

WS CHAMBER  
COUNCIL OF  
GOVERNMENTAL  
AFFAIRS

February 2010



**Sponsor of the February 2010 Newsletter**

Piedmont Natural Gas is an energy services company primarily engaged in the distribution of natural gas to more than one million residential, commercial and industrial utility customers in North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, including 61,000 customers served by municipalities and other wholesale customers. Our subsidiaries are invested in joint venture, energy-related businesses, including unregulated retail natural gas marketing, interstate natural gas storage and intrastate natural gas transportation.

**Dear Kelly,**

You are receiving this email because you expressed an interest in Government Affairs when you became a member of the Chamber. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please unsubscribe at the bottom of this page.

**Please save this newsletter as a reference to committee meetings and activities for the month of February.**

**Connect with us on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn**



**Please see Chamber Happenings below**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Lunch with Leaders**  
*Friday, February 26*



Another year is upon us. We are excited about some changes within the Council of Governmental Affairs structure for 2010.

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
W-S Chamber Boardroom

**\* Registration Required =  
Invitation will go out next  
week**

## 2010 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### Environmental & Energy Issues

*May 26, August 25, December  
22*

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

W-S Chamber Boardroom

### Emerging Fiscal & Regulatory Issues

*February 16, June 15,  
September 21, December 21*

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Forsyth Tech Small Business  
Center (across hall from  
Chamber)

### HILL Committee

*February 9, May 4, August 17,  
November 2*

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Forsyth Tech Small Business  
Center (across hall from  
Chamber)

### Transportation Issues

*February 11, May 13, August  
19, December 16*

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

W-S Chamber Boardroom

If you are interested in joining  
one or more of these  
committees, contact Jake  
Cashion at  
[jcashion@winstonsalem.com](mailto:jcashion@winstonsalem.com) or  
728-9249.

## WINSTON-SALEM VOICE

is a very important change which will help streamline and  
allow the ability to broaden our issue base.

We have combined the Local Issues Committee and the Fiscal  
and Regulatory Committee into the ***Emerging Fiscal and  
Regulatory Issues Committee***. We are very fortunate to  
have the leadership of Marc Schaffer, President of [Truliant  
Federal Credit Union](#) and Perry Hudspeth, President of [Anchor  
Financial Management Group, LLC](#) as Co-Chairs for this new  
committee.

The mission and goals will be to encourage tax, economic and  
regulatory policy on the local, state and federal levels of  
government that will impact job growth and development,  
address issues and offer solutions to create a more efficient,  
less costly government and business environment.

If you are interested in joining or finding out more about this  
exciting endeavor, please let us know by [clicking here](#).

Thanks and we look forward to a great 2010!

With Regards,

Glenn Cobb  
Chairman - Council of Government Affairs  
Chief Staff Executive - Winston-Salem Regional Association of  
Realtors

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Thank you for your all of your help in 2009  
on many different issues. While it was a  
very challenging year for the business  
community, we will move into 2010  
stronger. I appreciate your help and hope  
that you will continue to be involved.

We have some exciting changes upcoming  
this year as well as some upgrades to our  
online political action center,  
[WinstonSalemVoice](#). I hope you will use it  
regularly.



To give you a good idea of the Council of Government Affairs  
and its structure, our mission is to advocate for public policy  
that is in the best interest of business, encourage more  
efficient, less costly governments and to protect and educate  
members on key business issues. The following is our 2010  
committee structure:



[Click Here to Join!](#)

Bookmark the website,  
[www.WinstonSalemVoice.com](http://www.WinstonSalemVoice.com)

### QUICK POLL

**What issue do you think is the most important challenge facing business this year?**

**Click [here](#) to tell us!**

**Questions or Comments? Please contact us.**

Jake Cashion  
Director of Governmental Affairs  
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[jcashion@winstonsalem.com](mailto:jcashion@winstonsalem.com)

Kelly Bright  
Executive Assistant  
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#### Thanks to Our Platinum Investors

AT&T North Carolina

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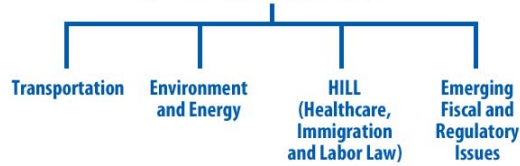
Hanesbrands Inc.

Harris Teeter Supermarkets, Inc.

North Carolina Baptist Hospital

Reynolds American

The Winston-Salem Journal



Additionally, our 2010 Winston Salem Chamber of Commerce's 2010 Business Agenda is being finalized. We will be submitting it to our elected officials in late winter. We will have the final version out soon so please be on the look out for this document as time draws near. Your help in promoting and advocating for these items is extremely important.

Thanks again for your participation in helping to make Winston-Salem and our region a great place to do business. You are what make the difference and it is appreciated. If you know someone who wants or should be involved, please let us know by [clicking here](#).

Jake Cashion  
Director of Government Affairs  
Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce

**I welcome the opportunity to visit your business to learn how we can better serve you, especially if you have a government affairs issue. Please let me know and I would be happy to schedule a visit.**

### ONLINE LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL ACTION CENTER

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

The Council of Government Affairs for the Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce has a great tool in our online legislative and political action center. Here you will find many resources to become educated on issues, track important legislation, and contact your elected official in the local, state and federal levels of government.

Your elected official exists to represent your views and interest, but they need to hear from you to know how to do so. You are in the best position to engage and educate them about how laws and regulations impact your bottom line. If you don't do it, who will? So when an issue arises, make sure to click the "Take Action" button on the right and tell your representative how you feel.

Twin City Quarter

Wachovia Bank, NA

Wake Forest University Health  
Sciences

Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools

Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC

**Please bookmark this site and use it as a tool.** It will be constantly updated and so you will have up-to-date information.

Your Online Legislative and Political Action Center!

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

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As a review for certain legislation we supported and advocated or continuing to advocate for, we have assembled a Legislative update. You can view that [here](#).

## ISSUES UPDATE

A couple weeks ago, we sent a call to action on a particular item of concern. We urged you to contact your elected representatives in the U.S. House, along with both of North Carolina's senators to urge them NOT to include language in the Defense Appropriations Act (H.R. 3326) that would require all state and local governments to provide collective bargaining (or union contracts) for certain employees. This provision was part of an aggressive union agenda in Washington that will make governments less efficient and more costly for taxpayers. There was a great response from you and we are certain the Winston-Salem business community was heard and thankfully this language was not included in the legislation.

The revenue situation for North Carolina is always being followed. A joint legislative committee has been looking into re-working the tax system. The goal would be to find a way to broaden the sales tax base and reduce the sales tax rate. The discussions are ongoing but if you are interested in learning more about the economic outlook for 2010, [click here for the latest outlook from NCGA Fiscal Research Division](#).

The city of Winston-Salem has a couple issues that are important to the business community and your help will be needed but below are some items we are paying attention to and working on:

**-Nonresidential Building Code** - this potential ordinance will give the city the authority to inspect any "vacant" building within the city and look for violations described in the ordinance. We are concerned about this ordinance and believe that a definition between "vacant" and "abandoned" properties needs to be defined. Additionally, there is great concern that the ordinance would also include "occupied" buildings, such as your office.

**-Text Amendment to the Sign Ordinance** - there is a pending text amendment which offers changes to the sign ordinance regarding electronic signs. Currently, electronic signs are allowed in non-residential zoning districts. However, if a sign was permitted prior to Nov 2007, it may

display a message that scrolls and changes every 8 seconds. For electronic signs permitted post Nov 2007, they are not allowed scroll and can change only every 2 hours. This text amendment changes the post Nov 2007 change rate to 2 minutes from 2 hours. It is of our opinion that this is a positive change and will bring some equity and fairness back to the ordinance.

-We are also following the ideas that are coming out regarding the **proposed utilization of Dell repayment for business assistance programs**. The city staff is proposing a multi-pronged approach but the city council must approve which include the following:

- Small Business Job Creation Incentive Program
- Economic Development Fund
- Revitalizing Urban Commercial Areas (RUCA)
- Special Technology Company Assistance Programs
- Retail Loan Program
- Building/Fire Code Assistance Program

The above are just a sampling of what all is going on. We will be on top of all of these and more and will make sure to continue to keep you updated.

## CHAMBER HAPPENINGS

### Join the Chamber LinkedIn Group



A benefit for members only, the [Chamber LinkedIn group](#) is a way for you to network online with your peers. Ask questions, catch up on Chamber news, post your own news story and (discreetly) promote your own product or service. The LinkedIn group also has a [Governmental Affairs subgroup](#), designed to heighten awareness of and encourage discussion about legislative issues that affect YOU and your business. Looking forward to seeing you online!

### Become a Fan of the Chamber on Facebook



Your Chamber also has a [Facebook 'fan page'](#) where you can view and RSVP for events, watch Chamber videos, see and comment on networking and other photos of Chamber happenings and start and respond to discussions.

### Follow the Chamber on Twitter



Get up-to-the-minute updates on public policy, Chamber events and other news by 'following' us on our [Twitter page!](#) Just [click here](#) to get started. You don't have to be a member to receive 'tweets' from the Chamber - FREE!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **WOW! What a Success!**

***Wednesday, February 10***

***5:00 - 7:00 p.m.***

***W-S Chamber of Commerce, 601 W. Fourth Street,***

### *Suite 101*

Our first "Welcome on Wednesday" Before Hours networking event was so successful that we have scheduled a WOW! After Hours featuring the WS Symphony, Associated Artists, The Arts Council and The RiverRun International Film Festival. Register [here](#).

### **Tech Council Speaker Series Presents WFUBMC CEO John McConnell**

*Thursday, February 11*

*9:00 - 10:00 a.m.*

*Piedmont Triad Research Park, 115 S. Chestnut Street*

Dr. McConnell, who has just led Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center through a comprehensive strategic planning process, will share Wake Forest Baptist's vision for the future--especially in terms of its research and technology enterprise--and what that can mean in terms of local and regional economic development. Join us afterwards in the atrium of One Technology Place for coffee and conversation. Free, but registration required. Click [here](#) to register.

### **Business Before Hours**

*Friday, February 12*

*8:00 - 9:00 a.m.*

*Cabinet Studio, 1033 Burke Street in downtown  
Winston-Salem*

Bring a non-perishable food item for Second Harvest Foodbank and Cabinet Studio will match your contribution pound for pound. Register [here](#).

### **Small Business Roundtable: Learn how SMART women beat stress and Burnout**

*Thursday, February 18*

*11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.*

*W-S Chamber of Commerce, 601 W. Fourth Street,  
Suite 101*

Are you feeling overworked and overwhelmed? Is taking care of yourself last on your list of things to do? Find out what you can do to simplify your work, beat stress and burnout, and create time to recharge your batteries. Presenter: Dr. Barnesly Brown, is a published poet, musician, educator, and professional speaker. She is known for being a super-enthusiastic, content-rich speaker who inspires participants to get on their mission and take action now! Bring Your Lunch and Enjoy... Sponsored by Wells Jenkins Lucas & Jenkins, PLLC and hosted by Forsyth Tech's Small Business

Center and WS Chamber of Commerce. Click [here](#) to register.

## **Egg Droppers and Volunteers Needed!**

*Saturday, February 20*

*Hanes Mall*

Join the fun at the 7th Annual WS/FC Egg Drop Competition. K-12th grade students are encouraged to help celebrate Engineers Week by participating. Registration required. Volunteer and participation details can be found at [www.wsfceggdrop.com](http://www.wsfceggdrop.com) or contact Rodessa Mitchell at 728-9222 or [mitchell@winstonsalem.com](mailto:mitchell@winstonsalem.com).

## **Lunch with Leaders - SAVE THE DATE**

*Friday, February 26*

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

W-S Chamber Boardroom

**\* Registration Required = Invitation will go out next week**

## **Reserve Your Booth Now for the 2010 Business Expo!**

*Thursday, April 22*

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

*Benton Convention Center*

Sell your products and services to hundreds of potential customers. Booths are selling fast so click [here](#) to register, click [here](#) to view the floor plan and to see the exhibitor list. Boost your visibility by becoming a corporate sponsor-- click [here](#) for all the details. Contact Andrea Howell at [ahowell@winstonsalem.com](mailto:ahowell@winstonsalem.com) or 728-9228.

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