calendar

Thursday, January 4  11:45am
Ambassador Meeting
Chamber Office

Tuesday, January 9  8:30am
Retail Trades Division Meeting
Chamber Office

Tuesday, January 9  10:00am
Marine Trades Division Meeting
Chamber Office

Wednesday, January 10  1:00pm
Marketing & Promotions Division Meeting
Chamber Office

Wednesday, January 10  2:30pm
Economic & Development Division Meeting
Chamber Office

Thursday, January 11  11:30am
Chamber Luncheon - State of the School District
Anacortes Lutheran Church

Friday, January 12  11:30am
Finance/Executive Meeting
Chamber Office

Tuesday, January 16  3:30pm
Board Meeting
Anacortes Public Library

Thursday, January 18  5:30pm
Business After Hours
Landed Gentry, 48°North

Thursday, January 25  3:30pm
Ribbon Cutting
ELMM Clinic

Tuesday, January 30  9:00am
VIC Meeting
Chamber Office

Chamber office will be closed on Monday, January 1st

Chamber office will be closed Monday, January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day.

chamber luncheon

State of the School District

Dr. Mark Wenzel, Anacortes School District superintendent, will give a “State of the District” presentation on January 11, 2018. He will share updates on the district’s mission, vision and goals for student success. With the use of videos and student stories, this is always a very informative and popular presentation.

Dr. Wenzel became superintendent in Anacortes in July 2013. He received master’s and doctorate degrees from the London School of Economics and University of Washington, respectively. He lives in Anacortes with his wife, Julie, and children, Ruby, 8, Eli, 5, and Finn, 3.

Our January luncheon is sponsored by Interpreting Technology who prides itself on serving the information technology needs of many throughout Northwest Washington and beyond. Their clients range from home users to public and private sector, including small family operations to municipalities, financial institutions, manufacturing facilities, and international corporations. They respect that each client’s needs, industry and budget vary and ensure their needs are met in the most economical way, without hindering safety and security. They look forward to providing business and residential IT solutions that work for you. Interpreting Technology will be speaking briefly about the new PCI-DSS compliance requirements that begin February 2018. This will affect anyone who accepts payments via credit cards, even if you only accept a few cards per year!

The lunch will take place Thursday, January 11th, at the Lutheran Church at 22nd & O Avenue from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Please RSVP and pay online or in the chamber office to receive the $15 luncheon rate. Payment at the door at the time of the luncheon will be $18. The luncheon will be catered by Gere-a-Deli. Please bring a gift for a giveaway!

business after hours

Start out the new year with Landed Gentry Homes & Communities on Thursday, January 18th, from 5:30pm to 7:00pm, for this month’s Business After Hours. For almost 40 years, Landed Gentry has been building homes and neighborhoods throughout Skagit County and the surrounding area. They are a second generation family-owned, local builder. Each community is thoughtfully created, from the land planning, amenities, and home design to the quality construction, helping their customers to live their best life yet! This year they have several new locations where they are building in Anacortes and excited to share their recently completed model home and sales center located at 48°North, off Oakes Avenue, 1505 Latitude Circle. Come meet some of the Landed Gentry team & other Anacortes business owners, for hors d’oeuvres and refreshments, and take in the views and tour through their beautiful model home at 48°North.

Please RSVP online or by calling 360-293-7911. Gifts for the giveaway are always welcome!
a message from the president

At the chamber board planning session in October, board members took a closer look at the chamber’s mission (that has served us for close to a decade): **To proactively lead and thoughtfully serve and represent our members.**

During the discussion the group brainstormed thoughts on what our chamber does and its place in the community. They felt the current mission was introspective and that the chamber truly works on behalf of all. The chamber raises awareness on issues, provides opportunities for education and takes stands based on what is right for business. The chamber advocates courageously, has a strong focus and high energy. There is a strategic focus for what we do in the community (i.e., we don’t just hold events for the revenue created, we instead ensure they are impactful to all).

To that end, the chamber board created a new, more inclusive mission: **To promote economic prosperity through innovative leadership, advocacy and collaborative community engagement.**

In the coming year, we are going to continue to actively put that mission to work on behalf of Anacortes. We will be canvassing the business community to assess the true needs and ensure we are seeking out resources that will truly benefit our businesses. We will continue to work with high schoolers to provide meaningful job shadow/internship openings.

As the Destination Marketing Organization, we strategically promote Anacortes to the travelling public through our stewardship of lodging tax funds – each year cultivating stronger relationships with both our advertising partners and earned media sources.

We produce three major events designed to encourage guests to come to Experience Anacortes, our island getaway and we actively promote others’ events that do the same. Next month you will hear some exciting news on this front.

We look forward to working with all of you in 2018.

-Stephanie Hamilton, President

community service award

Each year the outgoing chairman has the honor of choosing a recipient for the chairman’s award. This year Brian Johnson chose Dennis Richards from Island Hospital. Dennis holds the position of Board Member at Large on the Executive/Finance Division. He never misses those meetings or full board meetings. Additionally, his position is permanent, there is no end in sight! He always adds to the discussion – getting to the heart of the matter quickly.

Dennis volunteers at our major events. You can see him high atop a ladder or setting up tables, always with an easy smile.

Staff and the current chairman get to choose the recipient of the Community Service Excellence Award. This year Board Chairman, Mary LaFleur was honored to present it to Dan Maul of Classic Style and Company and Fidaglo Artisan Yarn Company.

Dan joined the Ambassador group almost immediately and has engaged this group to not only represent the chamber but to get to know the membership in great new ways. He is currently the chair of the Ambassadors, and we expect to see some great positive energy through his tenure.

Sponsorship opportunities also available
member profile

Sunnyhill Kennels and Cattery

Sunnyhill Kennels and Cattery, one of the oldest businesses on Fidalgo Island, is fully operational again after recovering from damage suffered during a devastating windstorm last spring.

Chris and Marguerite Terrell purchased the business in 1971 from Louis and Enid Corbin, who established the pet services facility in 1936. The kennel was originally located on March’s Point but was moved across the highway to Summit Park Road when two refineries were built in the 1950’s.

The Terrells, inspired by a passion for animals, stepped into the established business with continued commitment to operating a top-of-the-line kennel and services including all-breed grooming and bathing.

“Over the years we have been able to help clients in emergency situations,” said Terrell, “including crises related to fire, weather and medical issues. We’ve had the privilege of being there for our neighbors, whatever it takes.”

Ironically, Sunnyhill Kennels and Cattery benefitted from the help of others when a May windstorm toppled four large poplars, destroying the kennel portion of the business.

“The destruction was catastrophic,” said Terrell, “but from the day we assessed the damage we have been committed to rebuilding and restoring services to our community.”

The Terrells and long-time employee Vicki Armstrong express their gratitude for a remarkable support response from the community they serve.

“We have cared for generations of pets here in Anacortes, and with that we have come to feel part of the families of those we serve,” said Terrell. “When storm damage forced the temporary closure of our business the outpouring of support was immediate, and prolonged. From emergency response crews and volunteers, to local businesses and generous donors we have experienced the love and support of a truly special community.”

Sunnyhill Kennels and Cattery, 8033 Summit Park Rd, has been restored and fully operational since mid-November. Visit their website at sunnyhillkennels.com or call 360-293-3434.

board member profile

Reid Meyers

After spending nearly 30 years in San Antonio, TX, Reid and Ann Meyers retired full-time to Anacortes in 2014. Since 1997, they spent summers in the San Juan’s to escape the Texas heat.

Reid spent his business career as a senior lawyer at USAA, managing the company’s employment law issues and corporate litigation world-wide. While at USAA, he served as its representative to the San Antonio Greater Chamber on various committees and projects. Prior to USAA, he was with an Atlanta-based labor law boutique representing companies with union issues and day-to-day employment matters.

After retirement from USAA, Reid practiced law in San Antonio representing management and was outside general counsel for several companies. Separate from that he developed a niche practice representing terminated executives. That area of his practice has now grown to a national scope, with current clients in Chicago, Silicon Valley, Philadelphia, San Antonio and Skagit Valley.

Last year, Reid decided to take the Washington State bar exam and opened an office in the Anderson Building at 8th and O – still maintaining his San Antonio office. Reid’s practice is limited to employment law.

Reid has been active on several corporate and non-profit boards, and in the golf industry. He was president of the Valero Texas Open (PGA Tour event in San Antonio) and was the Executive Director of the Texas Golf Hall of Fame and still serves as a Director and Chair-elect. He founded The First Tee of San Antonio and Anacortes, and he served as a Director of the South Texas PGA. His most significant golf accomplishment was to found and be appointed chairman of the Alamo City Golf Trail, the non-profit organization that operates San Antonio’s nine municipal golf courses.

Reid and his wife, Ann, love their lifestyle in Anacortes. She is a national expert on homelessness issues having served as a founding executive and Vice President of Transformational Services at Haven for Hope in San Antonio, the country’s largest and most successful homeless campus. Ann is an active board member at the Anacortes Family Center. They have two married daughters who have both recently moved to the Seattle area.

Reid hopes to assist the chamber in governance, marketing and economic development.
Thank you Rakan AlDuaij for capturing this stunning photo of our tree.

Thank you Mayor Laurie Gere and Santa, AKA Dan Stearns, for magically bringing light to our tree.

Thank you to our board chairman, Mary LaFleur of ALT Insurance, and Richard Riddell, our town crier, for keeping the entire program flowing.

Lauren Rasmussen of Anacortes High School made our new octopus tree topper. Others in her art class at the high school helped with all the crabs.

Happy Holidays from Nancy, Sandy, Santa, Amanda & Stephanie!
Recieve a COMPLEMENTARY FEATURED ENHANCEMENT with any 60 MIN Signature Service use promo code: ANACHAMBER

How to Supervise People and Lead a Team

Be the Manager Other Managers Envy and Bosses Can’t Wait to Reward

The best managers have learned how to deal with problems without missing a beat. Now you can too!

Defuse tension
Defend toxic behavior
Defang even the most malicious employee

Hear from Best-selling author Glenn Shepard. Energize your people and bring everyone together solidly as a team. Learn the powerful strategies you need to solve your worst workplace problems.

Thursday, February 1
8:30am to 3pm
Best Western Skagit Valley Convention Center
2300 Market St
Mount Vernon

Tuition: $297 for Chamber members,
$397 for non-members and
When 3 or more enroll, the 4th person attends for FREE!

RSVP at MountVernonChamber.com or (360) 428-8547

Please Join us for a Ribbon Cutting Celebration
at ELMM Clinic
1300 Commercial Avenue
Thursday, January 25th at 3:30 PM

Recognize anyone?
These athletes, actors, inventors, entrepreneurs, musicians, and movement-makers all spent time in foster care.
You could be part of the next great success story...

Donate to an athlete’s cause.
Your donation can change a life! To donate visit our website or Facebook page or use our mailing address below:

Website: www.anacortes.org/donate
Facebook: facebook.com/SecretHarbor

Donate form November 15, 2017 through January 1st, 2018
and your donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Jerry W. Ward Foundation, doubling its impact to the life of a child in our agencies care.

anoartes.org
800-209-7911
Thank you to loanDepot for sponsoring our December Luncheon. Thank you also to Fidalgo Bay Resort for hosting and Gere A Deli preparing such a delicious meal. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Anacortes Construction Services
- Anacortes Oil and Vinegar Bar
- Costco Wholesale
- Douglas N Owens, PS
- Edward Jones, Jeffery Pleet
- Express Employment Professionals
- Fidalgo Bay Resort
- Fidalgo Financial Planning LLC
- Hotel Services Group - Hampton Inn
- Little Caesars Pizza
- Lovric’s Sea-Craft, Inc.

Member renewals

- A-1 Mobile Lock & Key
- Anacortes School District #103
- Bank of the Pacific
- Caliber Home Loans, Anacortes Office
- Camwood Jewelers
- Cap Sante Marine, Ltd.
- Christ the King Community Church
- Deception Pass Tours
- Good Stuff, The
- Home Sweet Home Antiques
- Hotel Services Group - Hampton Inn
- Little Caesars Pizza
- Lovric’s Sea-Craft, Inc.

- McHarg, Janis @ John L. Scott Real Estate
- Nordic Yachts Northwest
- Outer Island Expeditions
- Papa Murphy’s Take ‘n’ Bake Pizza
- Penguin Coffee LLC
- Petrish, Maria
- Pioneer Trails
- Simply Yards Landscape and Design
- Stasch, Vicki M.S.
- Tri Mariye, LLC

Thanks...

Thank you to Burton Jewelers for hosting our December Business After Hours. Helen Prier of REMAX Gateway was the lucky winner of the $500 Burton Jewelers shopping spree that helped raise almost $250 going towards the Anacortes 100 Food Bank and the chamber downtown beautification fund! Thanks also to the following businesses and individual members for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Anacortes Oil and Vinegar Bar
- Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
- Cap Sante Inn
- Cascade Resources
- John Guinn
- Lake Campbell Lodging
- Lil’ Tugs Childrens Boutique
- Release Your Gorgeous Health
- Gary and Joy Walter
- Washington Federal
VIC holiday appreciation party

Each year we like to celebrate the season with our wonderful volunteers from the Anacortes Visitor Information Center and give them a little holiday cheer from our business community. This year the Majestic Inn & Spa co-hosted a wonderful luncheon in their beautifully decorated ballroom.

The VIC is run completely by volunteers and they are here just about every day of the year to greet our guests and local residents with information about our amazing island.

Some of our chamber members graciously donate gifts for each of our volunteers as a show of appreciation. Thank you so much to our generous donors!

- ACE Hardware
- Allen Workman @ John L. Scott Real Estate
- ALT Insurance Group
- Anacortes Oil & Vinegar Bar
- Anthony’s Restaurant
- Apothecary Spa, The
- Barrett Financial, Ltd.
- Buer’s Floral and Vintage
- Cap Sante Inn
- Chuckanut Valley Veterinary Clinic
- Classic Style & Company LLC
- CompuMatter Computer Store
- Edward Jones/Troy Kunz
- Escape Anacortes
- Express Employment Professionals
- Fidalgo Artisan Yarn Company
- Firelight Designs
- Greenfield Farm & Gardens
- Gypsy’s at Anacortes
- In Stitches Quilt Shoppe
- Island Adventures, Inc.
- Island Hospital
- Lil’ Tugs Childrens Boutique
- Mystic Sea Charters
- Portalis LLC
- Prosser, John / Windermere Real Estate
- Salt & Vine
- San Juan Lanes/Bar & Grill
- Seattle Yachts
- Skagit Valley Tulip Festival
- Swinomish Casino & Lodge

2018 Ambassadors

Brandon Carter - Robert W Baird
Jeremy Carter – Washington National Guard
Harley Fowler - Sherwin-Williams Paint Store
Barry Harter - Central Payment Corporation
Rich Heidecker – Youth Dynamics
Mindy Holland – Interpreting Technology
Jeri Kaufman – Welcome Wagon
Dan Maul – Classic Style & Company
Jessica Nguyen - Peoples Bank
Amber Rains - Bank of the Pacific
Richard Riddell – Edward Jones
Bill Robards – North Sound Pest Solutions
Stacey Rustad-Smith - Tammy Cotton Farmers Insurance Agency
Sarah Sanders – Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
Veronica Spencer – Take Shape For Life
Mary Staley - Marketing WITH Mary
Brianna Vyrostek - Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
Charles Yousling - Waddell & Reed Inc
Heather Zelazowski - Bank of the Pacific

holiday fun

The Mayo Home Team got into the spirit of Christmas with Santa at the December Membership Luncheon at Fidalgo Bay Resort.

There were some very serious reindeer games happening here.

Lori and Dan Maul enjoying the holiday BAH at Burton Jewelers.
Chamber Officers

Executive Board

Chairman
Mary LaFleur ALT Insurance

Vice Chairman
John Olsen Ancortes Oil & Vinegar Bar

Treasurer
Gina Walsh Peoples Bank

Board Member at Large
Dennis Richards Island Hospital

Past Chairman
Brian Johnson Ancortes Construction Services

Board of Directors

Sandra Benton Think Studios
Cory Ertel Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Kristi Gabrielse Windermere
Mayor Laurie Gere City of Ancortes
Matt Gill Andeavor
Barry Harter Central Payment Corporation
Diana Jordan-New Bank of the Pacific
Lori Maul Classic Style & Company
Reid Meyers Law Office of Reid E Meyers
Jeff Pleet Edward Jones
Leslie Powell Lighthouse Memory Care
Teresa Wainman San Juan Lanes Bar & Grill
Mark Wenzel Ancortes School District
Allen Workman John L. Scott
Dan Worra Port of Ancortes

Chamber Staff

Stephanie Hamilton President
Sandy Swartos Visitor Information & Operations Director
Amanda Hubik Marketing & Promotions Director
Nancy Ryland-Carey Events & Communications Director
Kristi Daniels & Crystal Johnson Licensing Sub-Agents

VIC (Visitor Information Center) Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>November 2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>November 2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Calls</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9,345</td>
<td>11,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Requests</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21,932</td>
<td>25,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocation Requests</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Users</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9,345</td>
<td>11,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Page Views</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>21,932</td>
<td>25,018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you, volunteers!

Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

Come see us for all your vehicle or vessel needs!

Registration renewals, title transfers, disabled parking placards, monthly tonnage, trip permits, dealer work.

ANACORTES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VEHICLE & VESSEL LICENSING

819 COMMERCIAL AVE STE. B
ANACORTES, WA 98221
(360) 293-5533
HOURS: MON–FRI 9:30AM–4:30PM

Coast in. Hang out.™