

The SouthCoast



Chamber Focus

Proudly Serving New Bedford and the Towns of the South Coast

Business News for and about Members of the SouthCoast Chamber

May - June 2019

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SouthCoast Women's Forum Returns on May 21st



The SouthCoast Women's Forum is the ideal setting for leading business professionals, and aspiring women in business to connect, learn, and be inspired by other women! This unique event celebrates the accomplishments of women while motivating other women to follow their example. This year the Women's Forum will focus on professional women who are "Boldly Breaking Barriers". The highly anticipated 2019 SouthCoast Women's Forum will focus on professionals who have influenced the business community by advocating for initiatives, advancing new industries and bringing original products to the marketplace. Using activism, creativity and forward thinking they are fearless leaders in shaping legislation, changing policies and developing products that enhance the quality our life!

The cost to attend this event, which includes lunch, an inspirational speaking program, and an interactive expo, is

\$50 per person. Registration is required and can be made online at www.southcoastchamber.com or by calling 508-999-5231. Sponsorship and exhibitor space is also available by contacting Deven Robitaille at deven@southcoastchamber.com.

Read about the 2019 speakers here:

Ashley Paré - CEO & Founder of Own Your Worth

Ashley Paré is the CEO & Founder of Own Your Worth, an organization on a mission to break glass ceilings through career negotiation. As a leadership and negotiation coach, Ashley helps clients release self-limiting beliefs, feel confident and earn more. She leverages over 12 years of global corporate Human Resource experience and continues to work with organizations to create inclusive cultures. Ashley is a TEDx Speaker

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Legislative Lunch to feature U.S. Senator Edward Markey on May 17th



United States Senator Edward Markey will be featured at the SouthCoast and Bristol County Chambers' 2019 Legislative Luncheon on Friday, May 17 at White's of Westport located at 66 State Rd., Westport, MA. Hear about his new policies and agenda and how he is working to make sure the South Coast has a voice in Washington D.C.

While serving for 37 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, Senator Edward Markey fought for his constituents throughout his Congressional District. Senator Markey, a consumer champion and national leader on energy, environmental protection and telecommunications policy, has a prolific legislative record on major issues across the policy spectrum and a deep commitment to improving the lives of the people of Massachusetts and our country. Whether the issue is climate change, clean energy, safeguarding privacy, nuclear non-proliferation,



investor protection or preserving an open Internet that spurs competition and consumer choice, Senator Markey stands up for the priorities and values of Massachusetts.

The cost to attend this event, which includes lunch, is \$50 per person. Registration is required and can be made online at www.southcoastchamber.com or by calling 508-999-5231. This event is sponsored by Southcoast Health, St. Anne's Credit Union, Bank Five and the Southeastern Massachusetts Alliance of Chambers.



• The Annual Apex Recipients have been announced. Read more on page 3.

• Hundreds attended the SouthCoast Job Fair. Read more on page 10.

• The Supported Employment Network Reflects on 30 years. Read more on page 15.

Apex Award Recipients Announced at Annual Ceremony

The SouthCoast Chamber is pleased to recognize the significant contributions and achievements of our region's businesses with the presentation of the 2019 APEX Awards in the categories of Small Business, Large Business, Non-Profit and Educational Institution.

With over 30 nominees this year, the painstaking task of narrowing down one of the largest turnouts to date was no easy one. Each nominee has played a unique role within the community and contributed to the economic development of the South Coast.

Presented with the Large Business of the Year award was Poyant Signs.



For over 80 years, Poyant Signs has maintained a desire to help customers build their business with high quality products by collaborating with local, regional and national companies to help achieve their clients' goals.

A third generation family business Poyant Signs shows consistent growth in all areas of the organization including their employment, which recently increased their workforce from 58 to 72.

The majority of these employees are hired from local vocational high schools and colleges. As a pioneer in innovation, Poyant is constantly updating their equipment and business strategies capitalizing on modern technology.

The nominees for this year's Large Business of the Year award included Eastern Bank, Plumbers Supply Co., Vibra Hospital of Southeastern Massachusetts, Toyota of Dartmouth/Check Collision, The Standard-Times, SouthCoast Behavioral Health, Couto Construction and finalists First

Citizens Federal Credit Union and Lafrance Hospitality.

Presented with the Small Business of the Year award was Buzzards Bay Brewery Inc.



Buzzards Bay Brewing has been a major player in the local brewing industry for more than twenty years.

The main mission of Buzzard Bay Brewery is to not to just sell beer, but rather to work side by side with local brewers to build a vibrant craft beer community that will prosper and recirculate resources into the local economy.

The early decision to focus on local consumers and retailers has been the key to their success for the past two decades and allowed the local craft beer industry to succeed. Heavily invested in the community they have significant relationships with The Zeiterion Theatre, the Buzzards Bay Coalition, the Pink Boots Society and are strong advocates for Women in the Brewing Industry.

The nominees for year's Small Business of the Year award included Best Western Dartmouth Inn, Primerica, Hannah Grace Beyoutiful, Spectrum Marketing Group, Diversified Marketing Group, Capital House Media, Simply Sierra Jewelry, U.S. Party Supply, Couto Construction, Alferes Realty, Mid City Steel and finalists Servpro of New Bedford and Precision Window and Kitchen, Inc.

The Non-Profit of the Year sponsored by First Citizens Federal Credit Union was presented to YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts



The YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts works towards the elimination of racism, the empowerment of women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

With a diverse workforce of more than 20 employees ranging from high school students to personnel over 60, they represent and easily communicate with multiple demographics.

Under their current leadership, the YWCA has completed a \$4.5 million campaign to build a 6,550 square foot addition specifically for a school age childcare program and to provide 8 full units of housing for low-income women.

The YWCA serves over 4,000 local residents annually and offers programming in adult, youth and residential services as well as health and wellness. The nominees for this year's Non-Profit of the Year award included Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of New Bedford Inc., Realtor Association of Southeastern Massachusetts, Coastal Foodshed, Mo-Life Inc., PACE and finalists Greater New Bedford Community Health and Leadership SouthCoast.

Presented with the Educational Institution of the Year award was Alma del Mar Charter School



Founded in 2011, Alma del Mar's mission is to put every child on a path to college, while challenging them to be service-minded leaders.

With hundreds of children on the waiting list and more than 10% of the city's kindergartners applying for enrollment, Alma del Mar has seen a demand for expansion.

This demand led to the construction of a two-story school in the North End of New Bedford. Recently, Alma was approved to open a first-of-its-kind neighborhood-based enrollment Commonwealth Charter school.

Alma del Mar's result have been among the highest in the state and their teachers and administration continue to lead by example encouraging their scholars to excel academically and become contributing member of society through civic engagement.

The nominees for this year's Educational Institution of the Year award included Lesley University, Nativity Preparatory School New Bedford with finalists Rob Roy Academy and Old Colony Regional Vocational High School.

