

# Meet the Maine State Chamber Team

Founded in 1889, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce is Maine's largest business association, serving as *The Voice of Maine Business* on behalf of thousands of employers of all sizes and sectors across the state. The Maine State Chamber focuses on three pillars - Advocacy, Access, and Awareness - to advance a positive business climate and secure a strong state economy in which Maine businesses can compete and succeed.



**Patrick Woodcock, President & CEO**

pwoodcock@mainechamber.org; ext. 103

Patrick joined the Maine State Chamber in October 2023 as President and CEO after returning to his home state from serving in a number of state energy leadership positions in New England. Prior to joining the Chamber, Patrick was the Commissioner of the Department of Energy Resources under Governor Charlie Baker in Massachusetts, where he oversaw offshore wind procurements, new building codes, solar policies, and all other state and regional energy policies. He also served on the Board of the National Association of State Energy Officials, and several state and regional energy boards. Prior to working in Massachusetts, Patrick was Director of the Maine Energy Office from 2013 to 2016 in the Governor LePage Administration where he led efforts to expand air source heat pump adoption and other energy efficiency investments. He previously served as an adviser to former U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe in her Washington, D.C. office. Patrick graduated from Bowdoin College in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government.



**Linda Caprara, Vice President of Advocacy**

lcaprara@mainechamber.org; ext. 106

Linda joined the Maine State Chamber of Commerce in January 2008, and serves as Vice President of Advocacy and the Chamber's Director of Grassroots Advocacy. Prior to joining the Chamber, Linda was Director of Government and Public Affairs at the Maine Pulp and Paper Association. She is a graduate of Saint Anselm College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in sociology. Linda attended Central Connecticut State University for additional studies in taxation and accounting and is a graduate of Connecticut School of Broadcasting.

**Mark Ellis, Director of Operations**



Joining the Chamber in 2019, Mark oversees marketing, membership, publications, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and information technology. In the private sector, he has held senior management positions in information technology. Mark has held leadership positions in state and national political campaigns, statewide political party operations, and legislative communications.

mellis@mainechamber.org; ext. 109

**Jake Lachance, Government Relations Specialist**



Jake joined the Chamber in January 2024 and oversees labor and human resource issues. Jake previously worked in law enforcement, including as Captain of the Cumberland Police Department where he ran day-to-day operations. Jake holds a B.A. in Political Science from the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts.

jlachance@mainechamber.org; ext. 107

**Ashley Luszczi, Government Relations Specialist**



Ashley joined the Chamber in 2023 and oversees energy and environmental policy. She previously worked for the Maine Legislature, including serving as Director of Policy for the Senate President, and in fundraising. Ashley graduated from Mount Vernon Nazarene University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

aluszczki@mainechamber.org; ext. 111

**Angela Ouellette, Executive Assistant to the President**



Angela joined the Chamber in 2018 after moving home to Maine. She serves as liaison to the board of directors, oversees planning and execution of board events and the Chamber's Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) scholarship program, and assists with hiring. Angela has worked in various management roles in the private sector.

angelao@mainechamber.org; ext. 101

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## **Richard Panté, Director of Events & Programs**



Joining the chamber in January of 2024, Richard is responsible for all planning and delivery of the Chamber's in-person and virtual events and programs. He comes to the Chamber after spending close to nine years in the cancer non-profit space with a focus on event and program management.

rpante@mainechamber.org; ext. 110

## **Kattie Peaslee, Financial Administrator**



In August 2022, Kattie joined the Chamber, focusing on producing, recording, and reconciling financial reports. She aids in database maintenance for events and membership, adapting to diverse organizational demands as they emerge. Kattie came to the State Chamber with 15 years' experience in banking.

kpeaslee@mainechamber.org; ext. 108

## **Melody Rousseau, Sponsorship & Advertising Sales Manager**



Melody joined the Chamber in 1996 and was soon promoted to Advertising & Sales Manager, managing ad sales and sponsorships for all Chamber events and publications including *IMPACT* newsletter, *Final Summary*, and *OneVoice Maine* magazine. Melody also works closely with the Chamber's finance and events departments and is active in her community.

melodyr@mainechamber.org; ext. 102

## **Simon West, Director of Finance & Human Resources**



Simon joined the Chamber in 2019 and is responsible for the Chamber's human resources and financial operations. Additionally, Simon assists various affiliates including the Maine Economic Research Institute (MERI) and the Chamber's Education Foundation. Simon has an undergraduate degree from the University of Maine System and an MBA from Thomas College.

swest@mainechamber.org; ext. 117

## **Jen Webber, Communications Consultant**



Since 2011, Jen has directed external communications and served as the Chamber's primary media liaison. She also produces *The Bottom Line* podcast and the Chamber's *OneVoice Maine* magazine. Jen has extensive experience in state and national politics and public affairs. She is a graduate of Denison University in Ohio.

jwebber@mainechamber.org; (207) 939-0213

## **Tae Chong, Multicultural Markets & Strategies Consultant**



Tae leads the Chamber's work to educate, advocate and provide outreach to Maine businesses interested in hiring and retaining a diverse workforce and increasing sales and services to people of color. Tae specializes in market research and strategies with multicultural and BIPOC communities in Maine and the Northeast.

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