



Colchester Business Association

Happy New Year!

# Newsletter

January 2012 Edition

## 2011-2013 Board Members

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Dr. Marty Zase

**January Dinner meeting will be Jan. 10 at Town Hall - this is the 2nd Tuesday of the month.**

## Staff

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## Contact Information

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860-537-0340

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[colchesterctbusiness.com](http://colchesterctbusiness.com)

### Letter from the President:

After doing a bit of local shopping recently I started thinking about the number of folks who are out of work and what can I do to help. I've thought about hiring them myself, but I don't really need a person to cut my cigars. Other than that, what else can one person do? As I came out of a local store, with a number of packages and still going strong it hit me. Keep doing what I'm already doing. Shop! While I'll agree that you can find everything you need at those big box stores, what do they do for you? I mean seriously, besides saving a few dollars, and I do mean a FEW dollars, what do they do for your community? Colchester stores, and surrounding local stores contribute to the local economy by donating to local causes such as high school teams raising money, service groups conducting fundraising campaigns and many other donations that help folks. Keep in mind, these people receive requests from all over the area, not just the town in which they are located.

According to the United States Department of Labor, the total Nonfarm Payroll Employment in Connecticut rose 1.3% between March 2010 and March 2011. While those numbers are heartening, there is still much to do. Please do the majority (if not all) locally. Local business owners are here to serve you. Also, remember, when you need larger ticket items, shop as local as possible. I tell the story of buying a freezer and washer last year and buying locally, and yes, it was more expensive. All of \$2.39 for both machines and I received much better service in town, than I would have at the big box. Please support your friends and neighbors. - **Thank you, Fred Brown CBA President**

**S&S Worldwide Recognized as a "Patriotic Employer"** - Laid up with a broken leg, Christine St. Onge's thoughts turned to better times, when she could unburden some of the load on her husband. But Christine's husband was 6,000 miles away. In 2009, CM1 Scott St. Onge, a U.S. Navy Seabee, was sent to Iraq. That's the year Christine fell and broke her leg. In 2010, shortly after Scott was redeployed to Afghanistan, Christine underwent knee surgery and began a painful recovery.

Christine had the support of associates at S&S Worldwide, where she works. Her work friends propped her up during a difficult time. In turn, St. Onge nominated the company for the Patriotic Employer Award from the Connecticut Committee for Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

St. Onge also credited CEO Stephen Schwartz and Co-Presidents Adam and Hy Schwartz for their compassion. "They would call to check in on me and made sure if I needed anything they would supply it for me, no questions asked and no request in return," she wrote.

The award recognizes S&S as a Patriotic Employer for "contributing to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve Force." It was presented to the Schwartz family by Thomas Pandolfi, MOB/DEMOB coordinator for Connecticut's ESGR.

"Companies like S&S have gone above and beyond in making its employees feel less stress, which accompanies the deployment of a spouse. S&S can be proud of its supportive patriotic duty," Pandolfi said.

- Exerpts from S&S press release, Jesse Drake, S&S Worldwide

## BUSINESS BRIEFS - MEMBER NEWS!

- Great job **Shattered Endz!** In Oct., Lauren and Debi volunteered their services at the Klingberg School in New Britain for underprivileged kids with a fun time of putting feathers in children's hair. In Oct. and Nov., Debi, Lauren, and Cindy did a night where teens were able to pick 2 services out of 4 for \$25 and it was a great success! To contact Shattered Endz at 75 Norwich Ave. call 860.537.0353
- **Subway is now ready and taking orders online!** Go to [www.subway.com](http://www.subway.com), click on Order Online - Subway Express™, and follow the simple instructions! Colchester Subway is at 31 Halls Hill Rd.
- **Dutch Oil & Dutch Propane** would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a very Merry Christmas! [www.DutchOil.com](http://www.DutchOil.com)
- As part of their "Dancers Give Back" initiative, this Christmastime, students at **Doreen's Dance Center** collected monetary donations for a young female dancer from New London who is now paralyzed due to a tragic accident. Also, in March, Doreen's Dance Company will participate in a dance concert with other Connecticut studios, proceeds of which will go to help this former dancer who has no medical insurance. 860.267.7756
- Congratulations **Traci McComiskey** for achieving the "AWARD OF EXCELLENCE" from Safeco Insurance for the 2nd consecutive year. She has managed the personal lines accounts with **Gerhardt Insurance Agency** for 8 years. Call (860) 537-4661 to review your insurance needs.
- **Three Rivers Community College** held a ribbon cutting with the **Small Business Development Center**, which helps small businesses put their best foot forward with plans, budgets, and more. The head of this office will also help businesses struggling with bad credit and other blemishes accentuated by the recession. Contact advisor Marcie Boyer at 860.885.2345
- **Three Rivers Community College is offering Continuing Education Phlebotomy Technician course** in the Spring 2012 March 5—June 4. This 160 hour course prepares students for entry level competencies as phlebotomists in hospitals, clinics, blood banks and other healthcare settings. Phone: 860-885-2608 Email: [Continuing\\_Education@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:Continuing_Education@trcc.commnet.edu)
- **Jack and Lori Faski** would like to thank all who stopped by for our holiday open house at **Skyview Realty**. The turnout was tremendous and they would like to thank all who brought food for the food bank and checks for the fuel bank. It is greatly appreciated by the town and those who need it. The 2 rooms are completed for the inn, so check their website for details, [www.skyview-realty.com](http://www.skyview-realty.com). Happy Holiday!
- **The Center For Wellness, LLC** purchases property on Hayward Avenue with plans for opening in Jan. 2012! The Center offers; holistic health care, alternative medicine, wellness workshops and classes, online learning certificate institute, inspirational items and health products store and natural café. The Center's Helping Hand is a nonprofit branch which raises funds for military personnel/veterans and cancer patients/survivors to receive The Center's health services for free. [www.thecenterforwellness.org](http://www.thecenterforwellness.org), [info@thecenterforwellness.org](mailto:info@thecenterforwellness.org), 860.729.5958.
- **CASTLE's 20th Anniversary Gala and Silent Auction** was postponed due to October's untimely snowstorm. Please join them on Saturday, January 28th from 6:30 – 10:30 pm at the Glastonbury Hills Country Club for dinner, dancing and open bar as they celebrate this milestone. Tickets are \$60 per person. Proceeds from the Silent Auction will go toward CASTLE's building expansion goals to enhance programming for Colchester's children. For more information please call CASTLE at 860.537.0214 or visit [castlekid.org](http://castlekid.org).
- **CBA President Fred Brown** was recently awarded the **Ray of Sunshine Award** from WILLI, i98.3. The award highlights philanthropy in the community. Contact Fred at Northeast Family Federal Credit Union 860.646.8870
- The Middlesex County NAACP awarded it's Larry McHugh Business of the Year Award to **Suburban Stationers of Middletown** at the 26th Annual Membership and Freedom Fund Dinner, Oct 6. The award was presented by Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce President Larry McHugh in recognition of Suburban Stationer's dedication, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit. They provide office supplies and furniture, printing, coffee and other office needs. 693 High Street, Middletown, call 860.347.0299

### Welcome Businesses! New CBA Members

- **ILLIANO's** – Paul Illiano; 119 South Main Street 860-537-4434 Restaurant, food service
- **REED WEALTH MANAGEMENT** – Brendan Reed Lewis, 392 So. Main St. Risk & Tax Management, Estate & Retirement Planning 860.539.9782
- **MY ESTATE GOODIES** – Lori Moreno, On-line estate sales 860.617.2565



Greg Swanson and Cheryl Siegmann of Colchester Insurance giving a presentation at the Dec. meeting

## WE INVITE YOU TO SPONSOR A CBA DINNER MEETING

### Thank you to Colchester Insurance for sponsoring our December Dinner Meeting and Holiday Party.

Members are invited to sponsor a meeting and you will have the opportunity to give a presentation about your business or organization, advertise yourself and distribute information. Sponsors are featured in our Community Page in the Reminder, in our newsletter, at the meeting, and on our website.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES - RENEW TODAY

If you have not already done so you must contact the CBA to renew your membership. As a CBA member you are able to take advantage many valuable benefits. Your annual membership gives you access to many events which will help you to promote your business or organization, such as CBA Monthly dinner meetings, After-Hours Networking events, The Annual Tag Sale on the Green, The Business Showcase and Food Frenzy, and the Scarecrow Decorating Contest. We work for you and give you ideas for networking, exposure on our website, and ways to increase your visibility.

**Membership Renewal dues are payable in full by January 1, 2012.** Payment can be made by cash, check, or credit card. To pay by credit card contact Michele Wyatt, our Services Coordinator, at (860) 537-0340. Payment can be mailed to: Colchester Business Association, P.O. Box 453, Colchester, CT 06415.

We look forward to working with you and serving the Colchester community. Thank you to all of our members for supporting business in Colchester. Remember - **Shop Colchester First!**

## THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE GIFTS DONATED TO SANTA'S ANONYMOUS

**At the December dinner meeting and holiday party we collected a huge pile of gifts for families and children in our community.** Santa's Anonymous is a private, community based group of citizens who also coordinate efforts with the Colchester Lion's Club for food, Colchester Rotary Club for warm clothing, and the town's social services department. CBA members, their friends and family, donated wrapped toys to the annual drive. The CBA thanks all those who were able to make a donation.

*A overflowing table of gifts were collected at the CBA Holiday Party*



## REMINDERNEWS PRESENTS TOWN GUIDE AD SALE PROCEEDS TO CBA

The CBA received proceeds from ad sales generated by the ReminderNews for publishing the Town Guide. Greg Barden of the ReminderNews presented a check to Ginger Pensa, CBA Boardmember, at the Holiday dinner meeting.

*Greg Barden of the ReminderNews presenting a check to Ginger Pensa*



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## FROM THE DESK OF... Marnie Balaski

Independent Disney Destinations Travel Consultant,  
GET YOUR EARS ON! m.balaski@snet.net / (860) 917-6150  
'LIKE' us on Facebook @ Get Your Ears On



*Marnie Balaski*

### *Why YOU SHOULD Use a Travel Agent*

I often get asked why a client should book their Disney Vacation with a Disney Destinations Travel Consultant, and not go it alone. After all, with Expedia, Orbitz and the like, aren't travel agents going the way of the dinosaurs, or worse the printed novel? Well here are some reasons to keep us busy working for you:

Disney destinations offer a buffet of options from over 23 hotels at Walt Disney World to over six ports from which to leave on a Disney cruise. As wonderful as these options are, they continue through park tickets, dining plans, eateries, ports of call, cabin options and so on. Of course you could buy a guidebook, surf the web, compare and contrast reviews. PHEW. But why when...

Travel agents are paid by their suppliers, in this case, Disney. The service is completely FREE to the client. There are no behind the scenes mark ups or hidden fees. Even though Disney offers the same rates to all travel agents that they have on their public website, you can still save money using an agent. Travel professionals are well versed in 'Disney website/promotion speak' and often know how make these special offers work for you. While not required, a reputable agent will make sure existing clients receive rebates when applicable. This is especially true of...

Travel agents specializing in Disney destinations. Commonly referred to as having 'Mickey DNA', these agents make a point of being as knowledgeable as possible from first-hand experience, on line Disney courses and reading daily updates, blogs and reviews of new attractions, amenities, etc. The best Disney travel consultants will treat your family vacation as their own, getting to know you, your likes, needs and interests and molding your vacation into the vacation of a lifetime. They will recommend where to splurge and where to save. Remember, any good agent would rather make less in commission and earn your trust than make you feel like you overspent. You will be much more likely to share their name with a friend. Speaking of friends...

The benefits of working with an independent agent (such as myself) are many: first, they work outside normal business hours, i.e. evenings and weekends. Also, you will not be passed around between an office of agents. Individual agents go above and beyond with recommendations, reservations, organization and travel tips, and as an added bonus, many will thank you for your business with their own booking incentives.

However or whomever, have a magical time!



Support CBA Member Businesses!

Shop Local!

Support CBA Member Businesses!

Shop Local!

Here are some of the services and products your fellow CBA members have to offer!



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# CBA

Colchester Business Association

P.O. Box 453  
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*Meeting Colchester's Business Community  
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## Happy New Year! Next CBA meeting Jan. 10 at the Town Hall

Check out Holiday Party pics on [colchesterctbusiness.com](http://colchesterctbusiness.com)!



**ATTEND MONTHLY MEETING • NETWORKING EVENTS • MEMBER BENEFIT PROGRAMS**

### MENU:

Cheese and Crackers,  
Garden Tossed Salad,  
Dinner Rolls,  
Shrimp Scampi Medley,  
Chicken Contandina,  
and Vanilla Sheet Cake  
with Butter Cream Frosting  
for dessert.

*Please note our Dinner Meeting Policy:  
Everyone gets 1 time forgiveness, after that we  
need 24 hour notice of cancellation prior to the  
dinner in order to not be billed. All no shows  
and anyone cancelling after the 24 hour rule will  
automatically be billed.*

## Next CBA Dinner Meeting: Tues., January 10, 6 - 8 p.m. at the Colchester Town Hall

*SOCIAL AND NETWORKING HOUR BEGINS AT 6:00 P.M.,  
DINNER BEGINS AT 7:00 P.M.*

***Guests and new potential members are  
always welcome!***

**Sponsor:** Dr. Marty Zase, Colchester Dental Group  
**Speaker:** Greg Schuster, "State of Colchester" address  
**Caterer:** Family Pizza **Cost:** \$15 per person  
**RSVP:** by Dec. 29 (860) 537-0340 or [info@colchesterctbusiness.com](mailto:info@colchesterctbusiness.com)  
**Location:** Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue

**For more CBA info go to [colchesterctbusiness.com](http://colchesterctbusiness.com) or call 860-537-0340**