



GMACC News

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2010

Benefits of Your Chamber Membership:

- Network Opportunities
- Leads Groups
- Newsletter PR
- E-blast advertising
- Sponsorship Opportunities
- Community Outreach Opportunities
- Access to Affiliates

In this Issue:

A Word from our President/ New Members!	1
Village Tree Lighting / Leads Group	2
Member Privacy Newsletter & E-blast Guidelines	3
ICC President's Message	4
JAN 30: Mortgage Relief Project	5
FEB 4: MEDC Economic Survival Breakfast	5
GMACC Calendar / Networking Event	6

A Word from Our President... Jeanne Felten

On behalf of the Greater Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce (GMACC) board I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your continued support in 2009 and going forward into 2010. 2009 was a year of change for us and 2010 will be more of the same. We are committed to providing you with new opportunities and resources that will help your business be successful and ultimately help us to succeed as well.

Our first step in this process was hiring Pam Nagel as our new Executive Administrator. Pam brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to this position.

Our next step will be facilitating a strategic planning session for our board members to identify our goals and better define our mission as an organization.

We will resume the publication of a monthly newsletter and encourage each of you to submit articles or ideas for inclusion. We want to hear what's going on with our members and celebrate your achievements.

There will also be networking and educational opportunities that we hope you will take advantage of to help drive your success. As we navigate through this planning process we will rely on you to share your wants and needs with us and participate in any programs or activities that we may offer.



Membership renewal packets will be going out in February and we hope that you will see a benefit in the GMACC and choose to continue your membership. 2010 will be another year of challenges and economic uncertainty and it is our hope that by working together we can all grow and succeed.

Welcome New Members!

Fifth Third Bank
Michael Giocomino
630-844-8235

Rogy's Learning Place
Wendy Pettett & Beth Petri
630-264-2031

Coldwell Banker Honig-Bell
Barb Lucas 630-450-5332

Charles Rutenberg Realty
Kris Kearns 630-669-6316

Studio Avalon
John Bonk 630-892-2636

Carson Chiropractic & Massage Therapy
Casi Grabill 630-551-1003

If you know someone who would make a great addition to our Chamber, invite them to join! Then have them call 630-897-8137 for a Membership Application packet. It's that easy!

Nearly 500 Attend Village Tree Lighting



On December 6th, the Montgomery Village Hall grounds were filled with holiday merriment and a crowd estimated at nearly 500! Better weather and growing community pride account for the nearly double attendance over last year.



It began with the arrival of two very special visitors, Santa and Mrs. Claus by Fire truck, and the official lighting of the evergreen tree in front of Village Hall.

Entertainment was provided on

the Fox Valley Park District outdoor stage by several area elementary schools with holiday song: Nicholson Elementary, Lakewood Creek Elementary, St. Peter's School, St. Luke's School, Cub Pack 316 from St. Luke's, Mc Dole Elementary and Troop 347/ Den 5 from Mc Dole.

Meanwhile, it was standing room only inside the Hall. There families had the opportunity to have their pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus and to warm up with free hot cocoa and cookies

provided by your GMACC.

Special thanks to the Montgomery and Countryside Fire Protection District and the Aurora Township Fire Department for the safe arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus and their extra help shuttling hot water to Village Hall to make more hot cocoa!

If you have creative ideas for the 2010 event, or if your business would like to participate in any way, just contact the Chamber office. 630-897-8137. The more the merrier!

Special thanks to area Fire Departments for the safe arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus



What's a Leads Group?



Leverage Leads Groups and Generate Sales

Chamber Vice President, Jennifer Jones Sinnott, is your "go-to" person for information about joining the Greater Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce (GMACC) Leads Group I.

According to Sinnott, "The goal and objective of the leads group is to provide a forum for business people to meet and learn about each other's business through networking, business introduction presentations, and one-on-one information exchanges". There are many important aspects to successful network-

ing, the most of which is referring business to others. If you aren't networking to increase your business then you should seriously consider joining the leads group. Tips, leads and referrals pave the path to success.

The GMACC Leads Group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 12:00 p.m. at the Village of Montgomery, 200 N River Street, Montgomery, IL 60538. We invite all members of the GMACC to visit our meetings and become active participants.

We also encourage business leaders who are not current chamber members, but are contemplating joining to check out our group. You may attend the leads meeting twice as a guest before you make the decision to join. Membership in the Leads Group is limited to one representative per industry.

If you have questions or want more information please contact the Chamber office at 630-897-8137, or Jennifer Jones Sinnott directly at 630-762-9090.

You Should Know... GMACC Member Privacy

As a member of the Chamber, your business contact information is listed in the on-line Member Directory. Anyone who visits the website has access to this information, but by design, they cannot directly download it to a personal database. That will not change.

As of January 2010, all email communication broadcast to our members will be blind copy addressed. That is, individual email addresses will not be shown on information to you from the chamber. This will

ensure that our database of members is not easily forwarded to others for non-chamber related communication.

A pdf member directory will be made available later this spring to all renewing members. Updates for new members throughout the year will periodically be made available.



Blind-copying distribution list ensures member privacy

GMACC News: Submission Guidelines

Is something interesting going on in your Business? Do you have any business tips/ techniques to share with others in our Chamber community? Are you an expert in your field or just outright passionate about business, leadership, philanthropy or any other topic? Has someone in your company done something noteworthy and deserve to be recognized? Hosting an after hours event? What ever it may be, GMACC News wants to

know!

GMACC News will accept monthly news articles from its members who want to share their business savvy and passion with their fellow Chamber Members.

Guidelines: Provide a creative headline to catch readers' attention; Text maximum of 200 words (Microsoft Word format, please); Optional 1-4 pictures (jpg format); Submit by

the second Friday of each month (but the sooner the better), for publication the following week.

Best of all, NO FEE for Chamber Members!

You can send articles each month with the subject heading: "GMACC News" to, gmacc@montgomery-illinois.org and make sure to include your name, email address and daytime phone.

**Are you
passionate
about business,
leadership,
philanthropy... ?**

E-Blast Submission Guidelines

Can't wait to submit an article in the monthly Newsletter? Then E-blast is another place for you, our Chamber Members, to make your voices heard.

If you want fellow chamber members to know something about your company — a special promotion, event or unique opportunity — request a GMACC E-blast.

E-blasts will begin in February starting on a bi-weekly basis, (February 3rd and 17th) — more often if there's enough interest.

Send your flyer or information in pdf format as soon as you have it to: gmacc@montgomery-illinois.org with the subject heading, "E-blast Request".

We'll post it as soon as possible. Make sure to include your name, email address and daytime phone should questions arise.



Request an E-blast for messages that have to get out within 2 weeks

FOCUS on ILLINOIS

Message from Doug Whitley, President/CEO, Illinois Chamber of Commerce:

Jobs. The overriding issue is jobs.

Illinois must start 2010 by embracing a Jobs Agenda.

The health or demise of the Illinois economy rests upon lawmakers and employers working together to pursue pro-growth policies to restore jobs. If there is to be a renaissance in investment and job growth for our state, employers – the true job creators – deserve more attention and respect from lawmakers. And, employers must step up more often and work harder to engage elected officials in constructive and instructive dialogue about the many challenges to running a successful business in Illinois .

Employers need confidence their business can grow and prosper in Illinois . The anti-business rhetoric from politicians must end and a new era of business friendliness must begin. Job creation and population growth are economic catalysts.

How bad is job loss in Illinois ?

October statistics revealed that more than half of Illinois' 102 counties, including the most populous ones, reported unemployment in excess of 10 percent. Winnebago County (Rockford) reported the highest rate at nearly 16 percent. Nearly 700,000 people were unemployed that month. True unemployment is undoubtedly worse, because those statistics do not reflect people who are not collecting government benefits, have exhausted government benefits, have given up the job search or have left the state.

The state has lost 302,100 manufacturing jobs this decade. The departure of those manufacturing

jobs no doubt contributed to our status as having the third-worst record for job creation in the nation. Illinois has experienced the outward migration of 750,000 people – third-highest behind only California and New York . The population trend suggests our state is likely to lose another seat in Congress after the next census.

Illinois remains the fifth-largest industrial state and home to numerous dynamic, successful businesses and institutions contributing to a diverse economy that others envy. Unfortunately, the trajectory of many comparative business climate measures has been downhill for years. For example, Illinois once had the sixth-highest per capita income in the country. The 2005 analysis showed Illinois ranked 14th in per capita income. It is time for a conscious and concerted effort to reverse the slide by focusing on job growth.

What is making the problem worse?

Elected officials and candidates for public office fail to understand that the best economic safety net is not growing costly government programs. It is jobs. One of the greatest ironies of that misguided thinking is that without robust private sector employment growth, there are fewer and fewer taxpayers providing the money for government to spend.

While the recession has been blamed much of the current fiscal crisis in state and local government can be directly attributed to the steady erosion of private sector employment over the last decade.

Government inattentiveness to employers and failure to acknowledge the economic consequences of adverse political decisions have contributed to disinvestment in our communities. Some employers have packed up and moved to more hospitable locales. Others have chosen to make new investments in other states.

Do elected officials understand they must support private sector job growth?

President Obama recently acknowledged that the solution for economic recovery and job growth remains with the private

sector. He said, "But, I want to be clear - - while I believe that government has a critical role in creating the conditions for economic growth, ultimately true economic recovery is only going to come from the private sector... It is only when the private sector starts to reinvest again, only when our businesses start hiring again and people start spending again and families start seeing improvement in their own lives again that we're going to have the kind of economy that we want. That's the measure of a real economic recovery."

Governor Quinn also has been saying and doing the right things. He has acknowledged our unemployment numbers are unacceptably high and he repeatedly says how important it is for every able-bodied person in Illinois to be working. In support of a range of job-creating initiatives, the Governor has attended: the Farm Progress Show in Decatur ; the Chicago Ford Taurus production line kick-off rally; and the ribbon-cutting for the 300-person Siemens wind turbine manufacturing facility in Elgin . The Governor has appointed an Economic Recovery Commission and meets with business people who have interests, needs and visions for economic projects in our state.

What should the role of government be in job creation?

Simply put, Illinois government officials should embrace change, adapt to challenges of global competitiveness, promote technological advances and reduce barriers so free enterprise can succeed. Government can create conditions for economic growth by:

Assuring employers the public's investments in education yield qualified and productive workers.

Making timely and adequate investment in maintaining and modernizing the

- state's transportation, water and telecommunications infrastructure.
- Streamlining and expediting government agency decision making and permitting.
- Paying vendors on time.

(Cont'd on p.5)

Mortgage Relief Project: FREE Seminar in Joliet—SAT JAN 30

The Mortgage Relief Project is a result of the Homeowner Protection Act (HB-4011) signed earlier this year by Governor Pat Quinn. The new law provides a grace period of up to 90 days on mortgage foreclosures for homeowners that enter housing counseling. It also requires that all lenders and loan servicers notify homeowners who are at least 30 days late on their mortgage payments that they have 30 days to seek housing counseling to get their loan back on track. If a homeowner enters housing

counseling, he or she gets an additional 30-day grace period on foreclosure in order to work out a payment plan or refinance option. In an effort to stem the high number of foreclosures, Governor Pat Quinn's Mortgage Relief Project is touring the state to help struggling Illinois families keep their homes. We provide the outlet for Illinois residents to get private, one-on-one housing counseling offered by HUD-certified professionals. In addition to housing counseling, the free Mortgage Relief Project

workshops offer homeowners helpful advice to prevent foreclosure, understand their legal rights and recognize the tell-tale signs of mortgage fraud.

DATE: Sat. January 30, 2010

TIME: 9 am—1 pm

PLACE: Joliet West High

School Auditorium
401 North Larkin Ave
(enter from Glenwood)
Joliet, IL 60435

FREE Housing counseling available. To register call 1-800-532-8785 or visit www.idfpr.com



Hosts:
State Senator

— A. J. Wilhelmi
State Senator

— Linda Holmes
State Representative

— Jack McGuire

Co-Hosts:
House Republican
Leader

— Tom Cross
State Representative

— Linda Chapa LaVia
State Representative

— Emily McAsey

MEDC Breakfast Discount for GMACC Members— FEB 4

“Business Survival in Today’s Economy” is the topic for the MEDC’s first breakfast meeting of 2010.

DATE: Thur. February 4

TIME: 7:30 am—10:30 am

PLACE: Montgomery Village Hall, 200 North River Street

FEE: Only \$5 for GMACC

members.

This event will provide tools and incentives to help businesses grow and prosper during these tough economic times. Participants will have the opportunity to network with speakers, including business leaders as well as state and local government officials before and after the event.

A sampling of topics include: Smart ideas to address the cost of energy, College resources for Workforce and Small Business Development, State Grants, Tax Credits, new business incentives and the Recovery Act Zone. Call 630*-897-6748 x 11 for more information or to reserve your place!

Impressive Line-up of Breakfast Speakers

Illinois —cont’d

- Reducing the cost of doing business in Illinois by realigning taxes, feed, workers’ compensation costs and Employer mandates.
- Getting out of the business of helping unions organize.
- Aggressively assisting Illinois businesses and institutions in becoming global leaders in research and development, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. Providing opportunities for small business to successfully compete.

What is the call to action for the business community?

We desperately need engaged private sector leaders and an electorate that is prepared to demand greater expectations for economic opportunity for their futures in Illinois. Business and community leaders must champion initiatives that put people to work while putting candidates for public office on notice that their attention needs to be on growing jobs, not driving them away.

It is time to embrace a new jobs agenda that sets economic growth as Illinois’ top priority. The Illinois Chamber is compiling a Jobs Agenda for 2010. I invite and highly encourage all members of the Illinois Chamber to send me ideas for what job growth initiatives we ought to be promoting in the coming year.

We cannot say it often enough: **Jobs. The overriding issue is helping the private sector prosper and grow jobs in Illinois.**



ILLINOIS

Illinois Chamber of Commerce
<http://www.ilchamber.org>



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Montgomery, IL 60538

Phone: 630-897-8137
Fax: 630-897-6747

E-mail: gmacc@montgomery-illinois.org

MULTI-CHAMBER NETWORKING EVENT...

Sponsored by
GMACC Member:
NetComm Business Solutions

Date: Feb 24th
Time: 5:30-7:30 pm
Place: Hounds Blue Moon
2124 W. Galena Blvd
In Aurora

RSVP by Feb 12
For more info call:
630-844-0707

CALENDAR

MONTGOMERY CHAMBER KEY DATES:

- **February 12** — Cut off for Feb article submission to GMACC News
- **April 1** — Membership dues are due
- **May 6** – Annual Chamber Dinner Awards Meeting
- **July 15** – Annual Summer Golf Outing
- **August 14-15** – Montgomery Fest
- **October 1-2** – Oktoberfest
- **December 5** – Village of Montgomery Tree Lighting Ceremony

Look for Event Sponsorship and participation information in the next Issue of GMACC News!



ILLINOIS CHAMBER UPCOMING WEBINARS

Learn more and register for the following sessions at:

<https://ilchamber.webex.com/mw03061/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=ilchamber>

- **Social Networking for Business 101**
Thursday, February 4 | 11:00 - 12:00 | Fee: \$59
- **Affirmative Action Plans: How to Implement and Be in Compliance With an OFCCP Audit**
Thursday, February 18 | 1:00 - 2:45 | Fee: \$79
- **Converting Your Print Newsletter to an E-Newsletter**
Tuesday, February 23 | 11:00 - 12:00 | Fee: \$59

I really want to know...

In the future, this area of the GMACC Newsletter will be reserved as a Q & A section.

- Do you have a question about your membership?
- Want to know something about your benefits?
- Need an idea to kick-start your business?
- Have an idea you want to share with other chamber members but don't know how?

If we select your question or idea, with your permission, we'll post your business logo, too!

Take advantage of your chamber membership and watch your business grow.



By all means call the Chamber office at 630-897-8137, or send an email to: gmacc

@montgomery-illinois.org and we'll find an answer for you.

We may even print it here!

GMACC News:
Pam Nagel, GMACC Executive Administrator/ Editor