

CHAMBER CHAT

September 2023

The Chamber and Government Affairs

By Andy Mayer President/CEO

You probably know that the Chamber is involved in government affairs. But you may not know what that entails because there are quite a few pieces to it. Our government affairs efforts include education, advocacy, and directly assisting you when you need it.

Our educational efforts in government affairs are timely because we have a Candidate Forum at our Luncheon on the 27th, focusing on the Mount Vernon City Council and School Board races. We hold the forum to educate you on the candidates so that you can decide whether they suit your perspective as a businessperson and as community members. The Chamber does not endorse candidates but works to have a relationship with them so that an open dialogue is always welcomed. The questions for the forum are written by the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee.

The "GAC" also develops a list of legislative priorities for the Chamber Board to consider each year and identify topics and issues for our state legislators to address at the annual "Legislative Send-off" program hosted by the Skagit Chamber Alliance. These advocacy efforts include sharing the needs of your businesses and particularly your stories illustrating those needs to local, state, and federal officials. By the way, if you are interested in participating on the Government Affairs Committee, please contact me.

The final piece of our work in government affairs is to assist you directly with any need that you might have with a governmental entity. It could be a question on licensing or permits needed for something you're trying to do. We will connect you with the department or person that can best assist you, and help you communicate with them if necessary. Let us know if we can help you in such a way.

On an unrelated note—we won the Battle of the Bridge Golf Tournament! While I'm happy about that, the really great thing was the Mount Vernon and Burlington Chambers working together for the enjoyment of our members and to raise some funds to support our missions. Thanks to our sponsors for making both possible!



GOLD



SILVER



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce
(360) 428-8547
mountvernonchamber.com

Thank You Renewing Members

35+ Years

Blade Chevrolet, Inc.
Chinook Enterprises
Hawthorne Funeral Home, Crematory & Memorial Park
KAPS Radio 660 AM & 102.1 FM
Port of Skagit
Skagit Regional Health

30+ Years

Foothills Toyota
Mount Vernon Carpet One Floor & Home

25+ Years

Handy's Heating

15+ Years

Burlington Plaza
Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow
KBRC 1430AM
Rouw Insurance Services
Skagit Habitat for Humanity
Vintage at Mount Vernon
Wycoff Insurance

10+ Years

K & L Media, Inc.
Modern Cleaners
Northwest Propane, LLC
Salem Village
Washington Vocational Services

5+ Years

Hilltop Pharmacy
J.C.'s Pawnshop Inc.
Legg & Watne, CPAs
PAVÉ Jewelry & Design
Sound Beverage Distributors, Inc.

Less than 5 Years

Betsy Anorbe Real Estate
Ethan Home Repair & Remodeling LLC
Mystical Wares
Skagit Gleaners
Tucker Realty ERA Powered
VibrantUSA

Great Turnout at the Latino Business Leaders 2023-2024 Program

Latino Business Leaders kicked off its 4th year with a fantastic turnout of over 50 new and established Latino Businesses during its August Summer Social and Program Kickoff Event at Blue Taco-Mount Vernon. With its roots in Skagit County, Latino Business Leaders continues to welcome and support entrepreneurs from neighboring counties like Whatcom, Island, Snohomish and even Pierce County. In addition to its regular program that includes business plans, licensing, tax information among other valuable topics; the program will now deliver more specialized training including specific event permits, resources for contractors, funding for business expansion, etc.

Monthly sessions start on September 20 at 6:00 PM with classes facilitated by the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Foundation and held at Skagit Valley College while one-on-one consultations will continue at the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce office. Monthly sessions and one-on-one consultations are held in Spanish and are free.

Partnership opportunities are available, flyer in this newsletter. Those interested in partnering and supporting the Latino Business Leaders program, please contact Silvia Reed | (360) 395-2944 – (360) 305-0895 | Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com

Calendar of Events

Successful Women Entrepreneurs - A "Speaking of Women" Event, Part 3/3

Wednesday, September 13

4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Whispering Firs Bed & Breakfast Lodge

19357 Kanako Ln

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Latino Business Leaders - Empezando su nueva empresa | Launching your new business

Wednesday September 20

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Skagit Valley College

Multipurpose Room, Cardinal Center

[Register here](#)

thrivent

Shawn Steffens, ChFC, RICP
(360) 707-7677

Multi-Chamber After Hours at Country Meadow Village

Thursday, September 14

4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

1501 Collins Rd

Sedro-Woolley

Ribbon Cutting at

Mystical Wares

Thursday, September 21 at 4 p.m.

17869 State Route 536

Mount Vernon

Membership Luncheon Candidate Forum

Wednesday, September 27

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hillcrest Lodge

1717 S 13th St, Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Ribbon Cutting at Pegasus Pie Co.

Wednesday, September 20

12 p.m.

320 S 1st St

Mount Vernon

Welcome New Members

Pegasus Pie Co.

Megan Casad

(918) 766-1814

www.facebook.com/PegasusPies

320 S 1st St

Mount Vernon

Gourmet bakery offering freshly baked sweet and savory pies, breads, cookies and other goodies. Also offering espresso, coffee, teas and specialty drinks.

Skagit Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services

Heidi Roy

(360) 336-9591

www.skagitdvsas.org

1521-B Leigh Way

Mount Vernon

We are the recognized provider of domestic violence and sexual assault services in Skagit County.

Partner Members

Allstate - Mayra Nava Agency, Barron Smith Daugert, PLLC, Best Western PLUS, Skagit Valley Inn, Birch Equipment Co., Budget Towing & Repair, Coastal Farm & Ranch, Costco Wholesale, D&P Electronic Home Monitoring, Farmers Insurance Tory Charette Agency, Foothills Toyota, Fortiphi, Haggen Food & Pharmacy, Hampton Inn & Suites, Infinity Painting & Renovations, Kern Funeral Home, Landed Gentry Homes & Communities, Loving Farms, Max Dale's Steak and Chop House, Mount Vernon School District, North Coast Credit Union, Northwest Escrow, LLC, Pacific Premier Bank, PogoZone, Port of Skagit, Puget Sound Energy, SERVPRO, Skagit Public Utility District 1, Skagit Valley Casino Resort, Skagit Valley College, Skagit Regional Health, Tacos Tecalitlan, Testing and Commissioning Services, LLC, Walmart, WECU, White Branches, Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs

Board of Directors

Chair - Brian Ivie

Skagit Regional Health

Vice Chair - Flora Lucatero

Children of the Valley

Past Chair - Bill Henkel

Community Action of Skagit County

Treasurer - Tammy Reim-Ledbetter

Global Credit Union

Member at-large - Diane Fox

All About Hearing

Viry Delgado

COA Mexican Eatery

Mike Distelhorst

Skagit Publishing

Peter Donovan

City of Mount Vernon

Matt Gill

Marathon Petroleum Corporation

Robert Knoll

Puget Sound Energy

David Lukov

Kern Funeral Home

Andrew Miller

Tulip Valley Farms

Julia Phillip

Julia Phillip Realty

Dr. Amanda Rentschler

Roosevelt Dental Center

Jon Ronngren

Mount Vernon School District

Liz Theaker

Camp Korey

Tony White

Skagit Valley Food Co-op

STAFF

Andy Mayer President/CEO

Silvia Reed Business Development and Foundation Director

Jeremy Kindlund Operations Director

Bob Johnson & Julie Newkirk

Visitor Information Services

Member Announcements

Cooking for the Kids BBQ Competition and Community Festival

The PNW Barbeque Association, in partnership with Camp Korey, will be hosting 36 BBQ competitors competing for a variety of prizes and honors. This weekend event will include a Community Day on Saturday, September 23rd where the community is invited to come try delicious BBQ samples, enjoy live music by local artists, learn more about local organizations and partners of Camp Korey at our kid friendly Carnival Row with games and prizes, check out the exotic car show, spend time in the beer garden, and explore some local vendor booths.

Gates will be open from 11am-5pm.

Free Entry

BBQ and Drink tokens can be purchased

Community Booths hosting fun carnival games and local resources

Poker Run finish line hosted by the Pariah Women's Motorcycle Club

Live music by The Enthusiasts, Savanna Woods, and Out of the

Ashes

McLaren exotic car show

Live radio broadcast from Kafe 104.1

Check out more here! <https://fb.me/e/13KHvKN1S>

*Proceeds will help support Camp Korey!

Skagit BigFoot Fest

September 29 & 30 at the Skagit County Fairgrounds

20+ LIVE Performances

TWO Entertainment Stages

VIP Tickets (F&B, Swag, Lounge)

TWO Beer Gardens

Food Trucks

Artisan Vendors

Kids Zone with Rock Climbing Wall

Scavenger Hunt

Flatstick OTG Mini Golf Challenge

Bigfoot Calling Contest

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE! 🎸🍷🍷🍷 Purchase your general admission event tickets now OR opt-in early to be a VIP for \$75! Plan early so you don't miss out on all the fun!

www.skagitbigfootfest.com/tickets

Tune In
Chamber Chat
Wednesday Mornings
8:05 a.m. (102.1 KAPS Country)
8:20 a.m. (KBRC Classic Rock)

For more member announcements, visit mountvernonchamber.com/member-announcements
Send your announcements to Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com

August in Pictures

Ambassadors



**Mount Vernon Wins
Battle of the Bridge 2023**



**Chamber Connections
Tuesday Morning Group**



**Latino Business Leaders
Summer Kick Off**



**Welcome New Members at the
Membership Luncheon**



**West Coast Reduction
Ribbon Cutting**



**Chamber Volunteer Appreciation
Dinner**

- Chair - Liz Theaker**
Camp Korey
- Betsy Anorbe**
Betsy Anorbe Real Estate
- Marla Chapa**
Skagit Social
- Rick Donovan**
Kona Ice of Skagit County
- Ector DeLeon**
Tulip Valley Winery
- Joley Garner**
WAFD Insurance Group, Inc.
- Carol Harris**
PrimeLending
- Jaime Huss**
Washington Federal
- Crystal King**
NW Technology
- Julia Phillip**
Julia Phillip Realty
- Blake Rawlins**
Guardian Northwest Title &
Escrow
- Tammy Reim-Ledbetter**
Global Credit Union
- Clarissa Wong**
CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC

BRONZE LEGACY



COOKING FOR KIDS BBQ CHALLENGE & FESTIVAL



PROCEEDS
BENEFITING
CAMP KOREY!

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 23
11AM-5PM
AT CAMP KOREY

- BBQ SAMPLES FROM 36 TEAMS
- LIVE MUSIC
- CARNIVAL GAMES
- EXOTIC CAR SHOW
- POKER RUN
- BEER AND WINE GARDEN
- COMMUNITY BOOTHS



LIVE MUSIC
LINE UP
11AM-12:30PM
OUT OF THE ASHES
1PM-2:30PM
SAVANNA WOODS
3:30-5PM
THE ENTHUSIASTS

A pro barbecue competition sanctioned by the
Pacific NW BBQ Association (PNWBA)

CAMP KOREY.
a seriousfun camp



**ALL AGES WELCOME!
FREE ENTRY!**

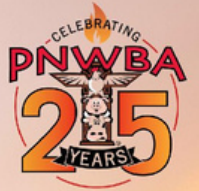
BBQ AND DRINK TOKENS FOR PURCHASE

24880 BROTHERHOOD RD.
MOUNT VERNON, WA 98274

360-416-4122 NELLIS@CAMPKOREY.ORG CAMPKOREY.ORG



**CAMP
KOREY
BENEFIT
RIDE**



POKER RUN



- 36 BBQ TRUCKS
- BEER AND WINE GARDEN
- COMMUNITY BOOTHS
- POKER RUN FINISH LINE
- LIVE MUSIC
- MCLAREN EXOTIC CAR SHOW
- LIVE RADIO BROADCAST

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 23

\$20 BUY IN - 50/50 RAFFLE

Hosted by:

PARIAH WMC

REGISTRATION: JAMESTOWN 8AM

KSU: 9:30AM

STOP 1: THE REX BAR AND GRILL

STOP 2: CORNER PUB

STOP 3: CAMP KOREY

ENJOY LIVE MUSIC - FOOD & DRINK - BBQ -

For more information about
the ride:
pariah.pitbull@gmail.com



For more information about
Camp Korey:
nellis@campkorey.org
www.campkorey.org



Introduce your Business to New Chamber Members

By providing your company swag or special offer to be included in every welcome bag

Send your swag to:



301 W. Kincaid Mount Vernon



(360) 428-8547





MOUNT VERNON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HAVE YOU
CONSIDERED?




MEMBERSHIP UPGRADE

These are just some additional benefits

- ✓ Enhanced website listing
- ✓ Prominent exposure of your logo in our marketing material
- ✓ Free Insertion of business flier into chamber chat
- ✓ Complimentary Admission to membership meetings

Benefits based on membership levels

For information

-  Silvia Reed
-  360-395-2944 | 360-305-0895
-  Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com





Partnership Opportunities

Latino Business Leaders (LBL) is a Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Foundation program designed to facilitate the advancement and participation of Latino businesses through entrepreneurship training programs, networking, marketing and mentorship.

LBL Presenting Partner

\$2500.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in all LBL marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Company name in all radio announcements
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants at all sessions
- ⇒ Marketing table (or similar depending on space) at 3 socials

LBL Partner (3 sessions)

\$500.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in LBL marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants at 3 sessions

Latino Initiative Supporter

\$250.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in event marketing
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants

LBL Social-Networking Event Supporter

\$250.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in event marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Marketing table at event (or similar depending on space)

LBL Session Supporter (1 session)

\$150.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in LBL marketing
- ⇒ Company logo on the event page and displayed during the sponsored session
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for session participants

2023-2024 Schedule

LBL Social-Networking Events

Held in August, December and April

Latino Initiatives

Special sessions designed to support the Latino community and based on specific community needs.

Entrepreneurship Training Program

Monthly training sessions held in Spanish. Designed for start ups and established Latino businesses.

For information contact Silvia Reed | Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com | (360) 395-2944




MOUNTVERNONCHAMBER.COM




Fiber Internet for Condos & Apartments

City of MOUNT VERNON Washington


- Lower pricing and quality service means Higher Occupancy Rates!
- Elevator phones, Kiosk parcel storage, HVAC are available!
- Common area WiFi
- Turnover is lower when value is High!
- Speeds up to a Gigabit
- Affordable TV
- 24 hour Support
- 100 MBPS Upload
- Telephone Services
- Fiber Optic Speeds
- Friendly help
- Month to Month



High-speed Internet



Locally owned & operated



Unlimited monthly access

1. Get the services you want: Pick your Internet speed, add Phone, Fax, and TV if you like. Our process is seamless for making changes... **That's PogoZone!**
2. If you have older infrastructure and don't know how the owner will consider spending thousands of dollars on new wiring? **Think PogoZone!**
3. Saving time and money while upgrading services for your tenants? **PogoZone!**

AND...

We can make your infrastructure run circles around our competition and usually on your existing wiring! **We are PogoZone!**



Internet speed 100/100
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\$49.95/month

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Starting at
\$24.95/month

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 Sales@Pogozone.com

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