

South Sound

CHAMBER CONNECTIONS



STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2020

THOUGHTS FROM THE CEO



Rebecca Martin, CCE, IOM
Greater Federal Way Chamber CEO

As the decade comes to close and we look to the new year, there's quite a bit to look back on even as we prepare for what is ahead of us. As we look at opportunities and issues, it's helpful to consider what owns us and what we ourselves are willing to own.

Afterall, we don't live alone in a bubble where things just randomly happen to us. We are creating the environment in which we live and work. Taking responsibility for the course we set and how we move forward on that path allows us to work together for a greater good.

Business understands that not shifting responsibility and blame to others translates to economic success for us all. We can stand firm and be true to our values as we work with others. Community and business leaders can express their beliefs with poise and grace, even as they disagree on issues.

I believe it *is* possible to disagree on the issues without resorting to personal attacks. Reasonable public discourse demands fairness in the consideration of issues. Fairness requires an ability to recognize that you are not always right. And if you are at fault, say so. Own it. The other person will respect you for it, and you can both go on to more important things.

Spreading the blame around doesn't result in less blame; rather, it creates an atmosphere of irresponsibility and undermines the trust we need to have in one another as we grow our economy. Accepting responsibility for your opinion can mean being flexible enough to compromise. Finding a compromise on an issue means finding a middle ground you can live with, you don't need to die for it.

We can always be courteous, whether we are to be blamed or blameless. Sometimes we need to think about what we're saying and the way we're saying it. Rudeness begets rudeness, but respect invites respect, and respect supports business growth. Life is short for such drama and we have work to do in this coming decade.

And so, as responsible business leaders, we strive to be as flexible as possible in our opinions as we work together to build our community. We have work to do in the coming decade, some of it will be hard, but all of it will be on the path to a future full of economic prosperity. Let's own it.

Rebecca Martin, CCE, IOM
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Welcome TO THE CHAMBER NETWORK



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Anthony O'Neil
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206.651.9219



Ramos Remodeling
Rafael Ramos
Federal Way, WA 98023
253.740.0609

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

20+ years

Federal Way Public School District No. 210
Cascade Regional Blood Services
Morgan Stanley

5 - 9 years

Belmor Park Golf & Country Club

**New Members and Renewals from
October 8, 2019 - December 5, 2019**

**Find our Members in the online directory at
fedwaychamber.com.**

15-20 years

FUSION
Courtyard by Marriott Seattle-Federal Way

1 - 4 years

Brookdale At Home and Personalized Living Service
Federal Way National Little League
Gallucci's Catering
Nippon Dynawave Packaging Co.
Ready Interiors
Representative Kristine Reeves
Umpqua Bank - 320th Branch

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Build engagement with your audience before, during and after your next trade show. **FASTSIGNS®** can help with sign and graphic solutions to help you engage, educate and motivate attendees.

Before the show, send a printed postcard or brochure to invite someone to visit your booth.

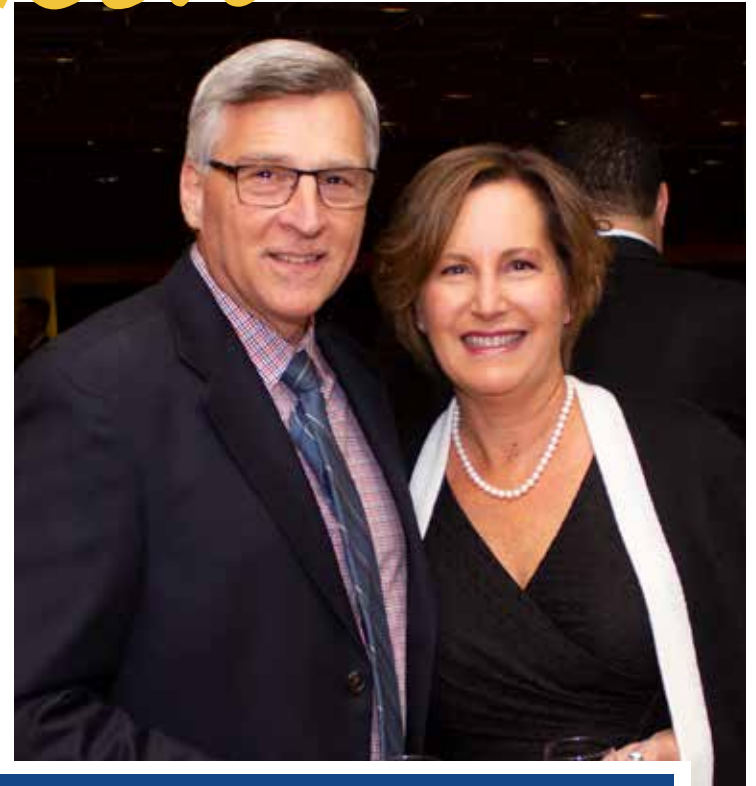
At the show, ensure that your booth space is designed to attract and welcome visitors. Show what you do or sell using large wall or panel graphics, retractable banner stands and a digital kiosk. Wrap nearby columns and your booth podium with brand graphics.

And don't forget to give visitors something to remember you with - a promotional item, a product sample or an impactful brochure.

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MEMBERS *Makin'* IT HAPPEN



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AS A MEMBER OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WE'VE CREATED A COMMUNITY OF SPONSORS THAT SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGES THE CONTINUAL GROWTH AND IMPROVEMENT TO ENSURE OUR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY FOR DECADES TO COME."

- Reuben Morales, Dir. of Community Partnerships, FW National Little League



Contributing Photographer: LaRaye Rushing

2019 CHAMBER Gala & IMPACT AWARDS





STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2020



The Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce (the "Chamber") is a membership-driven organization comprised of business enterprises, civic organizations, educational institutions and individuals. As the voice of business along the Seattle-Tacoma business corridor, the Chamber represents 480+ businesses, employing an estimated 25,000+ workers in the South Puget Sound region. Our vision is to create a prosperous economy in the greater Federal Way area of the South Sound region.

Strategically vital to international trade and commerce in our state, Federal Way is the 5th largest city in King County and 11th largest city in the State. The Chamber's regional scope also includes Pierce County, the State's second largest labor market behind King County.

The business community in the greater Federal Way region recognizes that we are part of an economic interdependent region and state, with diverse needs and interests, and that no one area can progress without another. The Chamber recognizes that funding these priorities will require a mix of funding sources and encourages the legislature to explore options that do not unfairly burden the business community, spreading tax revenues fairly across businesses and individuals with an accountability for those taxes.

The Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce supports the following 2020-21 legislative priorities:

BUSINESS CLIMATE AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS:

1. Puget Sound is engaged in a constant national and global competition for our precious employers and revenue generators. Puget Sound's efforts to retain its position as a key competitor in a global economy mandates that policies be embraced which stimulate economic competitiveness and do not burden our private sector businesses to balance a deficit.
2. With economic development in Federal Way and the South Puget Sound region as a core programming function, the Chamber looks for continued funding for initiatives that support business growth and development, particularly in the areas of business retention and expansion, labor shed and workforce, talent gap and alignment, as well as business attraction.
3. Recognizing that visitor and hospitality trends locally and within the regional corridor are destination amenities related to maintaining and growing a talent pipeline, the Chamber seeks funding support to align talent recruitment strategies to destination management efforts tied to visitation and workforce.
4. Recognizing that the issue of homelessness has many layers, and understanding the impact the issues has on our business climate, the Chamber encourages the Legislature to provide funding support to local jurisdictions working with community stakeholders to address this community challenge. As per the results of our 2018 survey, Impact of Homelessness on Business Retention, the Chamber strongly believes funding for such efforts should be earmarked for local delivery service within the City limits.

EDUCATION/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

1. The Chamber seeks for legislators to address Washington's constitutional obligation to comply with the court order to fund basic K-12 public education as preparation for an educated workforce. As we look to create a competitive regional balance, the Chamber encourages our legislators to address the issue of regionalization which places South King County in an inequitable funding position. Additionally, the Chamber urges our legislature to address the funding inequities impacting the Federal Way Public School system, which receives approximately \$30 million less than other districts in our region as a result of changes in levy collection and the regionalization factor in state funding formulas.
2. The Chamber supports the annual funding for the Higher Education Center (HUB), a partnership with Federal Way Public School District, Highline College, and the University of Washington Tacoma, which will bring additional education and training opportunities to the Federal Way area.
3. The Chamber believes our elected officials should work to protect business and individual economic prosperity by adequately funding the community and technical college system.
4. The business leaders at the Chamber support funding to prepare students for college and careers in high need/high demand fields at community and technical colleges. This includes support for English language learners and funding resources for technology infrastructure which prepares all students for the workforce.

TRANSPORTATION:

1. The Chamber supports the exploration of developing and/or enhancing a multimodal transportation strategy that moves people, services, and goods with easy access along east-west and north-south corridors within the South Puget Sound region. Connecting consumers to the marketplace that includes both King County and Pierce County is a critical component in the retention and attraction of business and its workforce to our area.
2. We encourage the Legislature to continue to support transportation initiatives which merge the infrastructure needs of highways, mass transit, bridges, ferries, and transportation corridors. The Chamber encourages legislators to protect our many years of investment by adequately funding current maintenance and operations needs along with expanding our transit network for future growth opportunities. Legislation should include recognition of key corridors such as I-5, the completion of Puget Sound Gateway Project (SR 167 and SR 509), and other interconnecting mass transit and structural improvements, including support for the development of Federal Way City Access Project.
3. As an economic hub in the South Puget Sound region, transportation along its business corridors is critical for our economic vitality, creating sustainable jobs, and moving goods to and from one of the largest distribution centers in Washington. The Chamber continues to support the funding and construction of Phase II of the Triangle Improvements for the I-5- SR 18 / SR 161 interchange areas to ease congestion and improve traffic flow in the Federal Way area.
4. The Chamber recognizes the necessary investment of mass transit / light rail to meet the growing demands of a growing residential and business community. We welcome Sound Transit's investment in South King County and support ongoing planning for the Federal Way Transit Center station area and the Tacoma Dome Link Extension station in south Federal Way as economic development drivers which meets commuter needs.

Adopted by the Board of Directors, November 21, 2019



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