

Albany Area Chamber Network

JANUARY 2024 VOLUME 56, ISSUE #1

 Albany Area
Chamber of Commerce

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP FORUM

January 31st, 2024

11:30am-1pm | Linn Co. Expo Center

KIERAN RAMSEY

Special Agent in Charge of
FBI Portland Field Office

Sponsored By



NW Natural

[More Details on Page 3](#)



[Register Here](#)

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2024

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS BANQUET

**NOMINATIONS
DUE JAN. 17TH!**

Nominate Now!

SAVE THE DATE

DSA BANQUET
Saturday,
March 9th

Boys & Girls Club of Albany

PRESENTING SPONSOR:



**Samaritan
Health Services**

[See More on Page 4](#)



**Albany Area
Chamber of
Commerce**

Happy New Year!

As we embark into 2024, I extend my gratitude for the support you have generously provided to the Albany Area Chamber. In this season of new beginnings, I wish you, your families, and your employees a year of prosperity, happiness, and good health.

Being a member of the Albany Area Chamber means connecting with great minds, benefiting from shared knowledge, and having access to pro-business influence and tailored advantages. As your Business and Community Advocate, we are committed to working tirelessly to help you, and our entire community, thrive and prosper.

The coming year holds numerous opportunities for us to convene, connect and collaborate. For those who have yet to engage with fellow business leaders, January offers an excellent starting point. Membership forums, Emerging Leaders, Greeters, Women in Business and Leadership Albany are just a few of the ways that provide a platform for making meaningful connections and provide educational opportunities to help build your business.

In the spirit of recognition and appreciation, plans are in motion for the Distinguished Service Awards Banquet on Saturday, March 9th, with nominations due by January 17th. In a year marked by outstanding acts of leadership, generosity, and community service, I encourage you to nominate friends, co-workers and businesses that deserve acknowledgment for their contributions to our community.

The Oregon Legislature is gearing up for its 2024 “short” session and the Governmental Affairs Committee will continue its business advocacy on your behalf. The GAC will be meeting soon with Rep. Shelly Boshart-Davis to get an overview of what we can expect this session, and will take positions as needed on behalf of our members. As always the GAC will continue to review and monitor City Council meetings and actions, again speaking on behalf of business as needed. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding local or state legislative issues, please feel free to contact me for further discussion.

As we step into January, my wish is that you dare to dream big and find satisfaction in the simple blessings that come your way. Now on to 2024!

Sincerely,



Janet Steele
President/CEO



UPCOMING EVENTS



January Membership Forum

Kieran Ramsey

Special Agent in Charge of FBI Portland Field Office

Wednesday, January 31st

11:30am-1pm

Linn County Expo Center

Sponsored by:



[Register Here](#)

Kieran L. Ramsey is Special Agent in Charge of the Portland Field Office. Most recently, Mr. Ramsey served as the director of the FBI Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell in the Counterterrorism Division at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Ramsey joined the FBI as a special agent in 1998 and was assigned to the Seattle Field Office. He worked on a public corruption task force, an organized crime squad, and on the Seattle Joint Terrorism Task Force. Mr. Ramsey also served as the senior leader of Seattle's Evidence Response Team and deployed to the World Trade Center after 9/11.

In 2005, Mr. Ramsey was promoted to supervisory special agent and worked in the Counterterrorism HUMINT Operations Unit at FBI Headquarters. He served in that position for two years and was promoted to legal attaché in Cairo in 2007. As legat, he served as the principal FBI official for U.S. embassies in Egypt, Sudan, and Libya.

Mr. Ramsey was promoted in 2010 to supervisory senior resident agent of the New Hampshire offices, under the Boston Field Office. In that position, he also directed the New Hampshire Safe Streets Task Force and the New Hampshire Joint Terrorism Task Force. He was promoted in 2013 to assistant special agent in charge of the Boston's Counterterrorism Branch, and led the Boston Marathon Bombing Task Force to its conclusion.

He was named legal attaché in Rome in 2017, covering Italy, The Holy See, and Malta. Mr. Ramsey was promoted to section chief in 2018, and named the director of the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell. The interagency HRFC leads the U.S. government's efforts to recover U.S. national hostages held abroad.

Prior to joining the FBI, Mr. Ramsey was a special agent with the U.S. Customs Service. He earned a bachelor's degree from Northeastern University in Boston and a master's degree from Georgetown University in Washington.

EMERGING LEADERS

A PANEL PRESENTATION

**GETTING INVOLVED
IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

WEDNESDAY | 11:30 AM - 1 PM

14 FEBRUARY | COMFORT SUITES

\$23 MEMBERS, \$35 NON-MEMBERS

SPONSORED BY
**ALBANY
CARPET
ONE
FLOOR & HOME®**

REGISTER HERE

KRISTAL DUFOR
AASUM-DUFOR FUNERAL HOME

SARAH STEEN
AMERITITLE

BOBBY WILLIAMS-HERRERA
SAMARITAN

Distinguished Service Awards Nomination Form

[Go to Digital Nomination & Submission Form](#)

Honor Your Fellow Albany Citizens!

The Albany Area Chamber encourages you to nominate a business, organization or individual that has shown dedication, exemplary service, and leadership to our community.

When turning in your nomination form, please make sure that it is filled out completely, and provide a minimum of **two** letters of recommendation in addition to the nomination form.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Distinguished Service

Outstanding career of community service. Candidates must be over 55 years of age.

Jim Linhart First Citizen

Outstanding service during the last three years. Candidates must be between 40 and 55 years of age.

Junior First Citizen

Outstanding service during the last three years. Candidates must be under 40 years of age.

Finalists and recipients will be honored based on the following criteria:

Individuals participate actively on service projects and programs leading to civic improvement, human welfare, and/or environmental enhancement. The nominee must also have a positive impact on the social or economic climate of the community, and influence the community through their leadership.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Albany Area Chamber Member Businesses, Organizations, and Non-Profits are included in this category and may nominate themselves.

Large Business of the Year

A Chamber member business, organization or non-profit with over 25 employees.

Small Business of the Year

A Chamber member business, organization or non-profit with 25 employees or less.

Finalists and recipients will be honored based on the following criteria:

Businesses have made a substantial contribution to the community for the last five years or longer. *Business Excellence* - Achieved successful business practices, e.g. marketing, promotional activities, strong ethics. Promotes employee self-growth and development. Has demonstrated a high level of customer satisfaction, confidence, and service. *Community Service* - Has proven their interest in the welfare of the community through financial contributions, personal service or civic leadership.

Awards to be presented: March 9th, 2024



GOLDEN TICKET WINNER:

REX WATKINS

Northwest Investment Management, Inc.



Professional Background: First licensed in December of 1987 as a property manager I worked for another company in Portland, Oregon. Then, in June of 1989 I moved to Hood River and started Northwest Investment Management as a sole proprietor. In 1997 I incorporated. In 1999 I bought out the remaining property management company in Hood River and used their name as our DBA. In 2001 I sold that DBA and book of business and we moved to Albany. By 2003 I had new clients (I was supposed to be the "stay at home dad") from neighboring properties to the ones we purchased for our own inventory. I have served on licensing and education committees for the Oregon Real Estate Agency.

Biggest Issue Facing Albany: I think Albany has many issues facing it, but I will write about one that has to do with rental real estate because that is the business we are talking about here. To me, the biggest issue facing Albany's rental housing industry is two-fold. First, the big swings on a economic cycle of too few rental units, to too many rental units. We are doing the same thing we did back in the mid-2000's, by the time the apartment buildings and homes get built the demand has changed substantially and then there is an increase in vacancy to the point landlords are fighting for quality tenants. A part of this problem is the length of time it takes to respond to the market tightening due to permitting and approval processes. The second aspect is one that has been around for many years, "crony capitalism", where the government decides it wants a certain thing to happen with a certain property and then sweetens the pot artificially so that preferred contractors or developers work in a cozy relationship with the government to fill the private party's bank account at the expense of the local taxpayer.

Business Marketing Niche: Our company doesn't truly participate in volunteer activities but our ownership and staffing fill key parts of many local youth organizations and special interest groups. As a firm we financially support many youth organizations. I am involved on a daily basis in youth sports (swimming) and believe that our youth have tremendous potential though many are unsure of their purpose on this planet (an age-old issue). I do my best to open their eyes to the opportunity that exists for them in this country.

Community Involvement: We found long ago our niche is small private landlords that own single to multiple properties, most of which have the property as a long-term retirement investment (much like my own portfolio). The majority of our inventory is duplex units, nicer single-family homes, and small commercial properties.

January Students of the Month



Victoria Peterson

Santiam Christian High School



Amelia Moss

South Albany High School



Omar Moreno

West Albany High School

Mastering Connections:

Unveiling the Characteristics of a Great Networker

In a world that thrives on interconnectedness and collaboration, networking has emerged as a crucial skill beyond career growth—a way of life. Whether you aim to expand your professional horizons or build meaningful personal relationships, networking can significantly impact your success. However, not all networkers are created equal.

The genuinely remarkable ones possess a unique blend of characteristics that set them apart. In this blog, we'll delve into the key attributes of a great networker and how you can cultivate them to master the art of forging meaningful connections.

Authenticity forms the cornerstone of successful networking. Great networkers aren't interested in merely collecting business cards or social media contacts; they genuinely care about building relationships based on trust and mutual respect. You create an environment where meaningful connections can flourish by being your true self and showing genuine interest in others.

Communication is at the heart of networking. Great networkers are adept at active listening, engaging in meaningful conversations, and articulating their thoughts effectively. Whether in person, over the phone, or through digital channels, their ability to convey ideas and engage in thoughtful dialogue helps establish a lasting impression.

Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. Great networkers possess high emotional intelligence, allowing them to perceive the needs and concerns of those they interact with. By demonstrating empathy, you build stronger connections and gain insights into how you can be of value to others.

Networking isn't a one-sided affair. Great networkers understand the importance of reciprocity—helping others as much as they are helped. By offering assistance, insights, and resources, you establish a reputation as someone who adds value to their network, making it more likely that others will reciprocate when you need support.

In the ever-evolving landscape of industries and trends, curiosity is an asset. Great networkers are insatiably curious, always seeking to learn about new developments and gather insights from diverse sources. This curiosity enhances their knowledge and fuels engaging conversations and connections.

Networking isn't just about amassing many contacts—it's about connecting with the right people. Great networkers adopt a strategic approach, identifying individuals who align with their goals, interests, and values. By focusing on quality over quantity, they build a network that's both valuable and relevant.

Building trust is paramount in networking. Great networkers do what they say they will, demonstrating reliability and a commitment to their promises. Following through on commitments, whether a simple introduction or a more significant collaboration, reinforces the reliability that others seek in their network.

A positive attitude is infectious and attractive. Great networkers approach interactions with enthusiasm, optimism, and a willingness to embrace new opportunities. This attitude makes them pleasant to be around and draws others to them, creating a magnetic pull within their network.

In an era where relationships are a valuable currency, the characteristics of a great networker hold immense power. Authenticity, communication skills, empathy, reciprocity, curiosity, strategic thinking, reliability, and a positive attitude intertwine to create a tapestry of networking success.

By cultivating these characteristics, you can elevate your networking game, forging connections that advance your professional endeavors and enrich your personal life. Remember, networking isn't just about who you know—it's about how well you can engage, empathize, and collaborate with others on your journey of growth and discovery.

Article Courtesy of Chamber Newsletter Station

Member News & Updates



Linn County to manage 400 more USFS camping slips

The public will need to use the federal government's camping reservation program: www.recreation.gov to reserve spaces at the new campgrounds, Whaley said.

Now, Linn County Parks staff will be working with camping sites from as far south as Olallie on the county border near the McKenzie River (south of Clear Lake Resort) to as far north as Breitenbush north of Detroit in Marion County. Three of the larger campgrounds are on the Detroit Reservoir. Cove Creek is similar to Sunnyside County Park in that it has amenities like a boat ramp and coin operated showers available. Hoover and Southshore also have boat ramps.

"The sites range in size from tent camping to RV's (up to 30 feet) and group sites," Whaley said. The added campsites mean the Parks Department will need to shift work loads and add staff, Whaley said.

"We plan to move someone into a management role for the north area and add 25 seasonal staff," Whaley said. "We are looking for more campground hosts and caretakers. And, we will need to add some vehicles such as trucks and carts for the campgrounds."

Photo info: Cove Creek Campground near Detroit is one of the U.S. Forest Service campgrounds that will now be managed by the Linn County Parks & Recreation Department. Photo courtesy U.S. Forest Service

CONGRATULATIONS



arauco

Congratulations to Arauco for winning Western Pulp, Paper & Forest Products, Industry Employer of the Year award!

In addition, the team also won awards for both Safety Team/Commitment and Safety Innovator of the Year award for the development and implementation of the Sites EHS Champion program designed specifically around training/onboarding for new employees!

Jorden Parrish Takes New Opportunity - Jadyn Baskin Advances to Program and Event Manager



Jorden recently accepted a position with the Albany Public Schools Foundation as their Event and Marketing Coordinator, her last day with the Chamber is Friday, January 12th. We want to say a big Thank You to Jorden for all she did as our Program and Event Manager and wish her the best as she takes her new position. She will be missed as part of the team!

Fortunately, our Office Manager, Jadyn Baskin is ready and more than capable of taking on her new role as Program and Event Manager. Jadyn graduated from Oregon State in 2019 with a Marketing Degree and has been a great addition to the Chamber team since she came on board in July. Please welcome Jadyn as your new Program and Event Manager.



Congratulations Jadyn and Jorden!



**The Albany Area Chamber is looking for an
Office Manager to join our team.**

The position description and application information are attached.

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce Office Manager Position Opening

The Albany Area Chamber of Commerce is seeking an energetic, well-organized, and responsible individual to be a full-time Office Manager. Applicants must have outstanding customer service skills, ability to multi-task, excellent written/verbal communications skills, and a good understanding of full-cycle bookkeeping.

Proficiency in QuickBooks, Microsoft Office Suite, and Canva required.

Position: Office Manager

Reports to: President

Location: AACC office environment with occasional time at event venues and business locations

Benefits: Employer paid medical/dental/vision/life/long-term disability, Simple IRA, retirement/PTO/paid holidays

Schedule: Fulltime, non-exempt, 40 hours per week

Starting Compensation: \$45,000 – \$47,000 depending on experience

Posting Closes: When position is filled

How to Apply: If qualified, submit a Resume and Cover Letter to:
President, PO Box 548, Albany OR 97321 or email to info@albanychamber.com

ABILITIES, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE:

- * Excellent written and verbal communications skills
- * Must be able to exercise independent judgment and make decisions necessary to achieve success in assigned areas
 - * Strong organizational and planning skills
- * Ability to complete projects with limited supervision and direction
 - * Ability to function as a member of a high-performance team
 - * Creative problem-solving abilities
- * Ability to develop and maintain good working relationships with staff, members, volunteers, and the general public
 - * Self-motivated, high-energy personality
- * Must have accounts receivable and payable experience
- * Computer experience: QuickBooks, Microsoft Office Suite, Canva
 - * Ability to help with office and computer technical support
 - * Ability to meet deadlines
 - * Ability to multitask

Welcome to the Chamber, New Members!



Bristol Hospice

400 International Way #200
Springfield, OR 97477
(541) 844-0151

[Facebook](#) | [Website](#)



Physiq Fitness

1177 Waverly Dr SE
Albany, OR 97322
(541) 981-2396

[Facebook](#) | [Website](#)



Maggies Super Clean LLC.

Albany, Oregon
(541) 730-5015
maggiessupercleanllc91@mail.com

[Facebook](#)



Weyerhaeuser

400 34904 Brewster Road
Lebanon, OR 97355
(541) 801-2325

[Website](#)

Thank You to Our Reinvesting Members

AK Carpet & More

AmeriTitle

Comfort Suites of Albany

Davis Glass, Inc.

Dick Running - Retired

DLF USA Inc.

Eastman, Pat (Eastman Co.)

Family Tree Relief Nursery

Fidelity National Title Company of Oregon

Freeburn, Scott

Glenn Edwards Insurance Agency

Lumina Hospice & Palliative Care

Marsh & McLennan Agency

Oregon Department of Human Services

Oregon Valley Futbol Alliance (OVF Alliance)

Peoples Bank of Commerce

Perdue, Dick

Precision Golf Studio

Provision Home Inspections LLC

Shortstops Burgers

Summers, William

Ted Ferry Insurance Agency, INC.

The Brim Coffee Co LLC

The Oaks at Lebanon

Top Form Contracting

TrueLife Financial Solutions, LLC

Thank You to Our Milestone Members



25 Years

Hasty Freez, Inc.

20 Years

Berlee's Fancies

15 Years

Albany Antique Mall, LLC

5 Years

Gamberetti's

Board Officers

Chair: Jennifer Stanaway (*Samaritan Health Services*)
Immediate Past Chair: Stacie Wyss-Schoenborn (*Central Willamette Credit Union*)
Chair-Elect: Brent Stutzman (*Stutzman Services*)
Sr. Vice Chair: Grant Cyrus (*Target Distribution*)
Vice Chairs: Kristal Dufour (*AAsum-Dufour Funeral Home*), Jon Kloor (*Consumers Power Inc.*)
Treasurer: Selina Marshall (*Citizens Bank*)

Board Members

Abel Condrea (*Edward Jones*), Alex Patterson (*Rhodes Warden Insurance*), Brian Dietrich (*Parr Lumber*), Brian Oare (*Oare & Associates Realty*), Joel Kinman (*Bravo Group*), John Andersen (*Boys & Girls Club of Albany*), John Pascone (*LEDG*), Mike Sykes (*Mike's Heating & A/C*), Roger Nyquist (*Lake Shore Lanes*), Sarah Steen (*Amerititle*), Keith Kessler (*Direct Flooring Center*)

Committee Chairs

Ambassadors: Janet Steele (President)
Golf Tournament: Dick Perdue (Retired)
Emerging Leaders: Jorden Parrish (Program and Event Manager)
Governmental Affairs Chair: Jon Kloor (*Consumers Power*)
Greeters Facilitators: Greg Bolton (*Landmark Professional*), Peggy Burris (*Albany Public Schools Foundation*), Abel Condrea (*Edward Jones*), Dan Farrington (*BBSI*), Mr. G Nassar (*G & Jenny Insurance*), Leslee Mayers (*CASA Linn County*), Don McBride (*SMI Property Management*)
Women In Business: Janet Steele (President)
Youth Job Fair: Jorden Parrish (Program and Event Manager)

Chamber Staff

Janet Steele - President
Jorden Parrish - Program and Event Manager
Jim Snyder - Membership Development Manager
Jadyn Baskin - Office Manager

Upcoming
Programs & Events

January 2024

- Wed. Jan. 17th **Nominate Now for the Distinguished Service Awards!**
Nomination submissions along with at least TWO letters of recommendation are **due January 17th**.
DSA Banquet: Sat. March 9th, 2024
- Wed. Jan. 31st **January Membership Forum**
11:30am-1pm @ Linn Co. Expo
Guest Speaker: Kieran Ramsey, Special Agent in Charge of FBI Portland Field Office
Sponsored by *NW Natural*
- Wed. Feb. 14th **Emerging Leaders**
11:30am-1pm @ Comfort Suites
Sponsored by *Albany Carpet One*
"Getting Involved in Your Community"
Panelists:
 - Kristal Dufour, *AAsum Dufour Funeral Home*
 - Sarah Steen, *AmeriTitle*
 - Bobby Williams-Herrera, *Samaritan*

January Greeters

Every Thursday, 8:15am

- Jan. 4th **Independent Merchant Brokers**
Central Willamette Credit Union
7101 Supra Dr SW, Albany, OR 97321
- Jan. 11th **BBSI**
Fitzpatrick Painting - 37949 Century Dr. NE Albany 97322
- Jan. 18th **Peaceful Valley Farm & Garden Supply**
350 NW Hickory St Albany 97321
- Jan. 25th **Healing Motion Physical Therapy**
629 NW Hickory St. #160 Albany 97321



Stay
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albanychamber.com



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