



Taking Action!

As we continue deeper into this time of significant health threats and economic disruption I wanted to bring you up to date with what is going on behind the scenes. What a different world it has become for all of us these last few weeks. We no longer connect in person, but we are connecting all the same.

We've gone Virtual! There's a lot of advice out there about not touching paper, boxes, etc. so we emailed the April Chamber Network and Business Intelligence Report. So far the majority have liked the new delivery system. Greeters has also gone virtual. Thursday mornings you can join this very active group of members learning about a business and talking to each other on the Chamber's Facebook page. We are also supporting the SBDC's virtual business classes. You may find out more about those connections on the chamber or SBDC website.

Firiel and Chris continue to do a fantastic job updating our website, broadcast emails and social media with the latest information and resources. (My suggestion, when scrolling through the broadcast email, scroll to the bottom to make sure you've had the opportunity to see everything that is offered.) It seems there is new information every hour, fortunately Firiel and Chris tolerate me forwarding "the latest" and update everything so you don't have to guess what's up to date. We would not have the ability to provide the information to you without them so please tell them thank you.

For the last two weeks I have been working with over 90 Chambers across the country through a newly formed coalition called the Save Small Business Coalition (SSBC). That coalition is now joining the larger and newly formed Joint Trades Coalition. Government mandates are driving unprecedented levels of disruption across the country and in our hometowns. The new CARES Act will provide some relief but it's just a down payment of what is needed to save our businesses, non-profits and communities. The SSBC and Joint Trades Coalition are requesting that Congress advance a proposal to further assist with economic recovery and mitigate a larger financial crisis resulting from widespread disruption of economic activity. I am proud to say we were one of four chambers in OR and CA to start the discussion that created the SSBC.

Locally, the chief executives from the City of Albany, AVA, ADA, AMEDC, SBDC, Linn County, and I are regularly in touch via Zoom, email or phone discussing various ways of supporting you and our community. Please go to www.albanychamber.com for links to these partners websites and other resources. I also want to thank Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis and the offices of Sen. Wyden and Sen. Merkley for checking in frequently to provide and ask for information.

Of course, there is more but I'm sure you've read enough for now. Please stay in touch and let us know if there is anyway we can assist you or others. We are only an email or phone call away. Office – 541-926-1517, my cell – 541-979-2395, and email – jsteele@albanychamber.com.

In the meantime, stay safe and stay healthy!

Janet Steele, President