November election outcome has major impact at the Statehouse

Only two years removed from the Republicans’ 2010 victory, Democrats regain control of both the House and the Senate in Augusta

In November 2010, Maine experienced a seismic political shift in the legislative elections that delivered majorities in both the Senate and House for Republicans. It didn’t last long. On Tuesday, November 8, Republicans lost majorities in both the House and Senate by large margins.

Legislative Election Outcome…

The Maine Senate went from 19-15-1 in favor of Republicans to the 19-15-1 in favor of Democrats. Leadership for the Senate has already been decided: Sen. Justin Alfond (D-Cumberland) is the Senate President; Sen. Seth Goodall (D-Sagadahoe) is the Majority Leader; and, Sen. Troy Jackson (D-Aroostook) is the Assistant Majority Leader. On the Republican side, Sen. Michael Thibodeau (R-Waldo) was selected as Minority Leader, and Sen. Roger Katz (D-Kennebec) was selected as Assistant Minority Leader. The Senate’s lone Independent, Senator Richard Woodbury, will likely caucus with the Democrats.


Constitutional Officers…

The switch in majority parties in the Legislature will also result in a switch in the Constitutional offices. Maine is one of only two states whose constitutional officers are elected by the Legislature. The policy impact of the change of these offices on the executive branch will likely be significant. For example, the new Attorney General is not likely to join the administration in pushing back on implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and the new Treasurer will likely not join the Governor in advocating for less bonding.

On Wed., December 5, the new Legislature elected a new Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, and State Auditor. Janet Mills of Farmington was elected Attorney General; Matthew Dunlap of Old Town was elected Secretary for State; Neria Douglass of Auburn was elected State Treasurer; and, Pola Buckley of Hallowell was elected State Auditor.

Continued on Page 3...
A message from the president...

“Continuing our forward momentum…”

by Dana Connors

In less than a month, the 126th Maine Legislature will begin its work in earnest. The November elections once more, brought much change to the political landscape in Augusta. The new session brings with it a change in leadership in both party and people. And with such change, the citizens of Maine are wondering what’s in store and what to expect as legislators tackle the tough issues before them.

Since November 6, I have had the opportunity to meet with legislative leaders – Democrats and Republicans in both the House and the Senate – and I am encouraged by their tone and heartened by their commitment to focus on Maine’s economy and our need for jobs and skills to meet our many challenges ahead. They are committed to working together as they search for solutions, create opportunities, and tackle our economic concerns in the months and years ahead.

We all know actions speak louder than words. Both their actions and their words will be put to the test as they work through the many compelling issues awaiting them starting in January. Progress is truly dependent on their ability to work together – and on their ability to have their words and their actions convey the same message of progress.

Just two years ago, we found ourselves in a similar place – the shift in the political landscape left many uncertain after the results of the 2010 elections. And yet when you analyze the actions and the words of those lawmakers, progress was made on several key business issues. Some of that progress can be credited to an early commitment to bipartisan solutions and a strong leadership to ensure collaboration and partnership.

The 125th Legislature provided a strong example to follow and we look forward to working with the 126th Legislature to continue that forward momentum.
Election Outcomes...

What impact does the election outcome have on policy decisions?

The make-up of the new Legislature will have a significant impact on policy making moving forward. In addition to the leadership changes at the top of each legislative body, there will be new leadership at the joint standing committee level, where most policy decisions are negotiated. The new committee chairs, due to the size of the majority, will likely oversee committees that will provide the Democrats with 9-4 majorities on the higher priority policy committees (such as Appropriations, Taxation, Labor, Natural Resources, Insurance and Financial Services, etc.), and a few lesser priority committees with an 8-5 split, i.e. Agriculture and Marine Resources.

From a policy perspective, the 126th Legislature will surely result in an interesting legislative session. We expect the agenda from the 126th Legislature will be very different than that put forward by the Governor’s office when he proposes his next biennial budget to the full legislature. In addition, the fact that we will be heading into a gubernatorial election cycle cannot be ignored as both sides will look to score political points.

In reality, when you look beyond the partisan impact of an election, each legislative session possesses challenges and opportunities for Maine’s business community, regardless of which party is in control. Looking back the 125th Legislature, there were challenges throughout the session, along with many opportunities, which the business community was able to capitalize on. After the dust settles, it is likely the 126th Legislature will be no different. What is yet unknown are the mindset of lawmakers as they return to Augusta.

The Maine State Chamber will continue to work with the Legislature and the Governor’s office to improve Maine’s business climate and improve our economy. All those elected to the Maine Legislature share this same goal. We might differ on how to get there, but the goal of improving our economy is shared by all, and policy making of the 126th Legislature will reflect this fact.

Conclusion...

After the election results, most have concluded that the 126th Legislature is heading down a path similar to that of the U.S. Congress and President, and there is a high likelihood of policy and political gridlock between the legislature and the governor with a final outcome of little being accomplished.

We at the Chamber are more hopeful. At the end of the day, Maine is not Washington, and the legislature and Governor are constitutionally obligated to work together and pass a balanced budget. And as we pointed out earlier, every legislator, regardless of party affiliation, ran on job creation and a stronger economy. Maine simply does not have, and cannot afford to lose, two years of economic ground due to partisan bickering. We think the administration and incoming legislators are cognizant of this and will concentrate on the positive changes that need to be made to help improve our economy. The Maine State Chamber will be at the Statehouse on your behalf making sure the concerns and input of the business community are heard clearly.
The Power of Chamber Membership is Helping Businesses Save Thousands on Electricity Bills

The Chamber Alliance, a partnership of the local and Regional Chambers of Commerce and the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, is using the buying power of their members to bring volume discounts of Chamber members.

HERE’S HOW YOU CAN SAVE:
Through an exclusive partnership with Integrys Energy Services, the Chamber Member Electricity Aggregation Program has saved Maine businesses thousands of dollars on their power bills.

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Maine State Chamber board announces officers and welcomes 2013 board of directors —

On Monday, November 26, 2012, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce confirmed its 2013 board of directors and elected its board officers during its annual Board Appreciation Dinner.

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the reappointment of Frank McGinty of MaineHealth, as the organization’s board chairman. An alumnus of Bates College, Frank McGinty has served as Executive Vice President and Treasurer of MaineHealth, the state’s largest health system, since January 2003. He is responsible for leading the system’s government and employer relations activities, as well as the direction of its financial affairs. Prior to joining MaineHealth’s senior management team as Vice President for Operations & Treasurer in January 2001, he was a senior executive with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine for 11 years. McGinty also has 10 years in public service, serving as the Maine Department of Human Services’ Deputy Commissioner for Health & Medical Services from 1979 to 1984, and as Executive Director of the Maine Health Care Finance Commission from 1984 to 1989. Throughout his career, he has served on several Gubernatorial and Legislative commissions and as a trustee of several not-for-profit organizations.

In addition, the following officers were re-confirmed for a second term: Melinda Poore of Time Warner Cable, New England Division, as first vice chair; and, Wick Johnson of Kennebec Technologies as second vice chair. Stephen Culver of Hannaford Bros., Co. is the board’s immediate past chair.

In addition, the Maine State Chamber welcomed new Board members, as well as those filling unexpired terms and confirmed the reappointment of 18 directors. New directors include Joe Bruno of Community Pharmacies, LP; Peter Connell of Courtcon, Inc.; Dave Colter of GAC Chemical; Mark St. Germain of St. Germain Collins; and, Alexandra Serra of Wal-Mart.

Reappointed directors include Kim Vandermeulen, Alternative Manufacturing, Inc.; William Williamson, Bank of America Merrill Lynch; Daniel Riley, Jr., Bernstein Shur; Sara Burns, Central Maine Power Company; Tom Violette, Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems; Jon Fitzgerald, General Dynamics Bath Iron Works Corp.; Clifton Greim, Harriman Associates; Edward Kane, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care; Sterling Kozlowski, KeyBank Maine; Dave McKenney, McCain Foods USA, Inc.; Kimberly N. Lindlof, Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce; Chris Sherman, NextEra Energy Maine, LLC; Richard Malinowski, Procter & Gamble-Tambrands; Connie Russell, Samoset Resort; Richard Stanley, Sanford-Springvale Chamber of Commerce; Lawrence Wold, TD Bank; Bruce Wagner, Traverse CEO, LLC; and, Doug McKeown, Woodard & Curran Inc.

Also, Chris Joyce of Texas Instruments will fill the unexpired term of Doug Wilson, also of Texas Instruments.

Continued on Page 5...
2013 Board of Directors
Alphabetical by company name

Mr. William Allard,
Burns & McDonnell

Mr. James Atwell,
Sevee & Maher Engineers, Inc.

Mr. David H. Brenerman,
Unum

Mr. Tom Brennan,
Poland Spring Water Company

Mr. Joe Bruno,
Community Pharmacies, LP

Mr. Dana Bullen,
Sunday River

Ms. Sara Burns,
Central Maine Power Company

Ms. Cindy Carroll,
Unitil Corp.

Mr. Jim Cohen,
Verrill Dana, LLP

Mr. Dave Colte,
GAC Chemical

Mr. James Conlon,
Bangor Savings Bank

Mr. Peter Connell,
Courtcon, Inc.

Mr. Daniel P. Corcoran,
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine

Mr. Stephen Cuiver,
Hannaford Bros., Co.

Mr. John Delahanty,
Pierce Atwood LLP

Mr. Alan Dorr,
Dead River Company

Mr. Jon Fitzgerald,
General Dynamics Bath Iron Works Corp.

Mr. Clifton Greim,
Harriman Associates

Mr. Duane Gushee,
D & G Machine Products

Mr. Jim Hanley,
Pike Industries, Inc.

Mr. Michael Hyde,
The Jackson Laboratory

Mr. Wick Johnson,
Kennebec Technologies

Mr. Edward Kane,
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care

Mr. Sterling Kozlowski,
KeyBank Maine

Ms. Cheryle Levesque,
Old Town Fuel & Fiber

Ms. Kimberly N. Lindlof,
Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Richard Malinowski,
Procter & Gamble - Tambrands

Mr. Frank McGinty,
MaineHealth

Mr. Dave McKenney,
McCain Foods USA, Inc.

Mr. Doug McKeown,
Woodard & Curran, Inc.

Mr. Brian Oliver,
Casella Waste Systems, Eastern Region

Mr. John Oliver,
L.L. Bean, Inc.

Mr. Michael A. Papp,
Pratt & Whitney

Ms. Melinda Poore,
Time Warner Cable, New England Division

Ms. Audrey Prior,
FairPoint Communications

Mr. Stephen Rich,
WBRC Architects Engineers

Mr. Daniel Riley, Jr.,
Bernstein Shur

Ms. Ann Robinson,
Preti Flaherty, LLP

Mr. Connie Russell,
Samoset Resort

Mr. Mitchell Sammons,
The Sheridan Corporation

Mr. Herbert R. Sargent,
Sargent Corporation

Ms. Alexandra Serra,
Wal-Mart

Mr. Chris Sherman,
NextEra Energy Maine, LLC

Ms. Beth Shissler,
Sea Bags

Ms. Eileen Skinner,
Mercy Hospital

Mr. Owen Smith,
AT&T Wireless

Mr. Richard Stanley,
Sanford-Springvale Chamber & Economic Development

Mr. Mark St. Germain,
St. Germain Collins

Mr. Josh Tardy,
Mitchell Tardy Government Affairs

Mr. Kim Vandermeulen,
Alternative Manufacturing, Inc.

Mr. Tom Violette,
Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems

Mr. Derek Volk,
Volk Packaging Corporation

Ms. Kim Wadleigh,
Bangor Hydro-Electric Company

Mr. Bruce Wagner,
Traverse CEO, LLC

Mr. Tim Walton,
CIANBRO

Mr. Richard White,
Martin’s Point Health Care

Mr. Gregory Wiessner,
WEX

Mr. William Williamson,
Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Mr. Chris Joyce,
Texas Instruments

Mr. Lawrence Wold,
TD Bank

Mr. Sam Zaitlin,
Renewable Energy Storage of Maine

Mr. William Allard,
Burns & McDonnell

Mr. James Atwell,
Sevee & Maher Engineers, Inc.

Mr. David H. Brenerman,
Unum

Mr. Tom Brennan,
Poland Spring Water Company

Mr. Joe Bruno,
Community Pharmacies, LP

Mr. Dana Bullen,
Sunday River

Ms. Sara Burns,
Central Maine Power Company

Ms. Cindy Carroll,
Unitil Corp.

Mr. Jim Cohen,
Verrill Dana, LLP

Mr. Dave Colte,
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Mr. James Conlon,
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Harriman Associates

Mr. Duane Gushee,
D & G Machine Products

Mr. Jim Hanley,
Pike Industries, Inc.

Mr. Michael Hyde,
The Jackson Laboratory

Mr. Wick Johnson,
Kennebec Technologies

Mr. Edward Kane,
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care

Mr. Sterling Kozlowski,
KeyBank Maine

Ms. Cheryle Levesque,
Old Town Fuel & Fiber

Ms. Kimberly N. Lindlof,
Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Richard Malinowski,
Procter & Gamble - Tambrands

Mr. Frank McGinty,
MaineHealth

Mr. Dave McKenney,
McCain Foods USA, Inc.

Mr. Doug McKeown,
Woodard & Curran, Inc.

Mr. Brian Oliver,
Casella Waste Systems, Eastern Region

Mr. John Oliver,
L.L. Bean, Inc.

Mr. Michael A. Papp,
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Mr. William Williamson,
Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Mr. Chris Joyce,
Texas Instruments

Mr. Lawrence Wold,
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Mr. Sam Zaitlin,
Renewable Energy Storage of Maine

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Accomplishments of local chambers and business leaders recognized at Maine State Chamber’s appreciation dinner

On Monday, November 26, 2012, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce presented three annual recognitions at its Board of Directors Appreciation Dinner at the Harraseeket Inn (see bios below). Maine State Chamber President Dana Connors honored Bruce Wagner, president of Traverse CEO, LLC, with this year’s President’s Recognition Award, for his many contributions to Maine’s economy through his profession as a “turnaround specialist” as well as for the expertise and assistance he has provided the Maine State Chamber during his active participation on its board of directors.

Eleanor Vadenais, executive director of the Wells Chamber of Commerce, received the 2012 Chamber Executive of the Year award for her many contributions to her region as a long-standing chamber employee and promoter of the travel and tourism industry.

Nominated by Robin Zinchuk, president of the Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce, the 2012 Chamber Volunteer of the Year award was awarded to Steve Etheridge, co-owner of Rooster’s Roadhouse and active member of the Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce.

About the 2012 Award Recipients

Chamber Volunteer of the Year...

About the Chamber Volunteer of the Year Award: This award honors an individual who is actively dedicated to the vitality of their local chamber. Selection is determined from a statement of the volunteer’s leadership qualities and accomplishments.

Steve Etheridge, active member of the Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce

Nominated by Robin Zinchuk, president of the Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce, Steve Etheridge has been very active with both the chamber’s activities, as well as those of several municipal committees. Steve Etheridge and his partner, Gary Szpara, own Rooster’s Roadhouse, a Bethel restaurant that is popular to both locals and visitors. Since moving to the area and opening the restaurant, Steve and Gary have been very supportive of various community non-profit causes.

Upon joining the Bethel Chamber’s board four years ago, Steve was elected its Treasurer, due largely to his help in establishing more effective reporting mechanisms. He then served as the board’s president-elect in 2010 and as board president in 2011. His successor changed jobs late in 2011 and had to resign from the chamber board, so Steve agreed to serve another year in that role.

A “hands-on” volunteer, Steve is a leader, without micro-managing the staff, which has been a wonderful example to other future volunteer leaders. Not only does Steve run effective and productive meetings, he has been present and helpful at all of our chamber events and in many board committees. Steve is very quick to acknowledge the contributions of others – and is vocal with his praise. He is a good “connector” between the municipal committees he serves on and the business community.

We agree with Robin: Steve is the perfect choice for the Maine State Chamber’s Volunteer of the Year Award in 2012!

Chamber Executive of the Year...

About the Chamber Executive of the Year Award: Each year, this award recognizes a local chamber executive’s hard work and dedication, determined by a statement of achievements detailing such noteworthy efforts as economic development initiatives, successful events, and an improved bottom line.

Eleanor Vadenais, executive director of the Wells Chamber of Commerce

Well-deserved and long-overdue, we are very proud to present this year’s Chamber Executive of the Year award to Eleanor Vadenais, executive director of the Wells Chamber of Commerce, and a long-standing chamber employee and promoter of the travel and tourism industry.

Eleanor moved to Maine in 1999 having been employed in the hospitality industry and working for the Worcester Area Convention

Continued on Page 8...
and Visitor’s Bureau. Worcester’s loss quickly became our gain when she was hired in 1999 to serve as executive director of the Ogunquit Chamber of Commerce. Under her guidance, the chamber bought the former Jonathan’s Back Yard Diner, when she assisted the Capital Campaign Fundraising Committee in its goal to raise $350,000 to purchase the building. Having been successful in its quest, the local chamber moved to its new location in March 2000. She successfully transitioned that Chamber running both the Ogunquit Information Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce under one roof.

In 2007, the Wells Chamber of Commerce and Visitor’s Information Center hired Eleanor as its first executive director. In that role, she has significantly increased membership and revenue during the past five years. She successfully promoted that organization into one of the most respected chambers in the state. Her expertise in management, attention to detail, and true professionalism are an example for all to follow.

Here are a few comments from her peers:

- Rick Stanley, president of the Sanford/Springdale Chamber, says: “Eleanor knows the chamber business as well as any chamber director in the state of Maine. She is a true professional in the field of chamber work. When I have any doubt on policy, membership, or business issues related to the chamber, I can count on her for good advice. I am proud to nominate her for Chamber Executive of the year.”

- Bud Harmon, president/CEO of the Old Orchard Beach Chamber, adds: “What can I say? She’s the ‘go to’ professional in the chamber field. You may not always be pleased with the answer when asking advice, but she will not steer you wrong. Eleanor is honest, sincere, and knows the business inside and out. One of her greatest qualities is her loyalty to her chamber staff, friends, associates, and chamber peers. She is a gift to the tourism industry, and we are extremely fortunate to have her. Nominating her for this honor is my pleasure.”

- Jonathan Carter, town manager of Wells, notes: “Without question, Eleanor represents the Town of Well’s commerce and the community as a whole. ‘Take No Prisoners Eleanor’ has the best intentions always for her membership. She provides tremendous feedback to me, and I have asked her to be part of my team of department heads.”

President’s Recognition Award...

About the President’s Recognition Award: This honor is presented to a company or individual who demonstrates involvement in promoting the mission and activities of the Maine State Chamber. This year we are recognizing an individual who has consistently demonstrated a commitment to investing in Maine’s economy and its people.

Continued on Page 9...

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The company trusted to keep homes warm and comfortable is now offering electricity. Central Maine Power and Bangor Hydro Electric Company Customers: Switch to Dead River Company and save up to 6% on your electricity supply bills.

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Godfrey Wood retires from Portland Regional Chambers

Godfrey Wood recently announced that he will step down as president and CEO of the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce after 15 years at the organization’s helm. His last day in that position will be December 31.

The Maine State Chamber would like to thank him for his many years of service and congratulate him on his many contributions to strengthening Maine’s economy.

2012 Awards...  (Continued from Page 8...)

Bruce Wagner,
President of Traverse CEO, LLC

Since 2004, Bruce Wagner has made many contributions to Maine’s economy through his professional acts of going into challenged companies — such as Martin’s Point Health Care and Barber Foods — and turning them into stronger companies that are more competitive and successful. Nationally, he’s been renewing growth and operating excellence even longer.

While those achievements alone would undoubtedly earn many awards, the 2012 President’s Award is presented to Bruce tonight for his commitment to the Maine State Chamber, for his willingness to go beyond the ordinary, and for the expertise and assistance he has provided this organization.

Bruce’s service to the Maine State Chamber includes his involvement as a board member, as a spokesperson for a tax referendum campaign, and as a business leader that is always willing to assume a task or take responsibility for any initiative in which he firmly believes.

Most notably, Bruce used his experience as a “turnaround specialist” to assist Maine State Chamber’s board and staff to develop economic development strategies that will guide our organization’s priorities during the next five years. Working in collaboration with the Maine Development Foundation, this strategy will strengthen the Maine economy and will also support values of Maine’s business leaders.

His guidance and countless hours of meetings with our staff and board are immeasurable and invaluable. We thank him with the presentation of this year’s President’s Award, as an expression of our admiration and appreciation for his dedication to advancing Maine’s business community.

Maine BLN receives national recognition

Business Leadership Network Helps Employers Hire People with Disabilities

The U.S. Business Leadership Network (USBLN) has recognized Maine’s new disabilities employment program as the Affiliate of the Month for November 2012. Formed in the spring of 2012, the Maine BLN program works with businesses to increase the employment of people with disabilities in Maine.

Housed within the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, the BLN is led by part-time Director Jim Baumer and the Maine BLN Advisory Board. The board includes Procter & Gamble, L.L. Bean, U.S. Cellular, the Maine chapter of the Society for Human Resources Managers, the Aroostook Center Mall, and DHHS and DOL staff representatives.

As Maine’s general population and the workforce ages, the number of citizens and workers with disabilities increases. Maine’s BLN has the potential to play a key role in brokering partnerships and becoming a valuable resource to employers to help them better serve customers and employees with disabilities.

“We have witnessed the importance of work in terms of creating a sense of purpose, improving self-esteem and creating stronger ties in the community,” said DHHS Commissioner Mary Mayhew. “We know that people with disabilities have a lower rate of employment than the general population and appreciate the effort of Maine’s Business Leadership Network to create opportunities for success in the workforce.”

The Maine BLN’s lead employer is Procter & Gamble / Tambrands in Auburn. Their new FlexiCenter incorporates an inclusion model for hiring based upon a successful program implemented in other states by Walgreens. David Bartage, finance manager with Procter &
Imagine for a moment: It is Christmas 1942. You are a POW in Europe. You and 100 other POWs are travelling by train, crammed into a box car that smells of cattle. It is cold, and you are not dressed for the climate. Suddenly the train comes under fire, and in the moments that follow, these 100 men – far away from home – hold hands and sing Silent Night! For some, it will be their last Christmas – and for all of them, the sacrifice to ensure freedom at home is part of their fiber.

Sir Stanley Wojtusik, vice chair of the board of directors for Wreaths Across America (WAA), was one of those POWs who came home. To be thankful for those that gave their lives is indeed part of being grateful for making it home. And with that comes the responsibility to Remember – Honor – Teach.

The mission of Wreaths Across America sounds simple, yet implies such profound sentiment: Remember. Honor. Teach. The mission is their passion. It is part of every activity they conduct, every presentation they make, and every encounter they have.

Their commitment to “Remember – Honor – Teach” is powerfully illustrated at the 1,800-square-foot Wreaths Across America Museum, which is housed in the same building as the Worcester Wreath Company’s headquarters in Harrington, Maine. It’s difficult to express in words the flood of emotions experienced by visitors to the museum at Wreaths Across America as they hear the stories and understand the impact our nation’s veterans have made on the freedoms we so often overlook, for a concept of freedom in that they may never get to see.

It’s also that time of year when Wreaths Across America makes its annual voyage to Arlington National Cemetery to remember those that won’t be home for the holidays. December 13, 2008, was unanimously voted as “Wreaths Across America Day” by the U.S. Congress. Since then, WAA traditionally makes its pilgrimage on the second or third Saturday of December.

On Saturday, December 8, the 2012 convoy begins its weeklong journey from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington, Virginia, with stops at schools and hospitals, and in communities along the way, including a visit to West Point, NY, and Liberty State Park, NJ. In 2011, WAA placed 90,000 wreaths in just over an hour at Arlington National Cemetery. This year, wreath ceremonies will occur at nearly 800 locations in the United States and abroad.

Known as the world’s largest veteran’s parade, the 20-plus-vehicle procession consists of tractor trailer trucks, buses carrying veterans and Gold Star Families, Patriot Guard Riders, and local law enforcement. The generosity of the volunteer drivers and donated trucking is a big key to the project’s success.

The founder of Wreaths Across America, Morrill Worcester, started the Arlington Wreath Project at Arlington National Cemetery in 1992, initially donating 5,000 wreaths to be placed on the graves of veterans. He is also president of Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, which now donates 30,000 wreaths annually to the project and is then joined by other wreath producers from across the country to complete the requests for memorial wreaths.

A humble and proud man, Worcester simply stated: “It’s important to say thank you with what you have to give.” Worcester’s inspiration came from a childhood experience. As a 12-year-old paper boy for the Bangor Daily News, he won a trip to Washington, D.C. His first trip to Arlington National Cemetery left an impression on that young boy that would be carried for the rest of his life. He always remembered that his good fortune in life and in business was due, in large part, to the veterans who made the
ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we continue to enjoy as Americans.

Many years later, in 1992, Worcester Wreath had a surplus of wreaths as the end of the holiday season drew near. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country’s Veterans. With the help of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older sections of the cemetery, a section which had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year, as the family members of those veterans passed away as well.

In addition, a number of other individuals and organizations stepped up to help. Blue Bird Ranch, Inc., generously provided transportation all the way to Virginia. Volunteers from the local American Legion and VFW Posts gathered with members of the community to decorate each wreath with traditional red, hand-tied bows. Members of the Maine State Society of Washington, D.C., helped to organize the wreath-laying, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The endeavor had sparked a community spirit and had awakened patriotic hearts.

The annual tribute went on quietly for several years, until 2005, when a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet. Suddenly, the project received national attention. Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Worcester began sending seven wreaths to every state, one for each branch of the military, and for POW / MIAs.

In 2006, with the help of the Civil Air Patrol and other civic organizations, simultaneous wreath laying ceremonies were held at over 150 locations around the country. The Patriot Guard Riders volunteered as escort for the wreaths going to Arlington. This began the annual “Veterans Honor Parade” that travels the East Coast in early December.

In 2008, more than 60,000 volunteers placed more than 100,000 wreaths on veterans’ graves at Arlington, and at

For the most current information, visit www.mainechamber.org

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Maine BLN...  (Continued from Page 9...)

Gamble / Tambrands, serves on the Core Steering Committee.

Commission of Labor Jeanne Paquette recognized the importance of Procter & Gamble’s participation, "Having a high-visibility, progressive employer like P&G spearheading our efforts in Maine will only enhance our capacity to grow our employer-to-employer viability. We also appreciate the Maine State Chamber’s support in launching this program."

"Recognizing the great contributions people with disabilities make in our economy plays an important role in our workforce development mission," she added.

In selecting Maine, the USBLN noted that the new affiliate “has been doing outstanding start up work in your locale and that you have been busy reaching out to business to help equip them with the tools that they need to tap into the skills, talent and buying power of persons with disability advancing disability inclusion in the workplace, marketplace and supply chain.”

They also noted, “Your business-led board is exemplary. … We know that the ‘Best Practices’ that you will promote will be cutting edge within our network.”

In the Maine affiliate’s first eight weeks of operations, it connected successfully with more than a dozen employers. The BLN will host a series of workshops for employers in early 2013 that will highlight the value and importance of hiring people with disabilities by featuring businesses experienced in employing people with disabilities.

USBLN is the national disability organization made up of more than 60 BLN affiliates across North America, 5,000 employers. The USBLN facilitates the ability of employers to create disabilities inclusive cultures that increase their talent pools, attract and retain customers and enhance entrepreneurship and economic opportunities for people with disabilities.

For more information, please visit http://mainebln.org or contact Julie Rabinowitz at the Maine Department of Labor by calling (207) 621-5009, or John Martins at the Maine Department of Health and Human Services by calling (207) 287-5012.

Wreaths Across America... (Continued from Page 11...)

more than 400 other state, national, and local cemeteries. Additionally, more than 300 locations held wreath laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries.

In 2010, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers laid over 220,000 memorial wreaths at 545 locations in the United States and beyond, including ceremonies at the Pearl Harbor Memorial, Bunker Hill, Valley Forge, and the sites if the September 11 tragedies. That’s more than double the wreaths in just two years’ time!

As the event grew each year, it became clear the desire to remember and honor our country’s fallen heroes was bigger than Arlington, and bigger than this one company. In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans, and other groups and individuals who had helped with their annual remembrance wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America, a non-profit 501-c3 organization, to continue and expand this effort, and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same.

The five-person staff, their board, and thousands of volunteers are committed to remembering and to keeping it very personal, very emotional, and very human. “We can’t forget the life they gave up for us. Our veterans are someone’s child, someone’s father, brother, and friend,” says Karen Worcester, Morrill Worcester’s wife and the organization’s volunteer executive director.

“They lived with the thought of what it was like for them and their families during their service.”

“We have to be Americans first,” she continues, emphatically. “We can’t forget who we are as Americans; we can’t trade comfort for freedom.”

A visit to the WAA museum or participation in any of their programs will certainly change how you look at your nation’s freedoms. While many may take these rights for granted and have grown as a society to expect certain freedoms, these cherish privileges have indeed been earned by our forebearers. The veterans’ stories shared by WAA will instill a deeper respect for their ultimate sacrifice, and hopefully also increase compassion for those veterans that do return.

So this holiday season, remember those that aren’t home to celebrate this year. Honor the veterans in your communities and listen to their stories. Build a connection between the past and the future by teaching the next generation to value the contributions of veterans so that we understand their sacrifice for our freedom.

This exhibit recognizes the generosity of and thanks the many volunteer drivers for their role in the success of Wreaths Across America. Known as the world’s largest veteran’s parade, the 20-plus-vehicle procession consists of tractor trailer trucks, buses carrying veterans and Gold Star Families, Patriot Guard Riders, and local law enforcement. Donated trucking is a big key to the project’s success.
InternHelpME.com: Help us help you!

Since the launch of the InternHelpME.com platform in October 2010, we have been working to grow participation by Maine employers, college-aged students, college and university faculty, and career services staffs statewide. The InternHelpME.com program seeks to achieve its ultimate goal of having a positive impact on Maine, its future workforce, and the state’s economy, by enhancing the career development efforts already in place by the colleges and universities; providing businesses with statewide access to students like never before; and, offering students meaningful internship experiences in Maine.

When speaking to groups of business people, they are asked to give a show of hands to this question: “How many of you participated in an internship while in college?” The response is usually strong. The follow-up question demonstrates the findings in many national reports: “How many of you were offered full-time employment by that employer once you graduated?” This response repeatedly supports the national reports, stating that historically more that 67% of students are offered full-time employment once they graduate through the employers with which they interned.

Managed by the Maine State Chamber, InternHelpME.com is committed to providing this platform to help promote internships and ultimately retain more talent for Maine employers. Maine is one of just a few states nationwide who currently offers this statewide connection among employers, educators and students. Activity on the InternHelpME.com platform continues to grow, particularly from the student population who is interested in opportunities in Maine.

Calling all employers...

Would you consider offering an internship for the summer of 2013? Consider this:

For Maine’s Small Employers: If you’ve never offered an internship and could use some help in areas of your business like marketing, communications, social media, finance, hospitality, market research, computer science or information technology, engineering, process management, etc., the possibilities are endless. Maine is a small business state with tremendous opportunity to offer students real and meaningful experience, while gaining valuable help in your daily operations.

For Maine’s Larger Employers: Many of Maine’s larger employers do already offer internships in very specific fields. Therefore, they are encouraged to consider other areas of operations that may not have been previously considered for internships.

This initiative provides an opportunity to show Maine’s college-aged students that opportunities and good jobs exist here in Maine. There is also tremendous opportunity for employers to target projects that they may not currently have the resources to accomplish with existing staff. This is a sensible approach for both employers and students – A win-win! Additionally, colleges and universities recognize that this platform broadens the opportunities they can offer their students on a statewide platform that is not available elsewhere.

We are interested in talking with any employer, large or small, who may want to learn more about this program and how it may help their daily operations. For more information, please visit www.InternHelpME.com or contact Joyce LaRoche, acting director, by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 113, or by emailing jlaroche@mainechamber.org; or, Amy Downing, program coordinator, by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 104, or by emailing adowning@mainechamber.org.

You are invited!

UMaine Career Fair

Wednesday, January 30, 2013 • 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
New Balance Recreation Center, University of Maine campus

The Career Center at the University of Maine is holding its annual Career Fair on Wednesday January 30, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m in the New Balance Recreation Center on the University of Maine campus. Nearly 90 employers and more than 750 students attended the 2012 UMaine Career Fair, and we anticipate meeting or exceeding those numbers in 2013.

The UMaine Career Fair brings employers to campus to meet face-to-face with students of all majors and all classes (first year through graduate students) to educate them about careers. If you have internships or full-time jobs to fill, this is your opportunity to begin the hiring process on the spot. As a follow-up, you are welcome to reserve an interview room in the Career Center to conduct interviews during either the day after the fair or at a later date.

To register for the UMaine Career Fair:

- Go to https://maine-csm.symplicity.com/events/cf13.
- Under New Participants - click on “Proceed to Registration Form.”
- Once you have completed and submitted the registration form, you will receive an email confirming your registration.
- The registration fee is $350 until January 7, 2013 ($400 after January 7, 2013).
- Deadline for registrations is January 16, 2013.

If you would like to learn about the University of Maine’s Career Fair in greater detail, please feel free to contact Cathy Marquez, assistant director for employer relations, by calling (207) 581-1353 or emailing cathy.marquez@unm.aine.edu, or Patty Counihan, Career Center director, by calling (207) 581-1355 or by emailing patty.counihan@unm.aine.edu.
Maine State Chamber hosts third federal health care reform forum to outline challenges and changes for Maine businesses as 2014 nears

More than 125 employers from every business sector and region of the state gathered at the Augusta Civic Center on November 28, 2012, to hear first-hand about the breaking developments occurring nationally and here in Maine concerning the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The statewide forum was the first of its kind for employers here in Maine, in the wake of both the decision by the United States Supreme Court on the Constitutionality of the ACA, and the Presidential election.

Entitled “Federal Health Care Reform: After the Supreme Court Decision,” the forum featured a panel of national and regional experts whose purpose was to provide businesses with accurate and timely information on the ever-changing implementation of the PPACA, now nearly two years old. For many businesses in attendance, it was their first opportunity to hear how the law will affect the health insurance they currently provide to their employees; what it may mean to employers in terms of potential costs, premiums, or penalties; and, other considerations regarding business decisions they will need to make as a result of the pending requirements in the coming years.

The presentation consisted of four panelists: Katie Mahoney, executive director of health policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Charlie Dingman, partner in the firm of Preti Flaherty; William Graham, vice president of policy and governmental affairs with Harvard Pilgrim Health Care; and, Joel Allumbaugh, chief executive officer with National Worksite Benefit Group, Inc.

Each of the four panelists spent approximately 30 minutes outlining different aspects of the law as it pertains to and impacts employers in Maine. Ms. Mahoney updated attendees on the stream

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of rulemaking now coming out of a variety of federal agencies that seek to clarify some of the most important portions of the law. In addition, she gave the audience insight into the possibility of a “change package” from the next Congress that might seek to amend certain inconsistencies, uncertainties and errors in the ACA law.

Mr. Graham spoke of the work being done by the fully insured plans to prepare their clients for the coming changes. He also discussed what a partnership exchange might mean for the both the state and employers.

Mr. Dingman outlined some of the responsibilities and requirements of which employers should be cognizant as 2014 approaches, and what they mean for both small group and large group employers.

Lastly, Mr. Allumbaugh discussed the challenges facing brokers when discussing the pending changes and requirements of the ACA with smaller employers. He also expressed his continued concern regarding the feasibility of the ACA’s goals, in light of the many unknowns associated with its implementation.

This brief description truly does not do justice to the vast amount of useful and insightful material presented. Each speaker was gracious enough to provide their presentation to the Maine State Chamber. In order to get this critical information out to our members and the business community as a whole, we have posted them in PDF formats on our web site at www.mainechamber.org/health-careforum. We strongly encourage you to review these presentations. The information will be extremely helpful to both individuals and businesses as we navigate and understand this important law.

The Maine State Chamber is committed to providing its members with timely and accurate information as Maine and the nation moves ahead in this critical policy area. Based on the many positive comments we get about this forum, we will plan on providing an additional forum in 2013, as the full impact of the law – and the vast amount of rulemaking required in Washington – becomes clearer. For additional information or questions, please contact Peter Gore by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 107, or by emailing pgore@mainechamber.org.
E2Tech elects board of directors and new chairman before turning Annual Meeting over to its members

The Environmental and Energy Technology Council of Maine (E2Tech) welcomed back its Board of Directors and elected Jim Katsiaficas of Portland-based law firm Perkins Thompson as its new Chairman at the group’s Annual Meeting on the University of Maine Portland Campus.

Mr. Katsiaficas has practiced environmental and land use, municipal and administrative law since 1985. He is a shareholder and director of Perkins Thompson, has served as town attorney for a number of Maine municipalities, and has represented public and private clients in federal Superfund and state uncontrollable hazardous substance site matters and in several Brownfield site proceedings. He was previously a senior staff attorney and assistant director for state and federal relations with the Maine Municipal Association and associate corporation counsel for the City of Portland.

Outgoing co-chairs Jim Atwell of Seave & Maher Engineering and Jeff Thaler of the University of Maine, helped launch E2Tech in 2002 and provided significant leadership in the organization’s growth and mission during the past decade. “Jim and Jeff have been instrumental in expanding Maine’s environmental, energy and clean technology sectors,” said Executive Director Jeff Marks. “They built a network that aggressively promotes and supports job growth and business interaction within the emerging industry. Their vision remains at the core of E2Tech’s mission in 2012.” Both will remain on the Board.

E2Tech also said goodbye to Treasurer Joel Rouillard, who is leaving Fairchild Semiconductor’s South Portland manufacturing facility, where he led the company’s environmental compliance and operational performance initiatives.

E2Tech then turned the spotlight on its members. Tim Soley of East Brown

Continued on Page 18...
In the loop on geothermal in Maine

Geothermal energy is an often-overlooked resource in the renewable portfolio, but in reality these systems have the potential to power, heat, and cool homes and businesses across Maine. An impediment to the more widespread use of geothermal energy for residential and commercial applications is the upfront costs of installation. In a state where energy efficiency, wind, wood, and solar receive most of the attention, it is important to promote a broad portfolio of available resources for residential, commercial, and industrial needs.

On Thursday, December 13, E2Tech will hold a forum at Wishcamper Center, USM Portland Campus, that will walk attendees through the design, installation, and operation of cost-effective geothermal systems in Maine, describe the types of systems, and advise on the benefits of and barriers to its use. Proper education of the home and business owner and accurate information as to the types of economically viable and environmentally benign geothermal exchange systems available, along with potential financial incentives and transparent payback scenarios, are crucial to home and business owners’ courses of action.

- Martin Orio – President, New England Geothermal Professional Association & Vice President, Water Energy Distributors
- Tim Weber – Commercial Manager, NextEnergy USA
- Bill Morgner – President/Co-Owner, Mid-Coast Energy Systems
- Paul Bradbury – Airport Director, Portland Jetport

This forum is dedicated to the memory of Dr. John Logan, an active member of E2Tech, a passionate advocate for the geothermal industry, and a wonderful person. He will be missed. Dr. Logan

Continued on Page 18...
Need a reason to choose MEMIC?

How about a dividend check? This November MEMIC will be mailing checks totaling $13 million to more than 18,000 of our policyholders. Once this dividend has been paid, MEMIC will have given back more than $146 million to our Maine-based policyholders. To make sure you're choosing MEMIC, talk to your agent or go to www.memic.com.

E2 Tech Board...
(Continued from Page 16...)

Cow Management discussed energy efficiency and conservation activities in its operation of nearly 1 MM square feet in 20 Portland commercial properties. Jim Atwell examined EcoMaine’s innovative ash mining and processing operations to recover metals from landfilled ash at their facilities in South Portland and Scarborough. Michael Stoddard of the Efficiency Maine Trust explained its energy efficiency and alternative energy programs that are leading to cost-effective projects that save Maine businesses and institutions both energy and money. Anne Stephenson of Southern Maine Community College highlighted the recently-launched building energy education program as well as a robust program of certifications and workshops for professional students. Finally, Maggie Connolly of Woodard & Curran walked the audience through its survey, wetland and geotechnical engineering permitting, and stormwater management design features for Maine Liquid Methane Fuels’ proposed $50 million facility in Brewer. Jeff Marks attested: “Maine is blessed to have companies and institutions providing economic leadership by implementing clean technology solutions.”

Geothermal in Maine...
(Continued from Page 17...)

passed away on Sunday, June 3, 2012, at his home in Raymond, Maine, with his beloved wife, Theda, at his side. At the time, he was regional director of Maine for Water Energy Distributors, Inc., located in New Hampshire. Dr. Logan has been associated with both residential and commercial geothermal installations in Maine, of which the Maine Audubon Visitors Center is a role model for low-cost, environmentally-friendly energy recycling in the State.

Registration information is available at www.e2tech.org.
Maine State Chamber thanks renewing members and welcomes new members

The Maine State Chamber appreciates the investment its members make each year, and their continued commitment to strengthening the voice of Maine business. With your support, we will continue to be a strong organization that effectively represents the best interests of the Maine business community.

October-November 2012

Allen Insurance & Financial, Camden, Maine
Alternative Manufacturing, Inc., Winthrop, Maine
Altria Client Services, Inc., Richmond, Virginia
American Chemistry Council - Northeast Region, Albany, New York
Anderson-Watkins Associates, Inc., Westbrook, Maine
Austin Associates, P.A., CPAs, Auburn, Maine
Bangor Gas Company, Bangor, Maine
Bangor Hydro-Electric Company, Bangor, Maine
Burgess Advertising & Marketing, Portland, Maine
Burns & McDonnell, New Gloucester, Maine
Capitol Insights, Augusta, Maine
Cascade Auburn Fiber, Auburn, Maine
Casco Bay Energy Company, LLC, Veazie, Maine
Casella Waste Systems, Eastern Region, Saco, Maine
CIGNA HealthCare of Maine, Inc., South Portland, Maine
Civil Consultants, South Berwick, Maine
Cross Employee Benefits, Bangor, Maine
D & G Machine Products, Westbrook, Maine
Dead River Company, Portland, Maine
Down East Enterprise, Inc., Camden, Maine
First Wind Energy, LLC, Boston, Massachusetts
Fisher Engineering, Rockland, Maine
GAC Chemical, Searsmont, Maine
Garrand & Co., Portland, Maine
General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products, Saco, Maine
Hall Implement Co., Windham, Maine
Hampton Inn, South Portland, Maine
Harrasekek Lunch & Lobster Co., South Freeport, Maine
Harriman Associates, Auburn, Maine
Hart Public Policy, Inc., Manchester, Maine
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Portland, Maine
Headlight Audio Visual, Inc., Portland, Maine
Healey & Associates, Inc., Portland, Maine
Huhtamaki, Inc., Waterville, Maine
Hussey Seating Co., North Berwick, Maine
Jobs for Maine’s Graduates, Inc., Augusta, Maine
KeyBank Maine, Portland, Maine
Kris-Way Truck Leasing, Inc., South Portland, Maine
L.L. Bean, Inc., Freeport, Maine
LAI International, Scarborough, Maine
Lepage Bakeries, Inc., Auburn, Maine
Liberty Mutual Insurance, Lewiston, Maine
Lighting Concepts, Lewiston, Maine
Lipman, Katz & McKee, Augusta, Maine
Maine Health Management Coalition, Portland, Maine
Maine Hospital Association, Augusta, Maine
Maine Innkeepers Association, Freeport, Maine
Maine Medical Association, Manchester, Maine
Maine Yankee, Wiscasset, Maine
Mercy Hospital, Portland, Maine
Net Innovations LLC, Sidney, Maine
Nichols Portland, Portland, Maine
Nickerson & O’Day, Inc., Brewer, Maine
Norman, Hanson & DeTroy, LLC, Portland, Maine
Northeast Delta Dental, Concord, New Hampshire
One Steel USA, Bangor, Maine
Oxford Casino, Oxford, Maine
Prentiss & Carlisle Co., Inc., Bangor, Maine
Reynolds American Inc., Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Rowley Agency of Maine, Concord, New Hampshire
Smith & Wesson, Houlton, Maine
Sure Winner Foods, Saco, Maine
T-Mobile USA, Inc., Oakland, Maine
TD Bank, Portland, Maine
The Lane Construction Corp., Bangor, Maine
Thomas College, Waterville, Maine
University of Southern Maine, School of Business, Portland, Maine
Vescom Corporation, Hampden, Maine
Waste Management, Inc., Northern New England, Portland, Maine
Wright-Pierce, Topsham, Maine

For the most current information, visit www.mainechamber.org
Happy Holidays
from the Board of Directors
and the staff of the
Maine State Chamber
of Commerce