

Chamber News

February 2009

FEBRUARY BREAKFAST MEETING TO FOCUS ON PROPOSED POWER TRANSMISSION SYSTEM EXPANSION

Much interest has been expressed about the Central Maine Power Company's plans to enhance and expand the power transmission system. Satisfy your curiosity at the Winthrop Area Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting on Thursday, February 5, when Sue Bell of Bernstein Shur Government Solutions, a government and public policy consulting firm, will speak about Central Maine Power's project, the Maine Power Reliability Program.

As the result of a comprehensive study and analysis of its bulk power transmission system, Central Maine Power Company (CMP) is seeking to build approximately 350 miles of transmission lines and associated infrastructure that is necessary to ensure ongoing reliable and safe electricity delivery to Maine's homes and businesses.

Sue Bell of Bernstein Shur Government Solutions will speak about the project, the Maine Power Reliability Program, and CMP's transmission solution, which is based on a number of factors, including electrical performance, cost effectiveness, impacts to landowners and Maine's environment, and reliability under various forecasts of future conditions.



Bell has more than 35 years of public administration, policy, communications, and education experience and served in all three branches of Maine State Government. Prior to joining Bernstein Shur Government Solutions in 2005, Bell served as the Director of Clerks of Court for the Maine Judicial Branch. She served as a Senior Policy Advisor during the King administration. She also served as Deputy Commissioner at the Maine Department of Conservation and Director of the Maine Forest Service during the McKernan administration. And, she served as a member of the Maine House of Representatives for three terms.

Bell began her career as an educator. She taught at Houlton and Oxford Hills High School and served as Health Education Coordinator for the Oxford Hills School District. She holds Master of Arts degrees in Education and Public Administration.

The breakfast meeting on Thursday, February 5 will be at the **Winthrop Area Federal Credit Union** (located at the intersection of Route 202 and Highland Avenue in Winthrop). The cost is \$5 per person, to be paid at the door. A light breakfast will be provided beginning at 7:15 am and the meeting will start at 7:30 am and end promptly at 8:30 am. The meeting, which is generously sponsored by **Brian S. Berry & Associates, CPAs**, is open to the public. No reservations are required.

For more detailed information, please go to www.winthropchamber.org, call 207-377-8020, or send an email to info@winthropchamber.org.

Chamber Breakfast Meetings

On the first Thursday of each month during the school year, the Chamber hosts breakfast meetings that are dedicated to topics of interest to members and others in the Winthrop Lakes Region. Presentations have ranged from economic development to energy efficiency and from health insurance to tax reform.

The breakfast meeting committee is in the process of lining up future speakers and would like to hear from members about topics of interest to them. If you have a suggestion for a presenter or topic for an upcoming breakfast meeting, please contact the Chamber at 377-8020 or info@winthropchamber.org.

Thanks so much!



Entrepreneurship Week Is FEBRUARY 21-28, 2009

The Third Annual National Entrepreneurship Week is slated for February 21-28. This annual celebrate is designed to expand the visibility of entrepreneurship and how it drives the economy; to honor American entrepreneurs; and to advocate for entrepreneurship education as a lifelong learning process. For information about National Entrepreneurship Week activities and events in Maine, go to www.eweekmaine.com.

Chamber BlueOptions Adds NEW CHOICES FOR 2009

The Maine State Chamber Purchasing Alliance, Inc., local chambers, and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield have announced further additions to Chamber BlueOptions insurance. Chamber BlueOptions now includes eight health plans—from HMO and PPO options with varying levels of deductibles to consumer driven health plan options.



More information is available by going to the Maine State Chamber Web site at www.mainechamber.org and clicking on the Chamber BlueOptions icon. In addition, businesses can obtain quotes by contacting Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield at 1-800-541-4251.



Advertise Your Business on THE CHAMBER WEB SITE

The current state of the economy makes it more important than ever to promote your business—and advertising on the Chamber's new Web site is a cost-effective way to do it. A monthly report regarding the site's activity and statistics will be available starting on February 2. Advertising rates are already posted at www.winthropchamber.org/advertising.html. For more information about advertising on the Chamber site, call 377-8020 or send an email to info@winthropchamber.org.

Chamber Business After Hours: SIGN UP NOW FOR SPRING

Looking for a great way to generate interest in your business or organization this year? Consider hosting a Chamber Business After Hours (BAH) event. BAHs are among the Chamber's most popular gatherings. They provide an excellent opportunity for you to showcase the products and services your business or organization has to offer and for Chamber members to learn about them first-hand.

The Chamber would like to hear from members who are interested in hosting a BAH in the spring. **The months of March and April are still available for hosting.** To sign up to host a BAH, please contact Jeff Seguin at 377-2124.



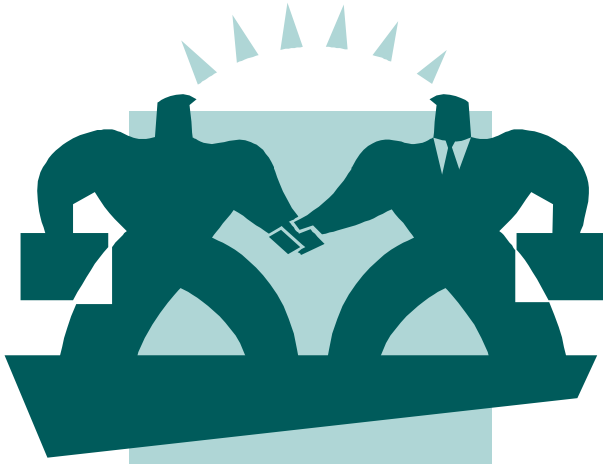
The Maine Downtown Center HOSTS DOWNTOWN INSTITUTE

Discover how to stimulate your town's economy, promote local businesses, and develop community leadership by attending the Maine Downtown Center's 2009 Downtown Institute. All sessions will be held on Friday mornings in Augusta. Advance registration is required. The cost is \$35 per session or \$175 for all six sessions and includes training packets, handouts, refreshments, and networking opportunities.

The first session, which will take place on January 30 from 10 am to noon, is fast approaching; please register by January 28, 2009.

- January 30: Main Street™ 101: Essentials of Downtown Revitalization
- March 20: Design and Historic Preservation: Your Sense of Place
- May 1: Fund Raising and Friend Raising: Success Strategies
- September 18: Strategic Planning and Board Development
- October 23: Promotions and Marketing
- December 4: Business Recruitment and Retention

To register and/or for more detailed information, please call or email Lisa Merrill at 626-3119 or lmerrill@mdf.org or visit www.mdf.org/downtown/DowntownInstitute.html.



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