

Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce

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FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Chamber has scheduled a General Membership Meeting for **Tuesday, February 24**, at 12:00 PM at the oceanfront Boardwalk Plaza Hotel in Rehoboth Beach. The guest speaker will be newly appointed Sussex County Economic Development Director, Melody Booker-Wilkins. Melody will share how she has hit the ground running in her new position. The mission statement of the Economic Development Office is to "ignite" business development by focusing on the retention, recruitment, and expansion of businesses in Sussex County. Melody will highlight her Office's "responsibilities and objectives". The luncheon cost is \$22 per person-seating is limited, so RSVP by contacting Kate at 302-227-6446 or events@beach-fun.com.

ELECTRIC BUYING GROUP UPDATE!

Many/Most of our Members have taken advantage of the Chamber's electricity buying group working with Ed Jackson of Affinity Energy Management. If you've never taken advantage of this important money saving Chamber benefit then give Patty a call at the Chamber office at 302-227-6446 or contact Ed directly to see how much money you can save. Ed can be reached at 302-218-8920 or by visiting www.AffinityEnergyManagement.com

SMALL BUSINESS CAUCUS NEEDS YOUR INPUT

The Small Business Caucus co-chairs, Rep. Bryon Short and Rep. Danny Short are requesting Delaware small business owners input. They are encouraging employers to contact their state and local chamber by March 13th with any concerns that they may have or had in relation to state government relations. They are looking for specific examples of your experience in dealing with state agencies in your quest for regulatory approval for a project. The Chamber will take comments to the House Small Business Caucus. To include your input, contact Carol Everhart at 302-227-6446 or carol@beach-fun.com.

DELAWARE BUSINESS RESILIENCY INITIATIVE LUNCHEON

The Delaware Business Resiliency Initiative has reached out to the business community with continuity and disaster planning through workshops, webinars, one-on-one counseling and other special events. This new Delaware Small Business Development Center program, funded by a U.S Small Business Administration grant, has already touched hundreds of small business owners in Delaware and helped raise awareness of the importance and proactive impact of preparing ahead for potential business disruptions. The group invites you to join them on Friday, March 13, 2015 at noon at Arena's in Georgetown for an update and planning get together. There will be the opportunity to discuss the program's successes and challenges thus far and hear your input on ways to improve and fine tune it as they move forward. Conferences in both New Castle County and Sussex County are being planned to showcase disaster preparedness resources for small businesses in the state and at the federal level. Please RSVP to Carrie Townsend at 302-856-1555 or by email at ctownsen@udel.edu.

GROUP TOUR INDUSTRY OPPORTUNITY

Just received from Tina Madanat, Group Tour Development Leader at the DE Tourism Office. There are two upcoming national events being held in Philadelphia: the 2015 Papal – Pope's Visit to Philadelphia on September 26-27, 2015 and the 2016 Democratic National Convention/DNC the week of July 25, 2016. If your hotel venue can accommodate overnight visitors or there are special exhibits/tours, etc. during these two special events, please respond to wisit.delaware@state.de.us by Wednesday, February 25, 2015.

For a complete Calendar of Events, visit the Chamber website - <u>www.beach-fun.com</u>. If you have questions, please give Carol a call on the member hotline at 227-6446, or her cell phone at 542-7547.