



MODC Matters

A Publication of the Monmouth-Ocean Development Council
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E-Newsletter

March 2010

Upcoming Events

Grow Your Business Seminar Series
"Watching the Game Films" Seminar
Tuesday, March 9, 2010
New Jersey Natural Gas, Wall Twp.

"Business After Hours"
Wednesday, March 10, 2010
First Financial Federal Credit Union,
Wall Twp.

"Corporate Philanthropy 2010
and Beyond"
General Membership Meeting
Friday, March 19, 2010
Spring Lake Manor, Spring Lake

"Storm Watch"

To check the status of MODC activities which may be affected by inclement weather conditions log on to www.wobm.com or www.943thepoint.com and click on the "stormwatch" link to obtain up-to-date information.

Recent Events

What a pleasant surprise to hear that the business leaders of Monmouth & Ocean Counties have an optimistic view of where our local economy is heading. A couple of the indicators mentioned by Stephen Reed of Cowan Guteski & Co., MODC's partner in the survey, were that 49 percent of respondents anticipate an improvement in their respective industries in 2010, and that 84 percent were either hiring additional employees or maintaining current staff levels. Although most businesses had a decline in sales over the past year or two, the majority were able to continue providing a high level of production or service throughout the recession. This is all good news for the outlook of the economy. A full summary of the survey results are available on MODC's web site.

General Membership Meeting
Business Outlook Survey
February 19, 2010



Climate Change Conference & General Membership Meeting
January 15, 2010



Reminder

The MODC Membership Directory is available to members free of charge at any time in either electronic or hard copy format.



Committee Reports

Business Growth & Development
(Len Nitti, Chair)

Inclement weather behind them, members of the Business Growth & Development Committee met on February 17th to work on their every-busy agenda. The next in their series of *Grow Your Business* seminars is set for March 9th, with panelists from area businesses scheduled to talk about the things they did to successfully navigate the troubled economic

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conditions of the last year. There is also a Business After Hours on the calendar for March, and another seminar program scheduled for late Spring. As if that was not enough, this committee will be hosting the June general membership luncheon as well. If you would like to be part of this dynamic committee, stop in to their next meeting on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, at the MODC office.

Cultural & Tourism
(Tom Gilmour, Chair)

A full house, including a number of new committee members, was on hand for the Cultural & Tourism Committee meeting on January 25th. With a lot of anxiety, and a watchful eye, tourism officials are looking to the new administration to provide them with some information about the future of tourism funding in the state. A coalition will be formed to include a variety of interests from around the region that will develop a proposal of issues and concerns that we would consider working on with the Secretary of State and the Department of Tourism to promote and enhance tourism throughout the state. The committee also discussed their May luncheon program and seminar, which will hopefully include a keynote luncheon presentation by the Lt. Governor, Kim Guadagno, who is also the Secretary of State and oversees tourism and the arts. More to come on that at the next meeting which will be on February 22nd (change of date due to President's Day holiday).

Quick Links

[MODC Website](#)
[Event Registration](#)
[More About Us](#)

Energy & Environment

The conference room table was full and surrounded by some new faces and a few "returning" faces at the January 26th meeting of the Energy & Environment Committee. Coming off of a successful conference just a week prior, the group critiqued the programs and set their sights on new initiatives. With the changes that are taking place in Trenton with the new administration, a watchful eye is in order to see how it will impact the way we do business here at the shore, particularly as it relates to dealings with the DEP. Committee members will monitor the progress and any new legislation that would be of interest to this committee. The next meeting will be on February 23rd.

Government Relations
(Tom Hayes, Chair)

In the absence of Committee Chair Tom Hayes, Vice Chair Paul Dement stepped up to cover the January 27th Government Relations Committee meeting at the MODC office. A few new members were present and promptly added to the discussions. All eyes are on the new administration in Trenton in hopes that a more friendly business environment might be on the horizon for our state. There was a recap discussion regarding the Candidates Luncheon in September, as well as some conversation on the upcoming Legislative Reception in May. We are seeking a venue for that event and will formalize that program at the next meeting. Committee members also discussed a few pieces of pending legislation that MODC has been involved with going back into the last legislative session. They will continue to be monitored in the new session to determine if additional action is necessary on behalf of MODC. The next committee meeting will be on February 24th.

Nonprofit
(Paul Brook, Chair)

As a parting gesture of her allegiance and rapport with the members of the MODC Nonprofit Committee, Lori Sadwith hosted her last meeting before retiring from United Methodist Homes to escape to the ski slopes with husband Geoff for some R & R. After a few spotlight comments from Rich Olszewski from Merrill Lynch, and an update on the good things happening in the world of UMH, the committee focused on a number of upcoming programs in the works, including the March luncheon and a series of seminars. A grant writing program is first on the agenda, followed by a seminar on using the internet for fundraising. Lots of good things in the works here, and more details to come at the next meeting on March 8th.

CENSUS 2010 IS COMING!

Everyone should be receiving their census surveys during the month of March. *Please* take the opportunity to review, complete and return it immediately after receipt. If you return your form the Census Bureau will not have to send a representative to your home to obtain the information. And if you don't think this is important to your business or organization, take a moment to view the links below. There is also a link to information about the survey form and questions so you can be prepared to respond as quickly as possible.

[Importance of census to businesses](#)

[Importance to the community](#)

[Questions on the form](#)

BizConnect

BizConnect is the new toolbox of Monmouth County's Department of Economic and Workforce Development. It's where questions are answered, information and advice are found, and is a clearinghouse for ideas that can create new ways of doing business anywhere in Monmouth County. BizConnect is comprised of the Office of the Business Advocate, Economic and Workforce Development, Tourism, Planning and much more. For more information on all of the free services offered by BizConnect call (800) 523-2587, or visit their web site at www.visitmonmouth.bizconnect.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

(Note - meetings are at the MODC office at 8:30am unless otherwise noted)

- Mar 8 Nonprofit, **(location TBD)**
- Mar 10 Marketing, **3:30 pm**
- Mar 11 Member Services, **3:30 pm**
- Mar 17 Business Growth & Development
- Mar 22 Cultural & Tourism
- Mar 23 Energy & Environment
- Mar 23 Government Relations
- Mar 25 Technology
- Mar 26 Economic Development

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