

By JAMES N. GREENE, JR.

The Naugatuck Chamber of Commerce was organized on Dec. 6, 1921 and filed a Certificate of Incorporation on Jan. 31, 1922, which was approved on March 10, 1922 by Donald J. Warner, then Secretary of State.

There were five original incorporators of the Naugatuck Chamber of Commerce, which were -- Lewis A. Dibble Sr., Harry A. Dalby, Harris Whittemore Jr., Harry B. Olson and Isaac Dreyer.

During February, 1923, the Certificate of Incorporation was amended by adding the following community leaders: Emily Sophie Brown, Joseph Carlson, Walter C. Gilnack, Charles T. McCarthy, William J. Neary, Donald S. Tuttle and George T. Wigmore.

The purposes and objectives of the Naugatuck Chamber of Commerce, Inc., were to forward and promote by common action the civil and business interests of Naugatuck; to promote and foster its trade, business and financial interests in common; to diffuse accurate and reliable information concerning matters relating thereto; to urge uniformity and certainty in the customs and uses of trade and commerce; to obtain uniformity of opinion and action and cooperation among its members; to create a more united and free intercourse of action among businessmen; to forward the industrial, mercantile, agricultural and civic interests of Naugatuck.



Who Can Belong to The Chamber of Commerce?

All the business and professional men and women engaged in producing and distributing goods and services can logically be expected to support the Chamber of Commerce. Companies, partnerships, corporations and individuals are members, too, but these organizations are made up of people. A corporation in legal interpretation, is a person, but the "go-power" of the Chamber of Commerce is, actually, human beings.

The term "business community" refers, then, to all categories of business and to the professions. In terms of membership, it means that the retailer, wholesaler, manufacturer, automobile dealer, banker, insurance man, doctor, lawyer, dentist, or architect or any individual from a recognized business or professional can logically be expected to look to the Chamber of Commerce as the organization through which he will promote and protect his stake in the community.

Who Governs?

The governing body of the Naugatuck Chamber of Commerce is its Board of Directors. The Directors help determine the program of work and the Chamber's objectives and is responsible for the organization's finances.

The Directors of the Naugatuck Chamber of Commerce meet monthly and consist of 20 community leaders giving proper representation to all of the Chamber's members.

Who Manages?

The Naugatuck Chamber of Commerce is managed by an Executive Vice President and his staff. He is responsible to the Board of Directors for the administration of the Chamber.

Chambers of Commerce operate with staffs since a board of directors, even though manned by the ablest men of the community, can devote only limited time to Chamber affairs as they are all active businessmen.

Finance

The Chamber is financed on a voluntary basis and its expenses are apportioned among its membership. The amount of money the businessmen pay each year as dues to the Chamber of Commerce should be considered as an investment in the present and future of the Community.

The Chamber of Commerce can only be as effective as its membership. If the membership is active and the community is receptive, the major responsibility of the Chamber will be fulfilled.