTERDON WORKFORCE INITIATIVE TRIVIA NIGHT
- 21 - CHAMBER 101
- 27- UNITY BANK CB&E COURSE: WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS WORTH? - PRESENTED BY BKC TAX MANAGERS

MAY

- 2 - HUNTERDON COUNTY BUSINESS HALL OF FAME 2019 INDUCTION CEREMONY
- 8 - LEADERSHIP HUNTERDON INFORMATION SESSION
- 16 - CHAMBER 101
- 22 - UNITY BANK CB&E COURSE: SUCCESSION PLANNING PRESENTED BY BKC TAX MANAGERS

APRIL

- 3 - NATIONAL DAY OF WALKING
- 3 - LEADS NORTH
- 9 - WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
- 10 - LEADERSHIP HUNTERDON INFORMATION SESSION
- 17 - LEADS CENTRAL
- 18 - CHAMBER 101
- 24 - UNITY BANK CB&E COURSE: ESTABLISHING INTERNAL CONTROLS TO PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS - PRESENTED BY BKC TAX MANAGERS

SAVE THE DATE

- JUNE 1 - HUNTERDON COUNTY COMMUNITY DAY
- OCT. 1 - ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC
- NOV. 7 - BUSINESS EXPO & FOOD SHOWCASE
- DEC. 8 - HUNTERDON HOLIDAY PARADE

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COMMITTEE MINUTES

WOMEN'S BUSINESS FORUM BY MICHELLE HURLEY

In future issues of *Business News*, we will highlight the work being done by each committee of the Hunterdon County Chamber. Committees meet once a month for one hour.

This month, our focus is on the Women's Business Forum. This growing and creative group seeks to address issues that might be unique to women in business. Periodically, they host educational events that provide professional development opportunities. Each year, the Women's Business Forum, chaired by Colleen Duerr of Shifting Gears Consulting, hosts a Women's Leadership Summit in the spring.

This year's event will take place at Hawk Pointe Golf Club on April 9th. The Summit is an all day event, with registration beginning at 8AM. This year's theme is 'OWN YOUR STRENGTHS: Cultivating Confidence in Communication'. The Keynote Speaker is Megan Lamm, Global Learning and Development Manager of Cisco Systems.



There is also a morning panel and three breakout sessions led by accomplished women planned for the day. Please visit hunterdonchamber.org to purchase tickets or for more information.

We asked Committee Chair Colleen Duerr about her experience leading the Committee. She said, "Being Chair of the Women's Business Forum really is an honor."

"Most of us have led teams, groups, projects, and/or committees at various times over the years. And with that, most of us can attest to the frustration of a lack of participation by members of those groups. With the Women's Business Forum, I don't have that frustration. This is a terrific group that is committed to developing robust and engaging events that benefit all professionals - not just women. This is a group that is not content with hosting an event without it being relevant and motivating. This is a group where it is the norm to hear "I can take care of that," "I'll give them a call," and "Let me look into that and I'll get back to you." The members of the WBF are committed, creative, and quite frankly, a ton of fun! I am grateful for their input and their commitment and I enjoy our meetings and events because of it."

If you'd like to join this committee, contact the Chamber today!



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THE 10TH ANNUAL

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Own Your Strength - Cultivating Confidence in Communication

TUESDAY, APRIL 9 | 8 AM - 2 PM

HAWK POINTE GOLF CLUB | WASHINGTON, NJ

Keynote Speaker:

Megan Lamm
Cisco Systems



Morning Panel

How to Create Meaningful Partnerships within the Community

Rosemay Fellner
Unity Bank

Linda Castner
Alexandria Field Airport

Karen Widico
Prevention Resources

Breakout Sessions

Reputation Management
& Public Relations
Jessica Smith
Janssen Pharmaceuticals

Social Media
& Advertising
Audrey Kerchner
INKYMA

Managing Your
Personal Brand Using LinkedIn
Karen Yankovich
Uplevel Media/GoodGirlsGetRich

SUMMIT INCLUDES BREAKFAST & LUNCH

To Register: www.hunterdonchamber.org or 908-782-7115

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HUNTERDON COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
The Voice of Business

Educating Your Adult Children on the Importance of Saving for Retirement



Michelle Heide & Associates
Ameriprise Private Wealth Advisory Practice

By Michelle Heide, CFP, CRPC, BFA
| Ameriprise Financial

As a financial advisor, I spend my days helping people plan for and achieve their financial goals. Many of my clients are parents who, in addition to planning for their own future, care deeply about helping their children find their financial footing as they enter adulthood. Having spent decades building up their nest eggs for retirement, they recognize the power of long-term financial planning and hope their children will capture the same benefits by starting to invest while they are young. Convincing someone just starting off in their careers to set aside money for retirement – which to them, may seem like light years away – can be a tough sell. But, initiating the conversation in a respectful and educated manner may eventually compel them to make it a priority. If you're a parent looking for guidance in this area, consider the following discussion pointers. Those starting their career often face two challenges in establishing their nest egg. The first is feeling that they have all the time in the world to save for retirement. The second is that young adults are balancing numerous priorities with their newfound financial independence. Acknowledge and be realistic about these hurdles, even as you make the case for setting aside money for retirement.

Educating your adult children on the importance of saving for retirement may be a bit challenging in the short run if they're not receptive to the message, but it may do them a world of good if they accept your advice. If you or your child would like assistance crafting a retirement saving strategy, reach out to a financial advisor. Together you can find a way to balance the items most important to you.

1 RETIREMENT MAY COME SOONER & LAST LONGER THAN THEY THINK

The average American can spend any time between a few years to over 40 years in retirement. And while some retirees choose to continue earning a paycheck, the majority are relying on their savings to cover expenses. This means the costs to live the way you want in your later years – traveling, pursuing your hobbies, engaging with family – can easily surpass one million dollars.

2 THEY WILL LIKELY BALANCE FINANCIAL PRIORITIES THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES

Learning how to manage priorities and save for multiple goals at the same time is a valuable skill. Deciding to be thoughtful about saving, investing and spending money today can help young professionals set a strong financial foundation as their income grows.

3 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS HAVE A HUGE ADVANTAGE IN SAVING: TIME

A modest amount saved over several decades has the potential to grow into a significant sum due to the power of compound interest. Consider sharing the following example:

4 THEY WILL CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY, BUT THEY CAN LEARN FROM YOUR SUCCESSES & MISTAKES WITH MONEY

As adults, your children are ultimately responsible for saving for their retirement. But, chances are, they could stand to benefit from the wisdom you've gained from decades of saving and investing. Opening up about your experiences – both smart money moves and missteps you've made over the years – may help them capture opportunities and avoid mistakes as they work to build their nest eggs. ###

Michelle L. Heide, CFP®, CRPC®, BFA™ is a Private Wealth Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Annandale, NJ. Michelle specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 25 years. You may contact Michelle at 908-713-4903. Michelle's office is located at 16 Leigh St. Units 1B & 1C, Clinton, NJ 08809. Before you purchase insurance, be sure to consider the policy's features, benefits and fees, and whether it is appropriate for you, based on your financial situation and objectives. Investment advisory products and services are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., a registered investment adviser. Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA and SIPC. © 2018 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved

PAID EDITORIAL ADVERTISEMENT

Continued From Cover Story

The new staff members will work alongside President Chris Phelan to help support the work of roughly 30 active committees the Chamber manages. The redesign of the newsletter is among one of the changes implemented by the new staff. We welcome your submissions for the Hats Off and FYI sections of this publication through our website www.hunterdonchamber.org under 'News & Events'.

We also welcome visitors to the Chamber offices! Each month we run a Chamber 101 program the third Thursday of the month at 8:30 AM where we go over all the benefits included in membership. If you haven't been to this program in a while, consider attending or sending a representative from your company.

We look forward to working with you!

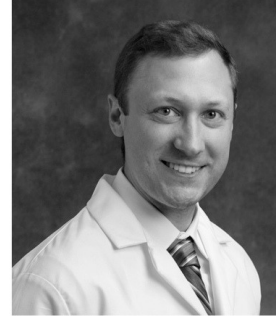
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All classes start at 8 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

COMING UP NEXT...



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**What's Your Business Worth?:
A Business Valuation Analysis**

Wednesday, March 27

Hosted by: Darlene Shaffer,
CPA/CFF, CVA - BKC Tax Manager

Topic: Review the three basic approaches and several methods within each approach for valuing a business. We'll discuss when you will need a business valuation, why a valuation for one purpose cannot be used for another purpose and why you should use a qualified business valuation expert. Then we'll explore how you can maximize the value of your business by suggesting ways to create value, and build a stronger and more efficient company in the meantime.



INKYMA

**Get the Secrets to
Social Media Marketing in 2019**

Friday, March 8
9-11 AM

Hosted by: Audrey Kerchner,
Marketing Strategist/Owner of INKYMA

Topic: Driving business growth through social media. Attendees will learn to create a strategy for marketing your business using social media; find where your target audience hangs out (online); create an advertising plan and budget; and Outline a content posting schedule to execute.



Sandler Training
Finding Power In Reinforcement

**Leadership & Organizational
Excellence - Executive Briefing**

Friday, March 8
12- 2PM

Hosted by: Jim Barnoski,
Owner of Sandler Training

Topic: This program will help your company closer to excellence by having a vision for where you want to be, a plan to get there, the right positions clearly laid out on the organizational chart, the right people in those positions following the right systems and processes, and posting measurable results that are analyzed regularly to gauge progress towards key goals using the right KPIs.

LOOKING AHEAD:

April 24: Establishing Internal Controls to Protect your Business (Rob Kenific & Diane Van Embden - BKC Audit Managers)

May 22: Succession Planning (Ed Kurowicki & Joe Carducci, BKC)

June 26: Fraud Prevention and the Closely Held Business (Rob Kenific, Forensic Accounting Specialist of BKC, & David Watts, P.I.)

Leads Exchange

NORTH



Wed., March 6
7:45 - 9 a.m.
111 W. Main St.
Clinton, NJ



Hosted by:
Tom Fitzgerald of Disaster Restoration Services -
a Division of Fitzgerald Architecture Studio, LLC

CENTRAL



Wed., March 20
7:45 - 9 a.m.
14-B Royal Rd.
Flemington, NJ



Special Guest Speaker:
Sharon Skibbee
of BenefitMall

Hosted by:
Judy Gold of Coldwell Banker



(Top Row, l to r) B. Flanagan, D. Makoski, M. Lyons, W. Rudnik, A. Fialk, J. Papay. (Middle Row, l to r) K. Lichtenstein, L. MacWilliam, T. Bussel, L. Parikh, D. Fredericks, J. Kopen, T. St. Angelo. (Bottom Row, l to r): R. Ward, W. Goodwin, R. Cushing, M. Chazin, J. Manfreda.

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LEADERSHIP HUNTERDON - CLASS OF 2019 SPOTLIGHT

Leadership Hunterdon is a 10-month immersive program that allows participants a behind-the-scenes look at the County while developing leadership skills.



Jennifer Berry is the Assistant Director of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) at Raritan Valley Community College. This program assists students from educationally and economically disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve higher education. She has been in higher education for the past 14 years and is very passionate about the students she helps.

She feels education is the key to building a strong foundation for our future.

Jennifer has said, "As a lifelong resident of Hunterdon County, Leadership Hunterdon is providing an experience like no other. The tools, guidance and connections that we are receiving will be long lasting. The program thus far has opened my eyes to so many meaningful opportunities right in my own backyard. This is a tremendous opportunity for anyone looking to become more involved in the community and gain leadership skills."

For more information about Leadership Hunterdon, attend our upcoming Information Session on March 13th at 8:30 AM at the Chamber offices.



Audra Giese is the VP of Operations at MSI Plumbing & Remodeling in Lebanon. She is working to streamline and improve processes inside and outside the office at MSI by implementing new technology and organizational techniques. She is also creating popular videos that MSI shares on social media.

A native of Hunterdon County, Audra left the area for Seattle in 2012 and moved back this past summer. She is still figuring out ways to immerse herself in the local community and is excited to meet new people and learn more about the area she grew up in through Leadership Hunterdon and the Chamber of Commerce. "I've learned so much in just 5 months of Leadership Hunterdon and have really enjoyed the group atmosphere. It's been really interesting to learn about the inner workings of a community; there are so many things that go on in the background that you would never think about."

Audra has a passion for travel and has driven cross country 4 times, been to all 50 states, travelled to 20 countries, and has lived in Germany for a year. She is also passionate about music and has started collecting and listening to vinyl records. Even though Audra and her husband, John, no longer live in Seattle they are still avid supporters of the Seattle Sounders and plan to attend as many away games on the east coast as possible in the coming year.

Tax Tidbit: Audit Proof Your Tax Return



No one likes the stress involved when your tax return is under the audit spotlight. Here are some ideas to avoid some of the more common audit triggers:

1 Report everything that has an informational tax return. If you are like most Americans, you will receive numerous 1099s, W-2s, and 1095s in the mail. The IRS receives them too. If your tax return does not meet or exceed this reported income you can count on receiving a notice from the IRS.

Some hints:

- Make a list of the forms received last year
- Update the list with any new vendors or employers
- Check off each of them when you receive them

2 Match the reports...even when they are wrong. When reviewing your tax return make it easy for the IRS programs to match what is being reported to them. If an amount on a 1099 or W-2 is incorrect, try to get it changed before you file your tax return. If not possible, report the incorrect amount (so it matches the IRS records) and then correct it with an explanation.

3 Get your key information right. Social Security numbers must be valid. Names must match Social Security numbers. Mis-matches here are sure to be noticed.

4 Get your dependents right. You and an ex-spouse must consistently report your dependents. Both of you cannot claim the same child as a dependent. If an ex-spouse claims paying you alimony, it must match alimony income on your tax return.

5 Understand the chances of audit. Each year the IRS reports audit rates by income level and type of tax return. While the overall audit rate is around 1 percent, it is much higher for high income tax returns and returns that have small business activity (Schedule C)



Even if you believe you have done everything correctly, audits happen. Should it happen to you, please do not hesitate to seek help. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Ross, CPA of BKC, CPAs, PC at adr@bkc-cpa.com or at 908-782-7900, x113. Visit our blog at www.bkc-cpa.com/blog for more in-depth information, and other helpful articles and alerts.

HATS OFF



(Pictured: Butler Manufacturing President, Greg Pasley and Art Hance from Hance Construction at the Butler Sales Meeting in Marco Island, Fla.)

Hance Construction Inc. has been named High Performance Builder 2018 by Butler Manufacturing, a division of BlueScope Building North America, Inc. the world leader in the development and manufacture of metal building systems. The designation is awarded to Butler Builders that meet or exceed annual goals and demonstrate superior marketing skills in the sale of Butler buildings. Hance also received the Million Dollar Builder Award for exceeding \$1,000,000 in sales for 2018.

Members Helping Members

Stanton Holly Trail donated \$41,400 to two local community groups from its sold-out 2018 tour.

The Hunterdon County Chamber is a proud sponsor of the Stanton Holly Trail. Now entering its 58th year, Stanton Holly Trail has raised over one million dollars for the Hunterdon Healthcare Foundation and community outreach through the Stanton Reformed Church.

Held annually the first Saturday of December, the Stanton Holly Trail tour features five private homes elaborately decorated for Christmas with abundant hand-made ornaments, lush displays of fresh evergreens, and other natural decorations. Patrons are treated to tea and cookies in a sixth decorated home and have the option to attend a made-from-scratch gourmet lunch and artisan craft bazaar. Patrons can choose to attend the traditional Saturday daytime tour or the Friday night Candlelight tour which included dinner at the storied Ryland Inn and transportation by luxury bus.

ShopRite of Hunterdon provides a generous donation of both food and expertise to the luncheon. Chef Ed Coss of the prepared food division of the Clinton Shop Rite works in the luncheon kitchen the day of Holly Trail and provides professional advice throughout the planning process. **Saunders Jewelry, Provident Bank, Ryland Inn,** and Mid-Jersey Orthopedics are also sponsors.

Tickets for this year's event on December 6 & 7 will go on sale in September. To join Holly Trail as a crafter or receive notification when tickets go on sale, visit its web site at www.stantonhollytrail.org

MSI Plumbing & Remodeling Named 2018 Business Partner of the Year by Hunter

Anne Thornton, owner of MSI Plumbing & Remodeling, has been involved as a guest speaker for the district's NJBUILD program, which aims to prepare incarcerated women at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for work in the construction field.

Thornton generously donated the stipend she received as a program guest speaker back to the students, purchasing a rocking chair for the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility's Mother/Child room.

Thornton encourages her own employees to enhance their skills and seek valuable credentials by enrolling in HCVSD apprenticeship programs. She also shares her 25 years of professional experience, in addition to what employers are looking for in today's hires, at HCVSD Apprenticeship Information Sessions.

"Anne is truly a champion for our school district and career and technical education, and she has found ways to support us for more than 20 years," said HCVSD Superintendent Kimberly Metz, Ed.D. "She knows firsthand the value of a skilled workforce, because increases in proficiency among her workers directly impact her company's reputation and its bottom line."

Since 2015, MSI Plumbing & Remodeling has provided scholarships for HCVSD administrators, staff, and students to attend the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce Women's Leadership Summit, giving them opportunities to meet and learn from prominent business leaders from throughout the county.



Stanton Holly Trail presents a donation of \$21,700 to Hunterdon Healthcare Foundation towards improvements at Brideside Adult Day Center. From Left to Right: Amy Coss, Holly Trail co-chair; Karyn Fiedler, lead sponsor from Provident Bank; Catherine Seissel, Director Brideside; Patrick Gavin, CEO Hunterdon Healthcare; Suzanne Schwanda, Holly Trail co-chair; Phil Beekman, Senior Vice President at Foundation for Hunterdon Healthcare.



Dr. Kim Metz Superintendent of the Hunterdon County Polytech, Left, and Hunterdon County Freeholder Director Suzanne Lagay, Center, present the 2018 Business Partner of the Year Award to Anne Thornton, Owner of MSI Plumbing & Remodeling

HATS OFF

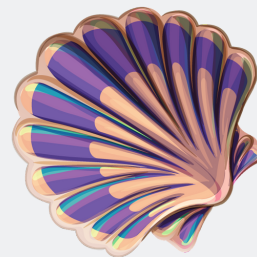


(Pictured: Linda F. Castner (center) conducting an aviation education program at Second Street Youth Center Foundation, Inc. in Plainfield, N.J.)

Linda F. Castner, the co-owner / manager of **Alexandria Field Airport** and a resident of Pittstown, New Jersey recently renewed her accreditation as a Master Aviation Educator (MAE) by the Master Instructors LLC, the international accrediting authority for the six (6) Master Instructor designations as well as the industry acclaimed and FAA-approved "Master Instructor Continuing Education Programä (MICEP)."

Castner is one of only 18 aviation educators worldwide to earn the MAE credential. Master Aviation Educator accreditation recognizes those individuals who work as professional teachers of aviation in industry and / or government but who do not necessarily hold FAA instructor certification. Fewer than 800 aviation educators worldwide have achieved one or more of the Master accreditations thus far. Twenty-three (23) of the last National Flight Instructors of the Year, National FAASTeam Representatives of the Year, or National Aviation Maintenance Technicians (AMTs) of the Year were Masters while Linda is one of only 13 New Jersey aviation educators who has earned one or more of these prestigious "Master" titles.

Altamura-Roll Counseling recently completed a major web site redesign and rebranding featuring a new logo (right). Ruth Altamura-Roll is a licensed professional counselor offering a variety of services. She also offers a discount to Chamber members through our online discount program. For more information, please visit. <https://altarollcounselor.com> or call 908-237-2899.



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HATS OFF



(Pictured: NJ DEP Commissioner Catherine McCabe, left, and NJ First Lady Tammy Murphy present a certificate to RVCC's Sustainability & Energy Coordinator Sue Dorward and Facilities Executive Director Brian O'Rourke at the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards in December.)

Raritan Valley Community College continues to be recognized for its sustainability efforts, recently earning top honors in both the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's 2018 NJ Charging Challenge and the NJ Smart Workplaces program.

RVCC scored the highest in the state in the 2018 NJ Charging Challenge: Electrify Your Workplace recognition program. RVCC recently installed two dual-port Level 2 charging stations at its Branchburg campus. Charging at the stations is free and it's open to the public. Station equipment and installation were funded by grants from NJDEP's It Pays to Plug In: NJ's Electric Vehicle Charging Grant Program.

RVCC earned the Platinum award from the New Jersey Smart Workplaces program. The statewide initiative recognizes employers who show vision and leadership by providing commuter benefits and alternative transportation options for employees. RVCC earned the top honor for meeting 11 criteria, including reducing the number of commuters by offering online classes. The award was given by RideWise, Somerset County's transportation management authority, which strives to connect people and businesses to safe and sustainable travel options that enhance the quality of life and create a vibrant economy.



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FYI- MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

HaHa 4 Humanity is hosting a comedy night to benefit **Room to Read** and Sweet Reads on February 28th, 6-9PM at Willie McBride's in Branchburg.

For more information go to <http://sweetreadscomedy.eventbrite.com> or email rtrnicolesmith@gmail.com

The **Good News Home for Women** will be holding its **Annual Golf Classic** on Monday, May 20, 2019 at the Beaverbrook Country Club in Annandale, New Jersey. This event is being held to raise funds needed to continue helping women break-free from the bondage of drug and/or alcohol addiction and help them recover.

For more information go to www.golf4gnh.com or contact Robin Jackson at (908) 806-7913, ext. 326. Many sponsorship opportunities available.

The **Raritan Valley Community College Planetarium** in Branchburg will present "**The Sky Above**," Saturdays, March 2 and April 6, both at 5 p.m. The sensory-friendly astronomy and music show, approximately 45 minutes in length, is specially designed for families with children on the Autism spectrum or those with developmental disabilities.

The program, which is appropriate for audiences of all ages, will provide a comfortable and judgment-free space that is welcoming to everyone. During the show, the doors will remain open so children may freely leave and return if they choose. Lights will be left dim (instead of dark) and the audio will be lowered and kept at a consistent level. The show will include music, laser lights, stories, and information about the planets, the Moon and constellations. All material will be presented on a very basic, kindergarten level.

Admission to "The Sky Above" is \$10 per person. Seating is limited and reservations are strongly suggested. For additional information and to make reservations, call 908-231-8805 or visit www.raritanval.edu/planetarium.

Stanton Ridge Country Club is hosting a Comedy Night on March 29th at 8PM featuring 3 national comedians.

For more information and tickets, visit stantonridgecc.com or email banquets@stantonridgecc.com

Hunterdon Healthcare Foundation is hosting it's 27th Annual Golf Classic on May 13th at Fiddler's Elbow in Bedminster. For more information, call 908-788-6591 or email ddalley@hhsnj.org

Unity Bank is offering a **free financial literacy program** for schools and community organizations throughout its marketplace footprint, which includes Bergen, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset, Union and Warren counties in New Jersey and Lehigh and Northampton counties in Pennsylvania.

Unity Bank's Start Smart Financial Education Program is a comprehensive financial literacy program designed for grades Pre-K through 12. The bank provides 10 certified Unity Bank Start Smart Financial Education Instructors who are Unity employees, including branch and administrative staff.

Unity's lesson plans have been written to meet the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics standards. Each lesson is supported with an activity that is age appropriate for grades Pre-K through 12.

Please call the bank at (908) 713-4310 for more information on Unity Bank's Start Smart Financial Education Program or to request the program be offered through your school or community organization.

Registration is open for the **Sixth Annual Freedom House 5k Run & 1 Mile Fun Walk!** It will take place on May 11, 2019 at Duke Island Park in Bridgewater.

The proceeds from this event will help ensure that those seeking recovery over addiction are not turned away due to their lack of financial resources. Services, such as those offered by Freedom House, are a key component to helping to combat the heroin epidemic. To sign up visit: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/NJ/Bridgewater/FreedomHouse5KRunWalk>

The **NJ Department of Agriculture** is seeking companies to sponsor meals for the 2019 Summer Nutrition Program. The Summer Food Service Program is designed to reach those who are age 18 or younger in economically disadvantaged areas. It also is open to people over 18 who are mentally or physically handicapped and who participate in public or nonprofit private programs established for the disabled. For more information on the Summer Food Service Program or to obtain an application, call (609) 292-4498. The deadline for submission of completed applications is March 20, 2019.

To submit your organization's announcements, visit hunterdonchamber.org and fill out the form on the NEWSLETTER page under the 'News and Events' tab. Submissions must be received by the first monday of the preceding month for publishing, all submissions subject to approval by the chamber)



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