



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, August 20th, 2026 (12pm) - Burlington Public Library

- 1) Call to Order - 12:06 by Heather Chirumbolo
- 2) Around the Room (:30 intros) - Olivia Miloff (BCC Secretary), Lauren Howard (BCC Director), John Seagrave (BCC Past President), Luke Arnone (Member), Andrew LaForge (CCCC Director), Kerry Brash (BCC Past President), Jade LaBella (BCC VP), Tom Smith (BCC Director), Heather Chirumbolo (BCC President), Doug Thompson (First Selectman), Chris Mooney (BCC Director), Chris Dupont (New Member), Dan Bielefield (BCC New Member), Rich Browning (BCC Treasurer) DJ Murphy (BCC Director), Donna Winn (BCC Member), Kris Lucke (BCC Member)
- 3) J.P. Parente (EDC) (Tavern Day) (America 250)
 - a. EDC
 - i. Five Scoops Ice Cream (Burlington resident owned) wants to reopen her Harwinton based business in Burlington after the fire in the Harwinton Plaza.
 - ii. EDC invited Five Scoops to our meeting to discuss options and will be writing an endorsement letter for landlords supporting and recommending their business model
 - iii. Sidewalk Stroll 2026
 1. EDC wants to partner with Chamber on this task again and will be more present. Have ideas for a light show/drone show on Library Lane to draw people to the library
 - iv. New Proposal: A Joint Task Force - Two EDC Commissioners and two Chamber members/officers work to scout for conventions, trade shows, and entrepreneurs. The four attend these events and sit with entrepreneurs to pitch Burlington as a viable option to open a business in, and to promote existing businesses that are hiring and in need of assistance.
 1. Goal: To boost existing business, bring new business in, and course-correct the mass exodus of businesses from town
 - b. Tavern Day
 - i. Keystone stepped up as a sponsor and is providing one of the four shuttles. Thanks
 - ii. Sponsorships are still available and needed; see website for details: www.TavernDayGroup.org.
 - iii. Tavern Day is Sept 20th, and registration is CLOSED - spots are full
 1. There is one opening for a Food Truck left, \$100.00 value

2. There is one opening in the business expo left, \$100.00 value.
 - a. These are being auctioned off. Min bid for each is \$120.00
 - b. 100% of the amount paid over \$100 for each gets donated to the Police Union
 - c. We're going to make those late and lazy tendencies into something positive
 - d. Highest bid 8am the morning of Sept 10 wins
- iv. TDG scrapped the original pole tents earlier this summer.
- v. TDG has accepted ownership of the 26 event canopies as of Aug 7.
 1. These tents remain branded as town tents this year but will eventually get re-canvased as TDG tents
- vi. The town has retained 5 tents and those will retain town branding
- vii. TDG is actively and aggressively seeking an enclosed trailer for the tents.
Requirements:
 1. Trailer must pass inspection and be roadworthy
 2. Trailer must be enclosed, preferably with a rear ramp hatch instead of barn doors
 3. Trailer must be 14- 16 ft long and towable by a rated vehicle with a standard hitch
 4. Trailer must have an 8ft ceiling minimum (6ft isn't enough)
 5. Budget \$3,500 max, donations accepted gratefully
- viii. We meet tonight to finalize the layout and rentals etc.
- ix. We are discussing merchandise like sunglasses or hats for sale at entrances
- x. New official logo of Tavern Day 52.

4) Approval of Previous Meeting(s) Minutes – July 2026

- a. *Approved, 1st Rich Browning, 2nd Kerry Brash*

5) Treasurer's Report – *Rich (First John, Second Jade)*

- a. Bank Balance = \$14,166.10
- b. Expenses since last report:
 - i. \$340.05 — In Concert Web Solutions (\$97.74), Webscape Design (\$159.00), QuickBooks (\$38.38) and Eversource (\$44.93)
 - ii. \$50.00 — CT Secretary of State for 2026 Annual Report filing
 - iii. \$500.00 — Ciesco Catering for 50% of Network Palooza catering
 - iv. \$24.84 — Jade reimbursement for July Meta Ads
 - v. \$98.03 — IKAG for two catering invoices
- c. Credits since last report:
 - i. \$1,700.00 — Membership Dues
- d. Accounts Receivable:
 - i. \$5,675.00 — Membership Dues (28 Members)



- e. Rich has filed BCC's 990 e-Postcard for tax year 2025 (due annually by August 15th).
Report Approved, 1st John Seagrave, 2nd Jade LaBella

6) Town & Affiliate Reports

a. Doug Thompson (First Selectman)

- i. I Know a Guy Deli closed; very supportive of the community.
- ii. Barron Financial building potential project
 - 1. Purchase agreement signed; closing targeted for early 2027, building complete mid 2028
 - 2. 7,000 sq ft: 2,500 for Barron Financial, 500 for Borla, 1,000 for Pilates studio, 3,000 held for specialty grocer/butcher
 - 3. Outbid a Dollar General; negotiating option on adjacent house for further expansion
 - 4. 1940 Sears Roebuck house on site: exploring donation to a 501c (3) (Litchfield Montessori School might be a possibility)
- iii. Important that we embrace local entrepreneurs
- iv. 2nd lowest tax rates in Hartford County
- v. Repaired sections of GWTPK, reconstruction of Punch Brook before Case, then ripping up Case Rd and redoing it; RT 69 is getting renovated by the state (state road)

b. Andrew LaForge (Central CT Chamber of Commerce)

- i. September 15th – Morning Jolt
- ii. September 10th - Legislative Round Table Discussion: Healthcare & Health Services/Nonprofits/Community Organizations
- iii. September 15th - Legislative Agenda Roundtable: Manufacturing/Construction/Real Estate/Trades
- iv. September 16th - Legislative Agenda Roundtable: Financial Services & Insurance/Business & Professional Services
- v. September 16th – BAH @ Torrington Savings Bank (Bristol) 5-7pm
- vi. September 21st – Leadership Development Program
- vii. September 22nd - Legislative Agenda Roundtable: Retail/Restaurants/Hospitality
- viii. September 29th – Chamber Tune Up
- ix. September 30th- Workforce Wednesday: Multigenerational Workplace
- x. October 27th, business expo/business after hours at Double Tree in Bristol, early bird sign ups end at end of September, capped at 50 vendors

7) Crescent Manufacturing

- a. Dan Bielefield (Vice President – Sales) to Provide Expansion Update/Ribbon Cutting
 - i. Founded in 1960 in Southington, moved to Burlington in 1967

- ii. Makes fasteners; primary customers are now aerospace (seats, entertainment systems, interior fittings)
- iii. Crescent sales have more than doubled in the past 5 years: \$5.7M in 2020-21, \$18M last year, \$20M+ projected this year
- iv. Became a worldwide manufacturer; deals overseas (Germany, UK, France, India, Australia, Taiwan)
- v. 2 years ago, decided that they needed more space, building is just under 11,000 square feet and is overcrowded, needed more space; it became inefficient
- vi. New building is 20,000 square feet
- vii. Building is set to be done by mid-October, fully functional by January
- viii. Apprenticeship program launched with Industrial Fastener Institute and Marshall University
 - 1. Two apprentices currently enrolled; seeking 2-3 more
 - 2. Two-year program; targeting mechanically inclined candidates
- ix. Ribbon Cutting October 20th, state politicians will be there 10am – 12pm
- x. Dan started in 1986 when it was small, and he has seen a huge evolution over time
- xi. Huge support from the town and state, company is grateful

8) Committee Updates

- a. Membership – *Rich*
 - i. Membership Count
 - 1. Total members = 92
 - 2. Business members = 84
 - 3. Friends of BCC members = 8
 - 4. New business members = 1: Elara Caring
 - 5. New Friends of BCC members = 0
 - 6. Lapsed members = 3 (Sund Technologies, Burlington Land Trust, and I Know A Guy)
- b. Events – *Kerry/Jade/Heather/Chris*
 - i. Upcoming Events
 - 1. September 10th from 5-7pm BAH @ Larsons Garden Center
 - 2. October 7th – 12pm Lunch and Learn @ Burlington Library w/ Chris Mooney
 - 3. October 1st BAH at Barron Financial from 5-7pm
 - 4. November 12th - Keystone Place at Newbury Brook BAH 5-7pm
- c. Marketing – *Margie/Jade*
 - i. *Newsletter goes out first and third Tuesday of every month*
 - ii. *Holiday stroll – looking to partner with other businesses*
 - 1. *Committee Meeting next Thursday (8/27) for Holiday events*

9) Chamber Updates

- a. “Burlington’s Best – Food Addition”



- i. Event was postponed, maybe early 2027
 - ii. Businesses have closed, vacations, looking to push off for better turnout
- b. Holiday – Committee meeting Thursday, 8/27, to begin planning
 - i. Anybody interested in becoming part of the committee, see Heather
 - ii. Looking to bring Larry/Ken to the next meeting to discuss trees, etc.
- c. 2027 Hosting opportunities for BAH, coffee connection, lunch and learns
 - i. Reach out to anyone on the event committee
- d. September/October meeting locations – Congregational Church of Burlington
- e. Help us keep growing! Referral bonus (\$25)

10) Discussion

- a. River Glenn wants to host Trunk or Treat and wants to work with the Chamber to host events
- b. Aging well health fair – September 30th 8:30 am - 1:00pm @ Wisdom House in Litchfield

11) **Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 17th (noon) at the Congregational Church of Burlington

12) Meeting Adjourned - 12:59pm by Heather Chirumbolo