



March 2010



Sponsor of the March 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 who are 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.

Chairman's Report

The Council of Government Affairs has been very busy this first part of 2010. One of our most popular programs was held at the end of February. The first Lunch with Leaders programs of the year featured State Senator Linda Garrou and NC Representative Bill McGee. This was a great program which offered many different topic discussions including but not limited to transportation issues, state tax reform and education. These state leaders answered concerns from the business members with great enthusiasm and understanding of the issues.

We thank them for taking the time to come in to

CONNECT WITH US:

 [Follow us on Twitter](#)

 [Become a fan](#)

 [Join our LinkedIn group](#)

Please also see Chamber Events below

UPCOMING GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS EVENTS:

participate in this roundtable discussion.

We have three more Lunch with Leaders planned for the remainder of 2010 – when you see the invite go out, make sure to sign up fast. We are averaging full registration lists within a day of posting.

Thanks to all of you for your help and involvement.

With Regards,
Glenn Cobb, Chairman – Council of Government Affairs
Executive VP – Winston-Salem Regional Association of Realtors

Director's Report

We have some very exciting opportunities coming up. One I want to mention today is about an upcoming Transportation Summit.



We are in the process of finalizing the planning for the 2010 Piedmont Triad Transportation Summit being held in conjunction with the Greensboro Partnership and the HP Chamber of Commerce on March 18, 2010.

Our area faces many transportation challenges. This issue could be one of the key missing components to our economic development initiatives in Forsyth County and the region. State and local jobs, business sustainability and growth, economic prosperity and quality of life are highly dependent upon a strong transportation system. Relieving traffic congestion, enhancing community mobility and safety, helping to sustain existing and attract new business and industry to ensure future economic development projects in the Piedmont Triad is vitally important for the long term prosperity of our communities and regional cooperation leading the way is a start for a strong transportation network which is critical to our competitiveness.

As the economy changes and adapts, logistics will be a key factor in serving customers, clients and citizenry. Growth and jobs are moving to cities, communities and regions where the roads and infrastructure are in place. We have the human capital, the leadership,

March 18 - 2010 Piedmont Triad Transportation Summit

March 23 - Press Conference - TRIP Report - The Future of NC's Transportation System

If interested in either event, please call 336-728-9249 or e-mail jcashion@winstonsalem.com for details.

2010 GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Environmental & Energy Issues
May 26, August 25, December 22
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
WS Chamber Boardroom

Emerging Fiscal & Regulatory Issues
June 15, September 21, December 21
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Forsyth Tech Small Business Center
(across hall from Chamber)

HILL Committee
May 4, August 17, November 2
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Forsyth Tech Small Business Center
(across hall from Chamber)

Transportation Issues
May 13, August 19, December 16
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
WS Chamber Boardroom

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



and the ability to grow; however we must put ourselves in a more competitive position with respect to transportation infrastructure.

We have two expert panels planned, as well as NC Secretary of Transportation Gene Conti as the Keynote Speaker. If you have interest in learning more about this summit and other things the Transportation Committee and the Council of Government Affairs are undertaking, please let me know by [clicking here and sending me a note](#).

Thanks and we'll see you soon!

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

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.

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



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
(336) 728-9249
jcashion@winstonsalem.com

Kelly Bright
Executive Assistant
(336) 728-9243
kbright@winstonsalem.com

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

Don't Miss the Chamber's 9th Annual Tech Briefing!

Wednesday, March 31
8:00 a.m.
Salem College's Salem Fine Arts Center

Ten innovative companies will present the new and exciting technologies they are developing right here in Winston-Salem. Learn how these companies are helping to transform our economy. The Tech Briefing is FREE to attend. A reception and networking will follow the presentations. The 2010 Tech Briefing is presented by Cook Medical and sponsored by: Dishner Moore Architects LLP; Small Footprint; SolidSpace; Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center; and Wake Forest University Center for Nanotechnology and is hosted in

Your Online Legislative and Political Action Center!

WinstonSalemVoice.com

Legislative Agenda

We have been in the process of completing the 2010 Winston Salem Chamber of Commerce's Business Agenda. The committees worked hard on the language for this year's agenda and we are proud to say that it has been approved. We will be submitting this to the elected officials this spring prior to the NC General Assembly going into session.

But we wanted to give you a couple of issue highlights of what is included. They do not rank in any particular importance.

- Transportation
- Employment and Labor Law
 - Healthcare
- Environmental and Energy
 - Fiscal and Regulatory
 - Education
- Economic Development

We look forward to discussing these different topics with our elected officials and helping to promote a strong business environment. Stay tuned, and please make sure to grab a copy of the agenda this spring!

Council of Government Affairs Committee Highlights

The mission of the Council of Government Affairs 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. As a reminder, our structure is:

in conjunction with the City of Winston-Salem. For more information, to see the list of presenters, and to register please [click here](#).

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 or 728-9228.

THANKS TO OUR PLATINUM INVESTORS

AT&T North Carolina

Bald Eagle Technologies of NC, LLC

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina

Cook Medical

Forsyth County

Forsyth Medical Center & Affiliates

Hanesbrands, Inc.

Harris Teeter Supermarkets, Inc.

North Carolina Baptist Hospital

ReynoldsAmerican

The Winston-Salem Journal

Twin City Quarter

Wachovia Bank, NA



The Transportation Committee has been busy working on the aforementioned Piedmont Triad Transportation Summit. We also have a very important press conference coming up. We were picked as one of three cities in the state to release a report on the future of the transportation system in NC. The report was prepared by a national transportation group and this is a high honor to be chosen as a location for its release and we take this very seriously. The other two cities are Charlotte and Raleigh.

We also have been working to protect Interstate 74 (eastern leg of the Northern Beltway) as the NCDOT works to reform the Urban Loop Prioritization Process. Additionally, we approved support for the Center City Streetcar project for Winston-Salem and are pleased to support this initiative.

The Environmental and Energy Committee has been working to inform and educate local businesses who might be subject to new reporting of greenhouse gases by the EPA. We have worked and are continuing to work with the Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Department on this issue. Additionally, we have formed a short-term task force to address and offer a solution to a very exciting opportunity. There will be more to come on this and the hope of the task force is that your support will be there. Stay tuned!

The HILL Committee is in the process of working to continue the fight against the Employee Free Choice Act, repealing the state law to make collective bargaining legal for public employees and working to support the right of employers to manage employees without unnecessary government involvement and the

Wake Forest University Health Sciences

Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools

Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC

SHARE THIS EMAIL:



CONTACT US:

Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce
 601 West Fourth Street
 Suite 101
 Winston-Salem, NC 27101

[Add us to your address book](#)

state's Employment-At-Will doctrine. These are very important challenges and ones which must be taken seriously in order for NC and our community to compete nationally and globally.

We also are planning to send a survey out very shortly and hope that you will participate. We want to update our understanding of what some of your strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are when it comes to employment and labor law, healthcare, and immigration.

The new Emerging Fiscal and Regulatory Issues Committee has met and approved the goals and objectives of the committee. We will be working to encourage innovative ideas and solutions to create more efficient, less costly governments. This is an exciting time especially as the state continues discussion on tax reform and the city and the county work on their budgets. We are confident this committee can help offer the necessary solutions. We will be sending out a survey shortly and hope that you will participate for this is going to help shape our direction as well.

If you have interest in these or any other chamber activities, please let us!



You are receiving this e-mail because you expressed an interest in Governmental Affairs when you became a member of the Chamber. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please click the 'unsubscribe' link below.

[view email in browser](#) | [unsubscribe](#) | [update your profile](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

As a valued member of the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, you agreed to let us send you periodic messages in order to help you get the most out of your Chamber membership. If these communications no longer meet your needs, you may opt-out at any time by clicking the 'unsubscribe' link in this e-mail above.

Copyright (C) 2010 Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce All rights reserved.