

# 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



CT's Award-Winning Chamber !

**Work the Chamber...it WILL work for you!**

**COMMUNITY \* IDEAS \* NETWORKING**



### The State of the Quinnipiac Chamber

This has been a tough year and we've all been put to the test. We've gotten leaner, worked harder, listened better and adjusted the way we do business. Many things have had to change but some have stayed the same.

Our Quinnipiac Chamber has looked at changing with the times in several ways: we've developed Facebook and Linked-in pages as well as a QC Blog; we've done more emailing and online communications than in the past; we've tweaked our website to make it more interactive; and we've added new opportunities such as the Wellness Council, the Que Pasa group, Grand Openings/Ribbon Cuttings (over 30 this past year !), and a new Business Directory with online resources.

But some things stay the same: we provide a *community* that offers you a stable environment that you can count on to provide resources, services, a place to share ideas and fears—and friendly faces who really want to work with, and help you; we provide a place to share *ideas*- whether it's sharing with other businesses or listening to a speaker/expert, participating in any function, provides you with a worthwhile experience, even if you only take away one good idea each time; we provide opportunities for endless *networking* - come to our free BAHs or other events and use us like you would a membership at a gym—and you'll build your business's muscle, strength and health. We've seen it work so many times (hundreds) that we actually guarantee it!

We still stand for the voice of business: we held our first Jobs Rally to raise awareness of lost businesses and jobs – which was picked up by tv stations, newspapers and uploaded to YouTube; your President was invited to give input to the Governor regarding business; we've worked very hard to fight legislation that increases the cost of doing business.

As difficult as it's been, we will bounce back. Every penny spent in this world, comes from business.

So use all your resources to decide what changes you need to make and what valuable services you want to keep the same – we can connect you with people to help.

But most importantly, please know that we will be here for you...just please use us !

*Robin*

### LEGISLATIVE

- Chamber Lobbyist/ Legislative Committee
- Bill Tracking/ testifying
- Work with Coalitions
- CT Business Day
- Legislative Forums/ workshops

### Networking Activities

- QNet 1 & 2 (relationship-building groups)
- QWIN (Women in Business)
- YPROQ (Young Professionals)
- QC Bikers (motorcycle riders)
- Golf League
- Tom Groves Golf Tournament
- Annual Meeting

### EDUCATION

- Business Breakfast Workshops
- School-to-Career programs
- “Career Connection Online”
- Intern Program
- Career/Job Fairs
- Business & Education Foundation
- Junior Achievement programs
- Mentoring Program
- Read Aloud Program
- Scholarships

### Networking. cont'd

- Athena Awards Luncheon  
(Gov. Rell, Honorary Chair)
- Holiday Party

### MEMBER SERVICES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Annual Business EXPO
- Workforce Development
- Website: interactive & very high visibility
- Billboard Program
- SCORE Connections
- Demographic/Town/State Info
- Town Information
- Business Ribbon Cuttings
- “State of the Town” Addresses
- Business After Hours
- New Member Receptions
- Certificate of Origin
- “QC Deals” email flyers

## **The Quinnipiac Business & Education Foundation**

Formed in 2003, this broad-based foundation serves the community with grant dollars and donations for scholarships. We are very fortunate to be able to work with a number of wonderful groups and foundations whose generosity allow us to be part of the following outstanding programs. We offer a very special thanks to:

Graustein Foundation & Wallingford Youth Services....."WECARE" program  
CT Health Foundation & Wallingford Youth Services.....Children's Mental Health Program  
Ulbrich Stainless Steels, Wal Mart....."Career Connection Online"  
AT&T and North Haven Senior Center.....Computer Center in the No. Haven Senior Center  
Fred DeLuca Foundation.....Scholarship Monies

## **QChamber Staff... Working for You !**

Robin Wilson, President & CEO  
Cindy Semrau, Vice President, COO  
Maribel Carrion, Senior Administrator  
Dee Prior, Account Executive & Administrator  
Liz Davis, Benefits & Education Coordinator  
Kelly O'Neill, Administrative Assistant  
And ...  
Elizabeth Gara, Gara & Markowski, LLC, Lobbyist  
Fred Holloran, MarkeTactics Marketing Services  
Marie Buno, KM Buno Associates, LLC

## **Thanks to our Supporters During the Year**

### **Premier Partner:**



### **Corporate Sponsors:**

BYK USA, Inc.  
Client Server Technology, Inc.  
CYTEC Industries, Inc.  
Diversified Employment Services, Inc.  
Lipper International, Inc.  
Nucor Steel Connecticut  
Pennant Foods  
SNP Technologies

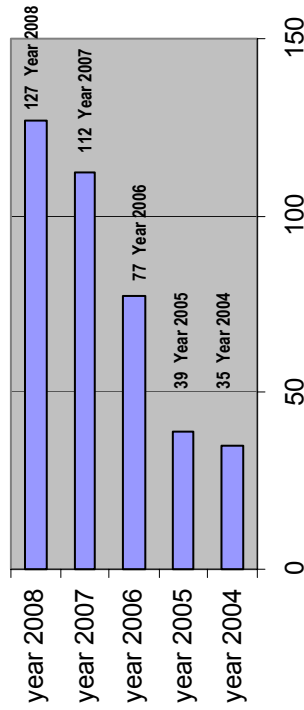
### Membership by Type of Business

Business	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	June 2008
Service	72%	74%	76%	81%
Health	11%	9%	8%	7%
Retail	13%	11%	10%	8%
Manufacturing	4%	6%	6%	4%

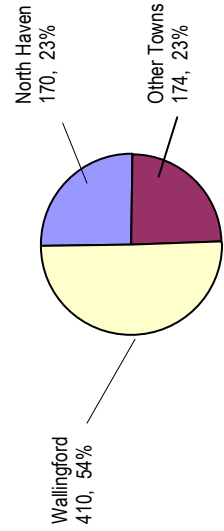
### Membership by # of Employees

Employees	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	June 2008
1-2	45%	44%	44%	45%
3-5	24%	26%	25%	24%
6-10	15%	14%	15%	15%
11-25	6%	6%	6%	6%
26-3000	10%	10%	10%	10%

### New Members Joined by Year



### Membership By Town



## Highlights of the Year... We Made Things Happen For You !

- Added 127 new members to our roster !
- Worked with our lobbyist, other chambers and organizations and our legislators to fight bills that would raise the cost of doing business in CT or negatively impact our business community !
- Advocated for business input to federal agency setting electric rates
- Touched hundreds of students through our Mentoring, job fair, and "Career Connection Online" programs !
- *New !* Held first business "Jobs Rally" to show that business friendly legislation = more jobs !
- *New !* Produced Senior Community Resource Guide
- *New !* Formed Que Pasa Committee Group
- *New !* Organized over 30 Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
- *New !* Que Pasa & Wellness Council committees !
- *New !* Developed: Facebook and Linked-in pages and Lifetiled-sponsored QC Blog ! (all available on our website)
- *New !* Published first Business Directory with online resource link !
- *Thanks to sponsors of our Networking Programs:*

\***QYP** at: Hometown Pizza, Ludals, Laskara Restaurant, Michael's Trattoria, Harry's Sports Grill, Gaetano's Tavern on Main, J Roos Restaurant

\***QWIN:** at Holiday Inn of North Haven, FloraBella Designs, Gaetano's Tavern on Main, Seasons at Tradition Golf Club

\***BAH** sponsors: MountainRidge, MidState Medical Center, Verma Properties, Sunwood Development Corp., Holiday Inn of North Haven, Cascade Fine Catering, Fairfield Inn By Marriott, Colonial Flooring Plus, Alina's Ristorante, Wireless Zone