

Local, Federal and State Legislative Representatives

Amherst Town Board
5583 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221
716-631-7000

Satish B. Mohan, Supervisor
Hon. Mark A. Manna
Hon. Guy R. Marlette
Hon. Dr. Barry A. Weinstein
Hon. Shelly Schratz
Hon. Daniel J. Ward

Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
726 Exchange Street
Buffalo, NY 14210
(716) 854-9725

Hon. Charles Schumer
United States Senate
111 W. Huron St.
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 846-4111

Hon. Christopher Lee
US House of Representatives
325 Essjay, #405
Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 634-2324

Hon. Michael Ranzenhofer
New York State Senate
8205 Main Street, Suite 4
Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 633-0331

Hon. James Hayes
New York State Assembly
5555 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 634-1895

2009 Officers

Chairman
Dennis Elsenbeck, Vice President, National Grid

President & CEO
Colleen DiPirro, Amherst Chamber of Commerce

Secretary
Rich Cahlstadt, HSBC

First Vice Chair
Mark Gaulin, Personal Computers, Inc.

Second Vice Chair
David Flynn, Phillips Lytle LLP

Treasurer
William McGowan, AccuMed Technologies, Inc.

Business Resource Council Chair
Rick Dean, R.W. Dean & Associates

Community Affairs Council Chair
Stewart Haney, WENDEL Companies

Benefits Solutions Advisory Chair
Paul Nesper, Nesper, Ferber & DiGiacomo, LLP

Member
Malini Sridhar, CompSys Technologies

2009 Board of Directors

James Allen, AIDA; Betsy Bonvissuto, Forest City Management; Tim Boyle, NOCO; Maria Casterta, DENT Neurologic Inst.; Vincent Clark, University at Buffalo; Paul Collins, M & T Bank; Donna DeCarolis, National Fuel Gas; David Donovan, Independent Health; Terry Elbersson, Schunk, Wilson & Company; Matthew Enstice, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus; Peter Florczak, Buffalo Niagara Marriott; Michael Giaquinto, BlueCross BlueShield of WNY; Jersome Hooven, Jr., AAA Western and Central NY; Ralph Jeswald, Dopkins & Company; Christopher Jerzewski, McGuire Development Company; Annette Kajtoch, First Niagara Bank; Peter Kates, Univera Healthcare; Christopher Lane, Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital; John Leonardi, Buffalo Niagara Association of Realtors; Sharon Lochocki, Key Bank of New York; David Nasca, Evans Bank, N.A.; Victor "Pete" Peterson, MJ Peterson Company; Maureen Rasp-Glose, Verizon; Lynn Riker, Brain & Spine Center; Suzie Rivo Solender, Solender Services; William Stark, Ciminelli Development; Scott Stencilk, Superior Technical Resources; Bruce Weinstein, Showcase Sports Marketing; Laura Zaepfel, Uniland Development

Special Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors:

National Fuel
Verizon
Phillips Lytle, LLP



Amherst Chamber of Commerce Legislative Agenda

2009

**"Continuing
Community
Collaboration"**

*The mission of the
Amherst Chamber of Commerce
is to create and maintain
a positive economic, political and
social climate in Amherst,
thereby making it possible
for members of the community
to grow and prosper.*

Sponsored by

nationalgrid

 **UNILAND**
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Message from Council

2008 was a very productive year for the former Advocacy Council. A great deal of time was devoted to creating a working body that was responsive, reflective and could move action on behalf of our membership – the business community. We devoted a lot of effort towards refining our deliberations and actions so that we could communicate issues in a timely and efficient manner to stakeholders, create action capabilities to mobilize support for our positions and be proactive in embracing new and emerging issues. To assist the broader community in understanding the scope of our activities we changed our name to The Community Affairs Council.

Simultaneous to our restructuring, the world around us was changing. The stock market was crashing, the banking industry was faltering, a new President was being elected, the NYS Leadership was moving – geographically and conceptually and our local government continued its dysfunction. How do we get our arms around all of that?

Our conclusion is that we break down into subcommittees. We have a Public Officials liaison committee that regularly communicates with our elected leaders at all levels of government. This allows us to share information regarding our members concerns and affords the officials the opportunity to secure some public feedback on issues they are considering.

We also have an Issues Committee. This group assists in the creation of the Chamber's Legislative Agenda. The Agenda is then confirmed by the entire council and sent to the Chamber Board of Directors for consideration. From there it is distributed to the membership for approval. Identifying issues, both broad and specific, and getting a critical mass of support allows us to be proactive in supporting these issues. Getting member feedback prior to authorization of a position precludes us from having to go back to the membership on an issue by issue basis for approval and ensures we are timely in our actions.

2009 is going to be a year of great challenges. We recognize that the region, the state and the country are all facing huge obstacles and massive deficits. The trickle down from those deficits and policy decisions being made to deal with those deficits could have catastrophic consequences on our members and our regional economy. The ability of our Community Affairs Council to interface with regional, state and local officials and collaborate with other agencies, who share our concerns, will be critical to our future fiscal well-being.

The Amherst Chamber of Commerce 2009 Legislative Agenda is an important piece of this effort. Unlike prior agendas, we will not be identifying dozens of initiatives. Rather, we will focus on those with the highest level of importance and most significant ability to affect positive change. Feel free to distribute it and discuss it with all interested individuals as a critical mass of support is invaluable.

Sincerely,

*Dennis Elsenbeck, Chairman
Amherst Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors*

*David Flynn, Economic Development Chair
Amherst Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors*

*Stuart Haney, Community Affairs Council Chair
Amherst Chamber Board of Directors*

*Colleen C. DiPirro, President
Amherst Chamber of Commerce*

2009 Town of Amherst Agenda

Encourage adoption of Framework for Regional Growth

The Framework is a vision and blueprint for how the region can grow strategically over the next 15 years. Our role is to insure that it gets adopted by the Town of Amherst.

Work with the Amherst Town Board and the Amherst Industrial Development Agency on a Redevelopment Plan

Support efforts to change zoning codes to adopt to encourage redevelopment efforts. Encourage adoption of enhanced inducements by Town of Amherst for redevelopment projects.

2009 Regional Agenda

Support, Advocate for and Promote Recognition for UB2020

UB2020 is a significant employer in the town and in the region and its UB 2020 initiative has the capability to create jobs and grow our economy. The program outlined by President Simpson is a platform for the growth we are looking for. The Amherst Chamber of Commerce supports President Simpson's vision for UB and encourages SUNY and the WNY delegation to support the program and the institutional flexibility that will allow the vision to become a reality.

Support and Promote Erie County's Road to a Bright Future

Support the Buffalo Niagara Partnership's Regional Agenda

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership is the leading advocacy agency in the region and will serve as the point of contact and mobilizer of action on regional issues. We will support and communicate to our members their efforts, as appropriate.

2009 New York State Agenda

Support, Promote and Communicate the Unshackle Upstate Agenda

The main focus of Unshackle Upstate is to reduce state spending without raising taxes. The Amherst Chamber of Commerce will promote recognition for and action on the 2009 Unshackle Upstate Priority Agenda

Support actions to address the State's Deficit in a responsible way.

2009 Federal Agenda

Review Federal Stimulus Bill and track data for potential funding sources for WNY