



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, February 19, 2026 (12pm) - Burlington Public Library

- 1) Call to Order by John Seagrave at 12:08pm
- 2) Around the Room (:30 intros): Katie Larson – Member, Doug Thompson – First Selectmen of Burlington, Katie D’Augustino – Central CT President, Thom Smith – Director, Heather Chirumbolo – Director, Jordan Sanford – Secretary, Jade LaBella – BCC Vice President, John Seagrave – BCC President, Margie Bowen – Director, Kerry Brash – Past BCC President, Rich Browning – Treasurer, JP Parente – Member, DJ Murphy – Director, Lisa Ferris – Member, Olivia Miloff – Member, Alicia Wells – Treasurer for Central CT Chamber, Christine Ringuette - Guest of Olivia, Chris Mooney – Member, Kristen Grindel-Keller - LSM Transition Counselor, Jamie Dean – President of Make a Mark for Region 10, Caroline Brayne – Treasurer of Make a Mark, Jerry Fullen – Member.
- 3) Special Guest: Region 10 Make A Mark
 - a. Presentation – sharing support with teachers and other fundraising events
 - b. Save the Date for The Johnny Cake Mini Fest
 - i. Saturday, May 16th (Rain date Sunday, May 17th)
 - ii. Located at Hogan’s Cider Mill
 1. Mini golf, live music, prizes, raffles, food trucks, etc.!
 - c. Are officially a 501C3 non-profit
 - d. Have students and teacher members who sit on the committee with them
 - i. It’s a chance to mentor students – can apply when they become sophomores
 - e. Full event will hopefully return in summer of 2027
- 4) Special Guest: Kristen Grindel-Keller
 - a. Work and volunteer programs for credit for high school students
 - b. Goal is to teach new skills to students in our community
 - i. Hosting a student to support workforce development, strengthening connections, gaining real-world experience, etc.
 - c. Local businesses, non-profits, municipal departments, and other offices/trades can host students
 - d. Open to the schedule of the host
 - i. Transportation is provided for the students – during business hours
 - e. Supporting Harwinton and Burlington (10-mile radius)
- 5) Approval of Previous Meeting(s) Minutes – January
 - a. Motion to Approve:
 - i. First: Thom Smith
 - ii. Second: Heather Chirumbolo

6) Treasurer's Report – *Rich*

- a. Bank Balance = \$17,171.11
- b. Expenses since last report:
 - i. \$346.95 — In Concert Web Solutions (\$95.74), Webscape Design (\$159.00), QuickBooks (\$38.38) and Eversource (\$53.83)
 - ii. \$2,063.07 — Greenhouse Tavern for 2025 holiday party catering
 - iii. \$1,000.00 — LSM Scholarship Fund (2 \$500 scholarships)
 - iv. \$51.21 — I Know A Guy - lunch for January membership meeting
- c. Outstanding checks:
 - i. \$1,500.00 — Central CT Chambers for Q1 2026 Admin Svcs
 - ii. \$24.97 — Jade for 2/12 Coffee Connections Meta Boost
- d. Credits since last report:
 - i. \$725.00 — Membership Dues
- e. Accounts Receivable:
 - i. \$1,535.00 — January credit card collections from Central CT Chambers
 - ii. \$3,025.00 — Membership Dues from 15 January 2026 billed members
- f. Motion to Approve:
 - i. First: Lisa Ferris
 - ii. Second: Jerry Fullen

7) Town & Affiliate Reports

- a. Doug Thompson (First Selectman)
 - i. Johnny Cake Field is done – resting until summer of 2027
 - ii. Sidewalks and Main St bridge are completed
 - iii. Sidewalks Phase 3 is going to bid soon – more to come
 - 1. Will connect the apartments and condos to the town center
 - iv. Alpine Bridge and Case Road easements are in process
 - v. Phase one for West Chippins Hill – Contract ready to sign in the spring
 - 1. Will take it down to Greer Road – working on final design
 - vi. New Heat Exchangers for the Burlington Library
 - vii. New controls for the FD
 - 1. Major HVAC upgrades
 - viii. Big Upgrades for Town Hall
 - ix. Housing Development has been proposed on Stafford Rd
 - x. Crescent Manufacturing expansion
 - xi. Additional industrial opportunities in the Lake Garda area – more to come
- b. J.P. Parente
 - i. EDC:
 - 1. No longer doing Taste of Burlington
 - a. Will be rebranding the idea – working with the BOD on that – more to come
 - b. Have a new Facebook page!
 - i. Hashtag “PromoteBurlingtonCT”
 - 2. Promoting the chamber and working on collaborating
 - 3. Members of EDC – many are new!
 - a. A few openings – contact Doug or JP for more information
 - ii. Tavern Day:
 - 1. Reenactment of the Revolutionary War in the large field



2. Business Expo will still be spread out due to space (one more year)
3. Surrounding the tavern there will be other reenactments: glassblowing, weaver, blacksmith, etc.!
4. Due to being a 501C3, sponsorships are more complicated – will see a mix of sponsorships and memberships – contact JP for more info and any questions
- iii. America 250:
 1. Had a few book discussions that went very well
 2. Next event is coming up in March – discussing 1776!
 3. **This coming Saturday**, there is a Cornhole Tournament at Town Hall!
 - a. \$50 per team
 4. Trivia Night on March 20th at IKAGD!
 5. America 250 Tree planting – collab with Larson’s Garden Center
 - a. Planting a pine tree in town center
 - i. This could also take the place of the large Christmas tree
 6. July 9th – Gov. Horse Guard is coming in to read the Dec. of Independence
 - a. 6pm at the Town Green!
 - b. Sponsor requests to come
 7. Memorial Day Parade will be on a Saturday this year (instead of Monday) – Formal ceremony will still be on Monday
 - a. Want to do Floats this year!
 8. Committee meets: first Wednesday of every month at the Elton Tavern, 7pm
- c. Katie D’Agostino (Central CT Chamber of Commerce)
 - i. March 3rd at the LLB - Legislative Session has just started
 1. Allows chambers to learn about health care
 - ii. Partnership with Energize CT – reach out to Katie for more information
 - iii. New Community Education Partner regarding Paid Sick Leave – more to come next month
 - iv. Central Events:
 1. Reverse Raffle – Q1 pull is March 31st, get your tickets ASAP. First prize \$1500, Second prize \$750, Third prize \$250
 2. Everything Expo is this weekend – Saturday. Please come and support!
 3. Member Tune-up: last Tuesday of the month. Join us to learn how to maximize your membership.
 4. Workforce Wednesday lunch & learns – 2/25 is Employment Law Updates and 3/25 is Onboarding that Works
 5. Business Leaders Forum w/Secretary of State Thomas – 3/4

8) Committee Updates

a. Membership – Rich

- i. Membership Totals
 1. Total members = 93
 2. Business members = 85
- ii. New business members = 2: Activate Counseling Services & Parties and Rentals Dunn Right
- iii. Friends of BCC members = 8

- iv. New Friends of BCC members = 0
- v. Members up for renewal = 15
- vi. Lapsed members = 2

b. Events – *Kerry/Jade*

i. Upcoming Events

- 1. February 26th, Trivia Night & Mashed Potato Bar at Little Red Barn, 6pm (\$25 pp)
- 2. April 8th, Fraud Seminar – Help at Burlington Senior Center at 11:30am
- 3. May 16th – The Mini Johnny Cake Music Fest, time is TBD (more info above, section 3)
- 4. June 13th – Sponsor Burlington’s Blood Drive at Town Hall
 - a. Members to hand out goodie bags??
 - i. Our chamber members can add items of their choosing

c. Nominating – *Kerry*

i. Update

- 1. Current board members have agreed to renew their terms
- 2. Several members have shown interest in being on the board
- 3. Announcements for nominees will be in the April 6th newsletter
- 4. If you’re interested in being on the board, reach out to Kerry or Jade ASAP!

d. Marketing – *Margie/Jade*

- i. Please send Jade items to share on Social Media

9) Chamber Updates

- a. Help us keep growing! Referral bonus and hosting opportunities!

10) Discussion - none

11) **Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 19th (Noon) at the Burlington Library

12) Adjourn at 1:10pm by John Seagrave