Officers, and Directors to be Elected at Annual Meeting

Like Chambers everywhere, the Chemung County Chamber seeks volunteer leaders who exemplify the innovational spirit that fuels free enterprise. James (Jamie) Gensel, President of Fagan Engineers & Land Surveyors, P.C. is just such an individual, and on February 2nd, at the Clemens Center, he will be proposed to Chair the Board of Directors in the new year.

Under his leadership, the Chamber expects to be at the table when important issues and opportunities arise. As a member and officer of the Board, Mr. Gensel has already brought his ardent approach to Chamber questions. "I am excited to welcome him as the 2022 Chair of the Chemung County Chamber Board of Directors." Said Jennifer Herrick-McGonigal, President & CEO of the Chamber. Adding, "Jamie is a long-time member of the Chamber and our Board. The Chamber team looks forward to the accomplishments we will achieve under his leadership over the next year, and collaborating with him to continue the solid foundation of the organization."

The Annual Meeting, sponsored by Chemung Canal Trust Company, Kennedy Valve, and Excellus BlueCross BlueShield is the largest annual gathering of the membership. This year the reception will begin at 5:00 p.m. for networking, where guests can enjoy heavy hors d’oeuvres and an open bar of wine and beer. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. with the slate of nine nominees for the Board of Directors, and nine Officers to the Executive Committee. The program will also include remarks from the outgoing Chamber Board Chairman Michael Printup (Watkins Glen International). A list of candidates can be found on Page 12.

Tickets are available for $75 per person. You can register online or by contacting the Chamber at (607) 734-5137. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Save the Date
30th Annual Economic Forum
Wednesday, March 15th | 8:00 a.m. | Clarion Elmira-Horseheads

*Stay tuned for more information on this event and its status at www.chemungchamber.org
Historic Elmira Driving Guide

Chamber staff has been working with Howell, Liberatore & Associates to create a full-color driving guide of Elmira’s historic sites, complete with a locator map. The Historic Elmira Driving Guide will feature two dozen local sites significant to the Underground Railroad, Twain, Civil War, historic neighborhoods, architecture, and more, and is slated to be released this month. In addition to being available at the Chamber, it will be distributed throughout the Finger Lakes region and in Northern Pennsylvania, as well as at various museums and historic locations.

Automated Events Calendar

Thanks to room tax revenues, the Chamber will be able to implement an automated event calendar on www.marktwaincountry.com, the Chamber’s tourism site. Rather than having staff search events from various URLs, Eventbrite, FB ads, etc., the calendar’s software will automatically pull events from across Chemung County for the Chamber team to review and approve for inclusion.

The event calendar is typically the most visited page on a destination’s website, and having a robust and comprehensive calendar will certainly make our tourism site more appealing and effective by providing comprehensive and current information. It is anticipated that the new calendar will be fully implemented this month.

Winter Event Promotion

The Chamber rolled out, Warm up to Winter, last month, a winter event promotion that will continue through February. The campaign is currently being promoted with billboards in the Finger Lakes region and Northern Pennsylvania, and Facebook ads will also be added after the holidays. The campaign will focus on spectator sporting events, entertainment, museum events, outdoor winter recreation, and more.

Pro Lacrosse Comes to Elmira

In addition to the return of pro hockey with the Elmira Mammoth, Elmira now has its own pro lacrosse team, thanks to the management team at First Arena! The Elmira Renegades is affiliated with the Professional Box Lacrosse Association (PBLA) and played its first game in the league on December 30 when they competed in Binghamton. The team is slated to play its inaugural home game on January 7 against Syracuse Spark, and the Arena has plenty of celebration planned, including a pre-game party at the onsite Fandemonium Sports Bar. For details on tickets for the pre-game party and games, go to www.firstarena.net.

Chemung County Attractions in the News

The Chemung Chamber staff participated in seven media tours during 2022, the bulk of which took place from August – October. This has resulted in 13 blogs/articles to date, which feature a total of 23 local attractions. Two of the blogs were syndicated by MSN.com, vastly expanding the reach to millions. We’re proud to showcase all that Chemung County has to offer!
Empower Federal Credit Union Names Ryan McIntyre as President and CEO Officer

The Board of Directors of Empower Federal Credit Union has announced that Ryan McIntyre has been named President and Chief Executive Officer, effective January 3, 2023.

"Following an extensive national search, Empower Federal Credit Union has selected a new leader to guide the credit union into our next chapter. Ryan brings a unique portfolio of experience with over 20 years in the financial services industry," said Empower Federal Credit Union’s Board Chairman, Patrick Piscitelli. "With Ryan’s vast experience and strategic expertise, combined with our talented employee teams, Empower is in an excellent position to enhance growth and services to our members. We look forward to the vision and direction he will bring as our new CEO."

McIntyre commented, "I’m honored and excited about this opportunity. I want to thank the Board for entrusting me with building on this organization’s rich history. I hope to further invest in our member and employee experiences, while creating shared value in the communities we serve."

McIntyre will join Empower FCU from VyStar Credit Union, where he was Chief Strategy Officer (CSO), leading Strategic and Business Planning, Corporate Development and Integration (M&A), Enterprise PMO, Process Improvement, Business Insights, and Advanced Analytics. ■

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Member News
Growing Forward, Together.

WE VALUE YOUR FUTURE.

As our merger with Albany based Marvin and Company expands our Firm to five office locations and over 200 employees, our ability to meet your growing needs is stronger than ever. MMB+CO is proud to continue serving our clients and community during times of change, and beyond. Our commitment to your future starts here and now, as we grow our team and enrich the quality of our services.

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Jefferson Awards Nominations are Open

The Jefferson Awards Foundation is committed to honoring the local community service efforts of volunteers living and working in Chemung, Steuben, and Schuyler counties. The Jefferson Awards for Public Service gives the community a chance to recognize ordinary people who are doing extraordinary things, and making a lasting impact that benefits so many in our area.

A panel of judges will review the nominations and select local winners to receive a Jefferson Award Medallion at a special celebration. Jefferson Award Categories are Children & Youth, Education, Senior Citizens, Social Issues & Needs, and Health & Safety. One of the local award recipients will be chosen to represent our area at the national awards event in June 2023.

Nominee Criteria:

- Nominees must either live or provide volunteer services within Chemung, Schuyler, or Steuben counties.

- The nominee must serve in a volunteer capacity and must not be paid or compensated for the work featured in their application (i.e. Educator, Minister, Paid Coach).

- The nominee must be 18 years of age or older.

- The nominee must be still living at the time the nomination is submitted.

- Elected officials are exempt from nomination.

Entries must be postmarked or submitted online no later than Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

For more information, and a nomination form, please visit www.chemungcanal.com.

Fandemonium! Sports Bar Opening Night at the First Arena

The First Arena is happy to host an opening night at the new Fandemonium! Sports Bar located at First Arena. On Saturday, January 7th, they will open with live entertainment by Tyler Rueff.

They are offering a Pre-Game Party and Game Night Ticket Package at $28.00 per person, and includes a game ticket to the Elmira Mammoth vs Delaware Thunder, party ticket, hors d’ouvres, and first drink!

Party starts at 5:30 p.m. and game starts at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are limited so call Michael at FSG Sales at (607) 210-8200 to reserve your ticket. Code for the package is: FANDEMONIUM!
SUNY CCC Awarded $1.25 Million as Subrecipient of Build Back Better Regional Challenge

SUNY Corning Community College has been awarded a $1.25 million grant to develop programs that will meet the workforce needs of the Southern Tier's clean energy sector with a focus on the Battery-NY Center, a future lithium-based battery development manufacturing facility.

The funds awarded are part of Binghamton University’s New Energy New York Project that received $63.7 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan’s Build Back Better Regional Challenge. SUNY CCC was a subrecipient of this grant.

The College’s grant funding will build non-credit to credit pathways with programs in Manufacturing Technician, Battery Technician, and Battery Storage (InnoEnergy). These programs will be a key to developing a workforce trained in the skills needed for battery manufacturing. Funds will also go towards modernizing equipment to enhance the applied learning experience for SUNY CCC students.

With the development of new courses, SUNY CCC will improve transfer paths to partner bachelor’s degree institutions, Binghamton University and Rochester Institute of Technology.

With this funding, the New Energy New York coalition will accelerate innovation in battery technology and transform New York’s Southern Tier into a global hub of energy storage manufacturing.

Torch Award for Ethics Application is Open

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) Torch Awards for Ethics honors organizations whose leaders demonstrate a high level of personal character, ensure that the organization’s practices meet the highest standards of ethics, and consequently generate trust with its customers, and the community.

The Torch Awards is open to for-profit, 501(c)(3), and 501(c)(6) non-profit organizations of all sizes located within BBB of Upstate New York’s 48 county service areas. For the entire list of eligibility & criteria, please visit www.bbb.org.

The application period for the 2023 Torch Award started on December 1st, 2022, and applications are due on February 1st, 2023.

For the application, please click here.
Minimum Wages Increase

Governor Kathy Hochul announced that New York State will continue with the $15.00 minimum hourly wage phase-in for upstate counties that started December 31, 2022.

"With inflation and a national labor shortage impacting our state's economy, my team is doing everything possible to put money in New Yorkers' pockets and address the rising cost of living," Governor Hochul said. "Fair, competitive wages are essential for helping families thrive and attracting top talent to our state, and our administration remains committed to using every tool at our disposal to move New York's economy forward."

An estimated 200,000 New Yorkers in these upstate counties will benefit from this wage increase, 44% of which are full time workers and of those, nearly 25% are supporting children below age 18. In addition, this increase will help to close the gender pay gap, providing an estimated 110,000 women with greater financial stability.

New York State's minimum wage increases are calculated based on where an individual works and their industry. Workers in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester County currently make the $15.00 minimum hourly wage. The increases for the remainder of the state are based on percentage increases determined by the Director of the Division of the Budget in consultation with the Department of Labor following an annual review of the state economy and the labor market.

To learn more about the minimum wage for home care aides, read the Home Care Aides Fact Sheet here.

Workers who are not getting paid what they are entitled to under New York State's new minimum wage laws, should report it to NYSDOL's Division of Labor Standards by calling 1-888-4-NYSDOL (1-888-469-7365).

To help inform businesses and employees about Minimum Wage, the New York State Department of Labor has several resources available on its website here, including the Minimum Wage Lookup tool here.

171 Cedar Arts Center Announced New Executive Director

Kirsty Buchanan is the incoming Executive Director of 171 Cedar Arts Center to replace Beth Landin, who has announced her retirement in February 2023.

Since 2015, Kirsty has served as the Curator of Collections and Exhibitions for The Rockwell Museum in Corning, New York. She is a member of the leadership team that crafts the institutional business plan and sets strategic goals for the museum. Under her guidance, the Rockwell Museum has implemented new technology platforms, secured funding for a variety of projects, and managed a fiscally responsible budget during the challenges of a global pandemic.

Buchanan will assume the role of Executive Director at the Arts Center in late January 2023.
Annual Awards Ceremony Celebrates Inspiring Leaders

On Wednesday, December 7, more than 200 Chamber members attended the Annual Awards Ceremony at the Elmira Country Club to honor those members of our community that have made significant contributions to Chemung County. Each year, the Chemung Chamber of Commerce takes pride in citing those who have put forth a special effort to make our community a better place.

Thank You to our Sponsors

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Chris Coletta

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Kurt Bartenstein

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Mark Bellinger

Partners in Education Career Achievement
Deborah Lynch

ATHENA
Alison M. Wolfe, MBA, MS, PhD

Community Legacy
Mark & Julie Delgrosso

Mary E. Kennedy Community Builder
Dan O’Connell

For more photos of the event, please visit the Chamber’s Flickr page at flickr.com/photos/chemungchamber/
As we approach 2023, I reflect on 2022 – my first year at the Chamber has reinforced how I feel about our community – an amazing community of supporting one another. True connection and collaboration between businesses, organizations, elected officials, volunteers, and community residents continue to move Chemung County in a positive direction.

In early 2022 – when the world reopened for business, the Chemung Chamber, like the rest of our partners, started hosting in-person events and programs again – which meant we had to be quick on our feet like so many others. As we reemerged from the pandemic our members came out to support events in numbers. We thank you!

To the Chamber’s outgoing Chairman, Michael Printup – please accept my gratitude for your steadfast leadership throughout 2021-2022 and the ongoing guidance throughout my first year as President. I witnessed the attention and care you gave the Chamber and the ability to communicate effectively with our directors, and the community.

To the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors – Thank you for sharing the same vision of business growth and quality of life for our community.

To the many Chamber members and community – Thank you for the drive to move our vibrant community forward.

And to the Chamber team - I want to offer you my sincerest thank you on conquering the art of pivoting over the past year with events. We all worked together to carry the Chamber’s mission forward and while it was challenging work – our team did the work with continued style and grace.

For 2022-2023, the Chamber will continue to build on the momentum of being a Chamber for all businesses – both large and small! In 2022, we welcomed several new businesses into our community, and we want Chemung County and Southern Finger Lakes Region to shine as the premier destination to live, work and play. Let all of us continue to come together to ensure the ongoing success of our new and longstanding Chamber members- the prosperity of all our members.

We are so grateful for all of you - we could not do this work without you. Your support inspires the Chamber’s efforts to grow more opportunities for business, our workforce, and investment in the region.

We wish you a Happy New Year and a prosperous 2023!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Herrick-McGonigal
Chamber Events

**Jan 26**

**Thursday, January 26**

**Scam Tracker**

WEBINAR with Better Business Bureau

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Free for Members  I  $5 Non-Members

**Feb 2**

**Thursday, February 2**

**117th Annual Meeting of Members**

Join us for our largest annual gathering of Chemung Chamber members!

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Clemens Center

207 Clemens Center Parkway

$75 per person

Thank you to our Sponsors

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To view the full calendar of events, programming, or to register, please visit:

www.chemungchamber.org
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Kimble Inc.
Kitchen & Bath Gallery of the Finger Lakes, Inc.
Kool Treats Entertainment
Live Well Upstate Center for Natural Health
Marc Rubin Associates
Millennium Pipeline Company, LLC
National Soaring Museum
Notre Dame High School
Paint The Town
Panosian Enterprises
Regional Economic Development & Energy Corp.
Rye Bar and Restaurant
Sayles & Evans
Scott D. Moore Law Office, P.C.
Simmons-Rockwell Autoplaza, Inc.
Southern Tier Economic Growth, Inc.
State Farm Insurance - Bonnie Collins Agency
Streeter Associates, Inc.
SUNY Corning Community College
Taughannock Aviation
Three Rivers Development Corporation
Thurber & Thurber, DPM PC
Ullman, John G. and Associates, Inc.
Visions Federal Credit Union
Wallin Insurance Agency, Inc.
Warren E. Eng, DDS, FAGD, PLLC
Watkins Glen International
Wegmans
Wild Birds Unlimited
Williams Honda/Toyota of Elmira
Wine and Design
Wings of Eagles Discovery Center
Woodbrook Assisted Living Residence, Inc.
Your Office Biz, Inc.
Zeiser Wilbert Vault, Inc.
**Director Nominees**

**Candidates for Re-election**

Arthur D. Boehm  
First Heritage Federal Credit Union

Josh Dahlman  
Silicon Carbide Products

Jill Koski  
Southern Tier Economic Growth

Dr. Richard Terry  
LECOM

**Candidates for Election**

Katie Coletta  
Perry & Carroll, Inc.

Ken Roberts  
Arnot Health

Jake Sheehan  
Elmira City School District

Renee Wheeler  
Community Bank

Don Zaycosky  
Guthrie

**Officer Nominees**

James Gensel, Chair  
Fagan Engineers & Land Surveyors, P.C.

Michael Printup, Immediate Past Chair  
Watkins Glen International

Kathy Sticker, Treasurer/Corporate Secretary  
Mengel Metzger Barr & Co.

Jeff Kenefick, At-Large  
Chemung Canal Trust Company

Jan van den Blink, At-Large  
The Hilliard Corporation

Dawn Burlew, Vice Chair  
Corning Enterprises

Joe Roman, Vice Chair  
Southern Tier Economic Growth/ Chemung IDA

Elaine Smith  
Tanglewood Nature Center & Museum