

SEATTLE **SOUTHSIDE** Chamber of Commerce

Hello Seattle Southside Chamber Members and Partners,

As I look forward to the new year, I wanted to share a few exciting updates and opportunities we are working on to serve you at a higher level in 2017. When I first announced my appointment to you in August I promised you that we would work hard on your behalf to offer more ways for business professionals to network, showcase and promote their businesses, provide more training and educational opportunities and expand our government advocacy work. I am proud today to announce that we have made progress in planning all the above.

First, the Luncheons are back. You let us know that the luncheons were a vital way to network, connect, and hear from our government leaders and industry professionals. In 2016 the Chamber offered 7 networking events (3 luncheons and 4 mixers). We are more than doubling that for 2017 with 6 luncheons, always held the 2nd Friday of the month (11:30am-1pm) and 9 mixers, always held the 3rd Wednesday of the month (4pm-6pm). Each luncheon will feature a speaker and topic relevant to our business community in the south sound. Each mixer will be a more causal networking opportunity to build and grow your business. We are also looking forward to two special events in 2017, one that will highlight and celebrate women in business and one that will be an opportunity for you to meet and greet candidates running for public office in the next election cycle. If you are interested in sponsoring or hosting a luncheon or mixer, please contact our office. We still have a few openings left to fill and hosting a Chamber event is an excellent way to showcase your business and highlight what you do best.

Second, we will be adding “Lunch and Learn” events that will be held at our Chamber Office (also held on the 2nd Friday of each month, when we don’t have a luncheon scheduled). These will be unique sessions, allowing us to share with you progress and updates on our government advocacy work as well as provide you with educational and training opportunities for you and/or your staff.

Finally, we will continue with offering our successful “Morning Buzz” events (Registration now included in your 2017 Membership), held every 1st Wednesday at the Chamber office from 8:30-9:30am. Come to these events to hear a short presentation from a Chamber Member or guest speaker on the issues you want to know about, as well as network and enjoy coffee and pastries.

We know that by increasing the number of opportunities you have to network with other Chamber Members and creating more opportunities for you to stay informed about the issues that matter most to you and your business, you will enjoy a higher level of engagement and greater success building your business.

The Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce has been known by several names since our founding in 1988. But, what has never changed is our commitment to you, to your business and to our region. We are poised to capitalize on the economic success and development in our region as never before. Our mission is to be a leader in the business community and the communities we serve and our goal is to ensure that our region thrives today while laying a stable foundation for sustainable growth decades from now.

I thank you for your support and look forward to working with you to strengthen our chamber and our region in 2017 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Andrea H. Reay

President/CEO