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## **Meet the Rising Professionals of the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce**

(Charlottesville, Virginia – September 21, 2020) Young professionals in the Charlottesville area have a new opportunity for networking with their peers and building business connections.

The Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce has launched **Cville Chamber Rising Professionals**, a business networking group focused on people under 40. Chamber members have jumped in to help organize the group and provide leadership.

"We've needed a group like this in Charlottesville for a long time," said co-chair Rhianon Botizan of Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards. "People have been going to Richmond to network with other young professionals, and we're thrilled that the Charlottesville Chamber has stepped in to meet this need."

Following a high-energy launch meeting via Zoom in August, Botizan and co-chair Scott Hamler of Forezee Marketing Solutions worked with Chamber President & CEO Elizabeth Cromwell to choose a dynamic group of volunteers for the Rising Professionals steering committee.

Steering committee members will include: Kirsten Ashbaugh, Wilkinson Wealth Management, LLC; Russ Cronberg, Boar's Head Resort; Anna Isserow, Community Investment Collaborative; Matt Lawless, Town of Scottsville; Scott Raney, Flora Pettit PC; Emily Rosenberger, Alzheimer's Association of Central and Western Virginia; Zoie Smith, City of Charlottesville Office of Economic Development; Giles Sydnor, Wells Fargo; Shannon Temlak, Flora Pettit PC; and Myles Wood, Tom Tom Summit & Festival.

"This group is a great way of connecting up-and-coming members of our community together – individuals that aren't brand new to their career, but who also aren't super well established," said Hamler.

Rising Professionals will strive to make connections with young professionals through business development and community engagement. The group is open to Chamber members and non-members alike.

The group will meet virtually at first, in keeping with the Chamber's current policy to forego in-person meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Learn more about Rising Professionals and sign up for event news at [www.CvilleChamber.com/rising](http://www.CvilleChamber.com/rising).

*The Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce advocates, convenes and engages to strengthen business in the greater Charlottesville Region.*

*Chamber programs are supported by our Partners in Trust: University of Virginia, UVA Health, Albemarle County, albemarle Magazine, Atlantic Union Bank, MPS, The Daily Progress, United Bank, UVA Community Credit Union, Wells Fargo, Great Eastern Management Company, Hourigan, R. E. Lee Companies, Sentara Martha Jefferson*

*Hospital, State Farm, Tom Tom Festival, Bridge Business Transformations, Four Corners Real Estate Solutions, Marjorie Adam Team, Roy Wheeler Realty Co., and Story House Real Estate.*

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**ATTACHMENTS: Photo of Rising Professionals launch meeting; Photos of co-chairs Rhianon Botizan and Scott Hamler; Rising Professionals graphic**



Local young professionals meet on Zoom August 3, 2020, to brainstorm ideas and launch the Chamber's new networking group.



Rhianon Botizan, Private Event Sales Manager, Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards  
Co-Chair, Cville Chamber Rising Professionals



Scott Hamler, Founder, Forezee Marketing Solutions  
Co-Chair, Cville Chamber Rising Professionals

A promotional graphic for the Cville Chamber Rising Professionals. On the left, a woman in a light blue long-sleeved shirt and dark shorts stands on a rocky outcrop, her arms raised in triumph against a backdrop of blue sky and green mountains. To the right, the text "Meet the Cville Chamber Rising Professionals!" is displayed in large, bold, dark blue letters. Below this, in a smaller white box, is the text "Connect with young professionals for networking &amp; business development" and the website "CvilleChamber.com/rising". In the bottom right corner, there is a small portrait of a man and a woman smiling. A dark overlay box in the bottom right corner contains the text "Co-Chairs Rhianon Botizan &amp; Scott Hamler".