



CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE
OF THE PALM BEACHES

BUSINESS watch

Sept. 2015

401 N. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach | (561) 833-3711 | www.palmbeaches.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Power Networking @ Breakfast

When: Tuesday, Sept. 8; 8-10 a.m.
Where: Chamber Boardroom
Cost: \$25 members, \$30 non-members (in advance)

To Sell is NOT to Sell

When: Wednesday, Sept. 9; 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Where: Chamber Boardroom
Cost: Free
Speaker: Greta Schulz

Business Builder

When: Friday, Sept. 11; 8:30-9:45 a.m.
Where: Chamber Boardroom
Cost: Free (non-members welcome)

Chamber Breakfast

When: Thursday, Sept. 17; 7:45-9 a.m.
Where: Palm Beach County Convention Center
Cost: \$35 members, \$45 non-members (in advance)

Chamber Appreciation Night

When: Thursday, Sept. 17; 7-11 p.m.
Where: Seminole Coconut Casino
Cost: Free for members, \$25 non-members (in advance)

One on One 101

When: Friday, Sept. 18; 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Where: Chamber Boardroom
Cost: Free (non-members welcome)
Speaker: Kelly Fanelli

Ignite Your Personal Brand Seminar

When: Wednesday, Sept. 23; 8:30-10 a.m.
Where: Chamber Boardroom
Cost: \$15 members, \$20 non-members (in advance)
Speaker: Pamela Toussaint

Business Builder

When: Thursday, Sept. 24; 8:30-9:45 a.m.
Where: Chamber Boardroom
Cost: Free (non-members welcome)

For information about upcoming events, e-mail Jamie Walton at jwalton@palmbeaches.org or call (561) 833-3711, ext. 231.

Chamber welcomes Superintendent Avossa

The Chamber's annual Back-to-School Breakfast, sponsored by Hulett Environmental Services and Keiser University, was held on Friday, Aug. 21 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. The keynote speaker was Dr. Robert Avossa, Superintendent of the Palm Beach County School District.

Dr. Avossa sees considerable opportunity for Palm Beach County schools and is determined to ensure that every child has an opportunity for a first-class education, regardless of their zip code. He noted that the schools in our county are behind industry standards and have antiquated education formats that need to be replaced with more personalized paths for each individual child.

Other breakfast sponsors include FordHarrison, LLP (Early Bird Coffee); South Flori-



From left: Dr. Tom Duncan and Kimberly Lea (Keiser University); Greg Rice (Hulett); Chamber Chair Sarah Alsofrom (Hanley Center Foundation); and guest speaker Dr. Robert Avossa (Palm Beach County School District) CAPEHART PHOTOGRAPHY

da Science Center and Aquarium (Partner in Education); and the Town of Palm Beach United Way (donated school supplies). Attendees contributed more

than \$1,500, with a matching gift from Florida Power and Light, which will be donated to Belvedere Elementary School along with the school supplies.

The Chamber debuted its new Education Guide to the Palm Beaches at the breakfast. Copies are also available in the Chamber lobby.



Reserve your seat: 2015 ATHENA Awards Luncheon

The 2015 ATHENA Awards, presented by Wells Fargo, honors an individual, young professional and business for professional excellence, mentoring and activity engaging in the promotion of women into leadership roles. The Chamber is celebrating its 24th anniversary of the ATHENA Awards and is



proud to present one of the most prestigious leadership awards focusing on the mentorship of women.

The ATHENA program was created nearly three decades ago and, over the years, more than 6,000 recipients have been honored worldwide.

The ATHENA Awards Luncheon will be held on Friday, Oct. 9 at the Kravis Center Cohen Pavilion. You can register now at www.palmbeaches.org. There will be free parking, courtesy of Toshiba Business Systems.

Special thanks to our supporting sponsors: Southern Waste Systems LLC; CityPlace; FPL and Healthcare District of Palm Beach County.

For more information, please e-mail Jamie Walton at jwalton@palmbeaches.org, or call (561) 833-3711, ext. 231.



This year marks the 24th anniversary of the ATHENA Awards, which recognizes individuals and businesses that emphasize putting women into leadership roles. CAPEHART PHOTOGRAPHY



Chamber teams up with the Miami Dolphins for August Trustee Luncheon

Tom Garfinkel, President and CEO of the Miami Dolphins, and Mike Mandich, CEO of the Dolphins Cancer Challenge, were the guest speakers at the Chamber's August Trustee Luncheon.

Mandich provided an overview of the success that has been achieved on behalf of the Dolphins Cancer Challenge (DCC) – more than \$11.5 million has been raised for cancer research over the past five years.

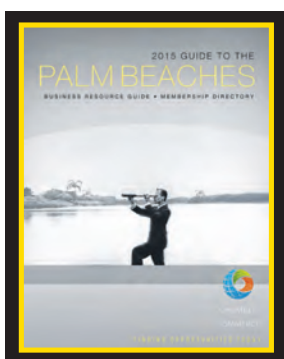
The DCC is now a combined bicycle ride and 5k run/walk, and DCC VI will take place on Feb. 20, 2016.

Garfinkel showed a video describing the completed improvements and those still to come for Sun Life Stadium. He also shared that the team is well on its way to selling out all their home games.

The excitement for this year's team was shared by those in attendance.

If you would like to be a part of future Trustee events, please call Kelly Fanelli at (561) 257-0289.

Join NOW to appear in the '2016 Guide to the Palm Beaches'



Looking to attract business?

Increase your visibility and sales by appearing in the Chamber's 2016 Guide to the Palm Beaches. This award-winning, full-color publication is used as a buying guide for products and services by Chamber members, residents, tourists and visitors to Palm Beach County.

The Chamber prints 10,000 copies of the Guide, and each Chamber member receives two free listings – one alphabetical and one by business category.

The Guide will debut at the Mayor's State of the City Address on Jan. 12, 2016, when 1,000 area businessmen and women will receive a copy hot off the press. It will also be available in the Chamber

lobby and in digital format at www.palmbeaches.org.

The deadline is Sept. 30 and you must be a Chamber member to be included. This is just one of the many benefits of membership!

Please e-mail Kelly Fanelli, Membership Director, at kfanelli@palmbeaches.org or call (561) 833-3711, ext. 235.

Leadership West Palm Beach now accepting applications for 2016 Class

The time has arrived! We are now accepting applications for Class 2016 of Leadership West Palm Beach.

Leadership West Palm Beach will continue to expose its participants to a variety of aspects of the community, including government; health and human services; education; neighborhoods; arts, culture and festivals; and economic development. All of these are integral components of our community.

Leadership West Palm Beach provides this information to class participants to generate leaders with a well-rounded

knowledge base to assist in future planning and decision-making for the betterment of West Palm Beach.

To submit your application, go to www.palmbeaches.org. For more information, please e-mail Sandy Pullens at spullens@palmbeaches.org, or call (561) 833-3711, ext. 228.



Leadership West Palm Beach Class members graduate at City Hall. CAPEHART PHOTOGRAPHY



Leadership West Palm Beach Class members enjoy airboat rides at Grassy Waters Preserve.



CHAMBER
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
		1	2 Ambassador Committee Meeting 12:00 p.m.	3	4	5
6	7 Chamber Closed Labor Day	8 Power Networking Chamber Boardroom 8:00 a.m.	9 To Sell Is Not To Sell 8:30 a.m.	10 Women in Business 12:15 p.m.	11 Business Builder 8:30 a.m.	12
13	14	15 Health Care Committee 9:00 a.m.	16	17 Chamber Breakfast PBC Convention Center 7:45 a.m. Seminole Casino Mixer 7:00 p.m.	18 One-on-One 101 8:30 a.m.	19
20	21	22	23 Ignite Your Personal Brand Seminar (knowledge series) 8:30 a.m.	24 Business Builder 8:30 a.m.	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
				1 Science & Technology Committee South Florida Center 8:00 a.m.	2	3
4	5	6 Power Networking @ Lunch 11:30 a.m. Holiday Inn	7 Ambassador Committee Meeting 12:00 p.m.	8 Business Builder 8:30 a.m. Women in Business 12:15 p.m.	9 Athena Awards Luncheon Kravis Center 12:00 p.m.	10
11	12 Chamber Closed Columbus Day	13	14 Business After Hours Whole Foods 5:30 p.m.	15 Working Remotely, Connectivity and the FLSA -- the New Bermuda Triangle Seminar 8:00 a.m.	16	17
18	19	20 Social Media Seminar 8:30 a.m. Health Care Committee @ Palm Garden 12:00 p.m.	21 Business After Hours Blue Horizon 5:30 p.m.	22	23 One-on-One 101 8:30 a.m.	24
25	26	27	28 Business Builder 8:30 a.m.	29 Chamber Breakfast (Firefighter) 7:45 a.m.	30	31
<p>← IRELAND TRIP WITH CHAMBER →</p>						

*All meetings are held at the Chamber unless otherwise noted. Events are subject to change

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Corporate leaders in aviation industry located in Palm Beach County

Several Chamber Trustees recently toured Pratt & Whitney's West Palm Beach campus.

The Chamber members were given an overview of the company and a facility tour, which included stops at Pratt & Whitney's Systems Engineering-Validation assembly organization, where jet

engines are assembled and tested for certification.

The group also toured the new, state-of-the-art, 97,000-square-foot Pratt & Whitney West Palm Beach Engine Center, which recently received Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval to produce the PurePower® PW1100G-

JM engine that will power the Airbus A320neo aircraft.

Certificates were awarded to Pratt & Whitney's facilities in West Palm Beach and Middletown, Connecticut.

Pratt & Whitney's new West Palm Beach Engine Center officially opened in June 2014. The facility features world-leading technology and equipment, including military and commercial assembly lines.

The facility also has a production line to assemble Pratt & Whitney's F135 military engine for the F-35 Lightning II.

The West Palm Beach Engine Center uses Pratt & Whitney's moving horizontal assembly line to assemble the PurePower PW1100G-JM engine. This line enables workers to easily move the engines up and down, as well as rotate them during assembly, providing increased efficiency and ergonomic benefits.

Hosting the visit were Mike O'Neill and Deanna Usiadek, who gave an update on Pratt & Whitney's community involvement.

"The tour was excellent," said Donald Kiselewski, who serves as Chair-elect on the Chamber's Board of Directors and Senior Director of External Affairs at Florida Power & Light Com-

pany. "We enjoyed learning about the company and its commitment to our community."

The guests also met with several members of Sikorsky's staff, including John Fischetti, who provided an overview of the company and a tour of their assembly floor, flight-line operations, telemetry department and test stands.

This was a tremendous opportunity to see, firsthand, Pratt & Whitney's world-class facilities and manufacturing operations. Having high-tech companies like Pratt & Whitney in our business community helps attract highly skilled people to our area, which helps fuel economic growth and enhance the quality of life in Palm Beach County.

"On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches, I would like to thank Pratt & Whitney and Sikorsky for hosting us to such an informative and eye-opening experience," said Dennis Grady, CEO of the Chamber. "Pratt & Whitney and Sikorsky are well-respected names internationally, which raises Palm Beach County's visibility among businesspeople worldwide. We are fortunate to have these companies as part of our business community and look forward to our continued partnership."



Jose Martinez Jr., Operations Manager for Pratt & Whitney West Palm Beach Engine Center, gives a brief overview of the 97,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art jet engine production facility before beginning the tour of the assembly area with Chamber Trustees.

TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT



J. Russell Greene

J. Russell Greene is an Executive Vice President of Seacoast Bank in West Palm Beach.

A community banker in the West Palm Beach area since 1962, Greene was President and CEO of Grand Bank & Trust of Florida from 1999 to 2015 until it merged with Seacoast Bank, a community bank headquartered in Stuart.

Greene has served on the Northwood/Pleasant City Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Board for 22 years and he is a Past Chair of the Chamber of Commerce. Greene currently serves on the Chamber's Board of Directors.



John L. Parkinson

John L. Parkinson is the General Manager of Hilton West Palm Beach. Parkinson most recently held the same title for DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Orlando - Lake Buena Vista, the only all-suite Downtown Disney® hotel located inside Walt Disney World Resort®.

In his new capacity, Parkinson will oversee operations for the contemporary new build 400-room hotel located in the heart of West Palm Beach, scheduled to open in the first quarter of 2016.

Parkinson received a degree in Business Administration from Tennessee Wesleyan College, where he was an All-American Baseball Player.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association, is a Past Chairman of the Resort Area Chamber of Commerce, and is a Board member for Little League Baseball. In 2013, Parkinson was named to the *Orlando Business Journal's* "top 40 influential people in Central Florida under age 40."



A. J. Titus

A. J. Titus is the Operations Manager for the United Franchise Group, the Global Leader for Entrepreneurs, which offers a broad range of industry-leading franchise opportunities with 30 years of experience and 1,400 franchise locations in more than 70 countries. Brands include Signarama, EmbroidMe, Transworld Business Advisors, SuperGreen Solutions and Experimac.

As the Operations Manager, Titus helps to facilitate the growth of all the brands in terms of franchise sales, product development and franchisee promotion.

Titus graduated from Palm Beach Atlantic University with an International Business degree and is currently pursuing an MBA degree at the University of Miami.



Rebecca Weiss

Rebecca Weiss is Executive Director of the West Palm Beach Library Foundation, which raises funds to support and enhance the programs at the Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach.

A resident of West Palm Beach, Weiss assumed the position following a 15-year career at Microsoft and Oracle Corporations. She is a member of the Rotary Club of West Palm Beach and also volunteers with Adopt the Palm Beaches, Women's Foundation of Palm Beach County and Presidential Women's Center.

The West Palm Beach Library Foundation, an independent nonprofit organization, supports programs and services of the Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach while building and sustaining an endowment. The foundation seeks, advocates for and obtains financial support that the city's operating budget cannot encompass.



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