



**April 2010**

## Chairman's Report

An election season is upon us again. In one month, May 4, there will be a primary election for many local offices. From a US Senate race to the local school board, all the races are important and matter.

To help you understand who is running in what race; [click here to see a Candidate Information List](#).

Additionally, early voting will begin on April 15. For more information on that, [click here](#).

We hope you will take this right seriously and make some time to research candidates. If you need any information, please let us know.

Happy voting!

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

## Director's Report

We had a very exciting March. Two big events happened with the Council of Government Affairs.

### CONNECT WITH US:

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Please also see Chamber Events below

### 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

One, we were a partner in the Piedmont Triad Transportation Summit. This was an important event held in conjunction with the High Point Chamber and the Greensboro Partnership and as our leaders' say, one that was much needed. We appreciated the participation of all but especially from those in our community who were involved. They did an outstanding job in explaining the problems, challenges and possible solutions. BIG thanks go to the following:

**Mr. Jerry Cook** – VP, Hanesbrands, Inc –  
Transportation Comm Vice-Chair

**Mr. Tom Carroll** – Vulcan Materials Company and  
Transportation Comm Chair

**Mr. Ralph Womble** – NCDOT Board Member –  
Region 9

**Mr. Pat Ivey** – Division Engineer – Region 9

**Mayor Allen Joines** – Winston-Salem

Secondly, on March 23 at the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Joines, Gayle Anderson, Mayor Larry Williams and Carolyn Bonifas, a TRIP Representative, held a press conference to release a report authored by The Road Improvement Program, TRIP; a national research organization based in Washington, DC. Winston-Salem was chosen as one of three locations in NC for the release of this national report.

[The Future of NC's Transportation System](#) can be found here for your review. It highlights many critical projects in the Triad, many having regional and statewide significance. As noted in the report, Interstate 74 in Forsyth County is a critical missing link. Additionally, the report discusses how transportation improvements impact job creation, economic development and the cost to motorist.

We are going into a busy time of year. We will be visiting our legislators in Raleigh in May and continue planning for some very important events the chamber will be having. Stay tuned and more information will be available.

Thanks and please let me know if you need anything.

(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](mailto:jcashion@winstonsalem.com) or 728-9249.



#### **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.

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Kelly Bright  
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#### **UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS**

**Business Before Hours** Friday, April 9  
from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. at MediaFit Strategic

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.

Some updates have been made to the site. Please [click here](#) for more information and make sure to take 10 seconds to take the Quick Poll. The results will help us get a better feel for some of your challenges so we can address accordingly.

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

## Healthcare Reform

As you are well aware, Healthcare Reform has been signed into law. If you are interested in learning about key provisions of the bill that take effect immediately, [click here](#).

### 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:

Marketing and Advertising, 6285 Shallowford Road, Lewisville, NC 27023. RSVP for our popular early-morning networking event [here](#).

**WOW! After Hours** Wednesday, April 14 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. at the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, 601 West Fourth Street. RSVP [here](#).

**The Technology Council Presents Dr. Frank M. Torti**, Vice President of Strategic Programs at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center and Director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Torti will discuss the technology bridges necessary to move the discoveries in the Comprehensive Cancer Center quickly to patients, as well as reveal the ways in which Winston-Salem is becoming a preeminent cancer treatment center. Dr. Torti is one of the most respected cancer experts in the country and recently served as the U.S. Federal Drug Administration's acting commissioner, after being named its first ever chief scientist. The event takes place in the Piedmont Triad Community Research Center Building, 115 South Chestnut Street, Winston-Salem on Thursday, April 15, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and is followed by networking and refreshments. The event is free, but registration is required. [Click here](#) to register.

**22 Days Until Business Expo 2010!** [Click here](#) to see the exhibitor list. Is your competitor listed? Then you should be too! [Click here](#) to register as an exhibitor, [click here](#) to view the floor plan. Even if you are not exhibiting, be sure to join us on Thursday, April 22, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Benton Convention Center. The day kicks off with Business Before Hours from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. The Expo floor opens at 9:00 a.m. Be on hand to visit more than 125 exhibitor booths. Find new vendors, meet new customers and network with over 1500 attendees throughout the day. Enjoy samples from 12 area restaurants during the BB&T Mid-Day Mingle from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. You don't want to miss this premiere business event! Admission



**Transportation Committee** - we are continuing to provide comments to the NCDOT regarding the Urban Loop Prioritization Process. We are appreciative to them for taking into consideration our economic development comments as well as removing a couple of other issues we had concerns with from the report. We will continue to stay abreast of this situation. Additionally, we will be providing comments to the Joint Legislative Transportation Committee who will be working on issues to address the equity formula of transportation funds distribution. At our committee meeting in May, we will have a presentation on identifying and developing future Business/Industrial Parks. Transportation is a key item in the location of these business parks.

Finally, on May 10 and 11, the NC Railroad Company will be holding the 2010 Rail and the New Economy Forum. Experts from both freight and transit sectors of the industry will share their insights about how to maximize the state's rail corridors. For more information and to register, please visit [www.ncrr.com](http://www.ncrr.com).

**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!

We are in the process of putting together information

is free just please bring your business card.

### 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
- 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

on a summit to discuss the national energy policy. There will be more to come with this exciting event and hope you will plan to attend – more info forthcoming.

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

**The HILL Committee** - this committee will have a very busy second half of the year. There are some great programs coming up we are working on. While it is still early, one will target employment law and the other healthcare and the impact of the new healthcare law on different industries. Additionally, there are some important bills that are in the U.S. Congress and the NC General Assembly on [Winston Salem Voice](#) that pertains to employment and labor law.

[Add us to your address book](#)

### **Emerging Fiscal and Regulatory Issues**

**Committee** - Forsyth County will be working on the county budget over the next few months. We will keep you abreast of any major changes. The following dates are important to know and attend if possible:

May 13 – Budget Presentation to the Board of Commissioners

May 20 – Budget Workshop/Detailed Presentation

May 25 and 26 – Budget Workshop

May 27 – Public Hearing

The budget will have to be approved by June 30.

Additionally, there are several vacant county appointments to boards and commissions. These are important roles and the elected bodies really pay attention to what they recommend. For a complete list, [click here](#). If you have any questions on those, don't hesitate to contact us.

In regards to the Winston-Salem City budget, the city is facing an \$8.4 million short fall for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Our committee is taking suggestions on ideas on reducing this amount. If you have suggestions, please share with us by emailing Jake Cashion at [jcashion@winstonsalem.com](mailto:jcashion@winstonsalem.com). Additionally, the city will be holding budget workshops. Those dates are as follows: May 27, June 1, June 10 and June 14.

Your help is needed. This committee will be releasing a survey in the near future. Please take a few minutes to complete it. As we progress in our work,

addressing emerging issues is our goal. Please let us know your thoughts when that survey is released.

**School Board Candidate Drop-ins** - This is the first Non-partisan election in the history of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education. Since there will be no party affiliation to guide voters in their voting, the Forsyth Education Partnership (FEP) is providing opportunities for the public to meet the candidates. These drop-ins give the voters an opportunity to meet and talk with the school board candidates individually or in small groups in an informal setting. FEP invites all voters and candidates for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education and/or their representative(s) to attend the drop-ins listed [here](#). The Forsyth County Public Library is providing the meeting space. With up to 26 candidates, space at some locations may be limited. Voters may obtain information about the Candidates by reviewing the Voter Guide posted on FEP's website at <http://www.ForsythEdPartnership.org/>. For directions to the library branches, consult Forsyth County Public Library's website at [www.forsyth.cc/library](http://www.forsyth.cc/library).

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



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