

## Shop Local This Holiday Season

It's more important than ever to support our local businesses. Many are facing possible closure due to the COVID regulations. To find out ways to help, see page 2.

*2020 has been quite a ride...*

Don't wait in the cold and dark,  
outside and six feet apart,  
at a box store hoping to score.  
Avoid the rush and all the fuss.  
"Un" box Christmas.  
• Shop early. Shop local.  
• Shop small. Shop Safe.



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## Message from the Chair

This month I would like to shine a spotlight on our non-profit partners.

Albany is blessed to be served by a vibrant non-profit sector that helps to meet the needs of those less fortunate. Our community's generosity has been on full display this year as we grapple with a global pandemic and the devastating impacts from wild fires. It should be commended that even as our country encountered record unemployment this spring, charitable contributions remained strong during the first half of the year.

As we approach the half-way point of the November-December "giving season," I want to emphasize how critical this two-month window is for non-profits. Statistically it is common for 30% or more of a non-profit's annual fundraising to occur during this time. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impacts, the 2020 year-end season has especially high stakes and expectations for our partners. The end of year giving season provides us with an opportunity to ensure critical services and needs can continue to be met in 2021 and beyond.

Thank you to the countless individuals, families, and businesses that regularly make end of year giving part of their holiday tradition. As circumstances allow I would encourage everyone to join in the spirit of giving this December.

Merry Christmas,

Jon Kloor  
NW Natural  
2020-2021 Board Chair

## GOLDEN TICKET WINNER ►



Mike Brown  
Agent  
New York Life

### Personal background

25 years of experience providing sales and service.

### Biggest issue facing Albany

One issue, not limited to Albany, is the lack of financial education provided to kids, teenagers, and young adults. Great money habits are not being established early enough in the lives of our youth.

### Chamber/community involvement

Current board member of Albany Public Schools Foundation, Education Coordinator for BNI - Hub City Mastermind, active in the Albany Area Chamber Greeters.

### Business marketing niche

I specialize in creating financial strategies that help to ensure your desired retirement lifestyle is obtained and maintained, while your estate is organized to transfer with maximum efficiency.

**The SAVE ALBANY NOW Campaign:** The Albany Area Chamber, in partnership with local businesses and organizations, has started a campaign stressing the importance of shopping locally this holiday season. Now more than ever, our community needs you to shop, eat, drink and save local businesses. We know that many businesses are barely hanging on due to the COVID restrictions, **they need your help!**

[savealbanynow.com](http://savealbanynow.com)



**HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE**

- Where to shop
- How to shop them
- Best selling gift ideas



**DRAWING**

You could win \$500 in Chamber Dollars.

To enter, stop by participating businesses and fill out an entry form. Winner drawn January 29th

## Without Business There is No Community!



**SHIRT CAMPAIGN**

With each purchase from the shirt fundraiser, \$15 goes to the business of your choice.

Wear the shirt or hat to promote the campaign and raise awareness.



**PARTICIPATE**

Want to get your business involved in the Save Albany Now campaign?

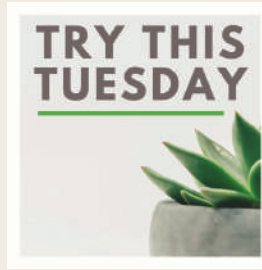
Contact Firiell 541-926-1517 or [fseverns@albanychamber.com](mailto:fseverns@albanychamber.com)

# Chamber Dollars

Chamber Dollars is a program of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce. They can be purchased from the Chamber and given as gifts, prizes, and to employees as incentives and rewards. They can be used in over 100 local businesses. It's a great way to keep it local.

Last month the Chamber sold over **\$22,000** in Chamber Dollars. This is money that will go back to businesses in our community.

Does your business accept Chamber Dollars? You should! For details on how to be involved in this program, contact Shalena Cardinaux, Membership Development Manager at [shalena@albanychamber.com](mailto:shalena@albanychamber.com).



## Try This Tuesday

Tuesday, December 8th

12:00-1:00 pm

Meeting via Zoom.

Free to attend.

Must pre-register for link.

### "Appreciative Inquiry: Leading a Collaborative, Strengths-Focused Team"



Presenter:

**Todd Fast**

SPHR, SHRM-SCP

Integrated Success

In this interactive session we will discuss the basis for the strengths-based model of employee development and staff interaction called "Appreciative Inquiry" and how it aligns with many existing areas of your current culture. This will be a great time of focusing on the power of "what's right and what's already working well" and exploring how to develop and replicate it in ourselves and those we serve and those we lead.

## Milestone members

### 10 Years

Christine's Helping Hands

Direct Flooring Center

### 25 Years

Albany Visitors Association

## GREETERS SCHEDULE

Meet us on Zoom!

Interactive, small group connections using breakout rooms and to learn about a Chamber member.

Thursday mornings at 8:15am, members attend for free.

Pre-register on the event calendar at [www.albanychamber.com](http://www.albanychamber.com) and you will get the link in an email confirmation.

Interested in hosting? Contact Firiell at 541-926-1517 or email [fseverns@albanychamber.com](mailto:fseverns@albanychamber.com)

## December:

### 3th

Holiday Speed Networking

### 10th

Caliber Home Loans

### 17th

Ticor Title

### 24th

No Greeters -

Merry Christmas Eve

### 31st

New Years

Networking Party

# News from our Members

## In The News



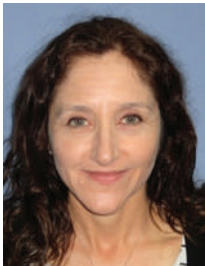
### Boldt, Carlisle + Smith Combines with SingerLewak

More than 50 years ago, Boldt Carlisle + Smith established its roots in Oregon as one of the premier CPA firms serving the needs of individuals and businesses. As business continues to evolve and reinvent itself, we will, too. As a result, we are pleased to announce that effective immediately, Boldt Carlisle + Smith has entered into a business combination agreement with SingerLewak, LLP. Our combination with SingerLewak will continue business as usual for our clients. We are excited, to expand our services with additional resources, reach and expertise. All current Boldt Carlisle + Smith professionals will join SingerLewak to continue their service to you. Owners Brad Bingenheimer, Jennifer Darst, Kevin Gienger, Jeffrey Kennard, Heather McGowan, Skip Neill and Douglas Parham will become partners in SingerLewak, LLP.



### Koontz, Blasquez & Associates, P.C. Announces New Partner

Koontz, Blasquez & Associates, P.C. is proud to announce the addition of Peter Gelser, CPA, as a partner in the firm. Gelser completed the post-baccalaureate accounting program and Oregon State University and has a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Earlham College. He has been with Koontz, Blasquez & Associates, P.C. since 2015.



### Oregon Freeze Dry Welcomes New Vice Preseident of Operations

Oregon Freeze Dry has promoted Kelly Goforth to vice president of operations. Goforth joined OFD in 2017 as manufacturing director to oversee the construction of, and eventual production at, their Rochester, New York, facility. In 2019 she returned to Oregon to direct manufacturing at OFD's three plants located in Albany.

Goforth's prior work history includes 17 years with Kraft Foods, from maintenance supervisor to plant management. She holds a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering, and an MBA in business administration from the University of Wisconsin. Her predecessor, John Damon, is retiring from OFD at the end of this year. Goforth and her husband reside in Corvallis with their two daughters.



### Oregon State Credit Union donates \$22,173 to United Way

Oregon State Credit Union has donated \$22,173 to United Way of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties. The funds are the result of an annual United Way drive and come from donations made by credit union staff. Total funds donated exceed the drive's fundraising goal of \$18,000.

"Social responsibility is a core credit union value," said Rick Hein, president/CEO of the credit union. "The annual United Way drive is just one of the ways our staff lives out this value. It's a tangible expression of their commitment to the communities in which we all work and live."



### Spiritopia Opens Tasting Room in Downtown Albany

Our new tasting room will be open Tuesday - Saturday from noon to 5pm located at 333 1st. Ave W., Albany

Have news to share about your business or organization?  
Send us your press release: [info@albanychamber.com](mailto:info@albanychamber.com)



**Reinvesting members**  
**10/15-11/15/2020**

AAsum-Dufour Funeral Home

Albany Civic Theater

Albany Visitors Association

Direct Flooring Center

Entek International

EyeCare Associates

Greg's Heating & Air

Conditioning, Inc.

Homegrown Oregon Foods

Iconic Floor Coatings

Jenks Hatchery, Inc.

Keller Williams Realty Mid-

Willamette- Beem Team

Major League Burgers

North Albany Wellness Center

Pacific Residential Mortgage

Post Law Firm, PC

Professional Security Alarm

Staples

Sweet Waters Family

Restaurant

Whitaker's

Willamette Community

Church

# Women in Business Wine, Women & Chocolate



Join us for a special event....we're going virtual!

Wednesday, December 9th

5:00-6:30 pm | Meeting on Zoom | \$20

Guest speaker: Amy Maynard, Mitchell Wine Group

The day of: pick up your wine and chocolate available at the chamber office (8 am - 4 pm).

Arrange a watch party with a small group, or login alone.

5:00-5:15 ~ fun games to get to know each other

5:15-5:30 ~ breakout rooms for small group connections

5:30 speaker presentation followed by Q&A



Amy Maynard has worked in the Oregon Wine Industry for the last 12 years. Amy is a sales representative for Mitchell Wine Group, a Portland based wine distribution company. She was raised in Sweet Home and went on to earn a Bachelors degree from the University of Portland. She also completed Le Grande Diplome from Le Cordon Blue in Ottawa, Canada. Amy worked for several years at Boeing Commercial Airplanes in finance and procurement. She has an affinity for travel, wine, hiking, cooking and reading. She resides in Albany with her husband Michael, a lieutenant at Lebanon Fire District, and their daughter.

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## Chamber Elf Photo Contest



Nick & Holly  
Chamber Elves

The Chamber Elves are at it again! With masks in place and maintaining social distancing from other shoppers, our elves are out visiting Chamber businesses.

Pop onto our Facebook page each day from December 1st- 24th and make a guess in the comments section. With each guess (one per day), you will be entered into a drawing for \$50 in Chamber Dollars.

**HELP IS HERE!**

If you own a small business in Linn County and your business has been negatively affected by COVID-19, **there is help.**

With financial support from Linn County, the Albany and Lebanon chambers have contracted with Sean Tate to work with small businesses. Sean will help identify and assist small businesses in accessing available resources. Resources that can help your small business mitigate the impacts of COVID-19, resources that you may not know about or don't know how to navigate.

With challenges come opportunities and the goal is to provide small businesses with information that gives them and their employees the opportunity to succeed in the era of COVID-19. Sean is ready and eager to work with small businesses. Please contact him for more information.

## **Linn County Small Business Outreach Program**

**Sean Tate**

**seantate@albanychamber.com**

**541.570.9538**



## 2020–2021 Officers and Directors

### Board Officers

**Chair:** Jon Kloor (NW Natural Gas Company)

**Chair-Elect:** Bill Draper (ATI Specialty Alloys & Components)

**Sr. Vice Chair:** Stacie Wyss-Schoenborn (Central Willamette Credit Union)

**Vice Chair:** James Ramseyer (Consumers Power, Inc.)

**Treasurer:** Loren Roth (Citizens Bank)

**Immediate Past Chair:** Kristal Dufour (AAsum-Dufour Funeral Home)

### Board Members

Abel Condrea (Edward Jones), Sue Creel (First American Title), Brian Dietrich (Parr Lumber), Jenny Gilmore-Robinson (ABC House), Joel Kinman (Gerding Builders), Kevin Konzelman (Stutzman Services, Inc), Celeste Krueger (Pacific Power), Kevin Manske (Cadwell Realty Group), Lori McKinnon (Coastal), Jim Merryman (Oregon Freeze Dry), John Pascone (Linn Economic Development Group), Cordell Post (Post Law Firm), Chris Reese (SouthPaws Pizza & Sports Pub), Jennifer Stanaway (Samaritan Albany General Hospital), Sarah Steen (Amerititle), Brice Winney (Stack Hip), Rick Younger (Viper Northwest, Inc.)

### Ex-Officio Board Members

Lisa Avery (Linn-Benton Community College)

Melissa Goff (Greater Albany Public Schools)

### Committee Chairs

**Ambassadors Chair:** Liz Tilson Ramirez (AMOR Events)

**Albany Business Extravaganza:** Chrystal Hart-Meeker (Tin Roof Boutique) & Arthur Meeker (Xtreme GrafX)

**Golf Tournament:** Dick Perdue (Retired)

**Emerging Leaders:** Firiell Severns (Albany Area Chamber)

**Finance:** Loren Roth (Citizens Bank)

**Governmental Affairs Co-Chairs:** Jon Kloor (NW Natural Gas Company), James Ramseyer (Consumers Power)

**Greeters Co-Chairs:** Trish Irwin (Caliber Home Loans), Mr. G Nassar (Farmers Insurance), Brian Oare (Oare & Associates), Sarah Steen (Amerititle)

**Youth Job Fair:** Firiell Severns (Albany Area Chamber of Commerce)

**Women in Business:** Janet Steele (Albany Area Chamber of Commerce)

### Chamber Staff

Janet Steele, President

Shalena Cardinaux, Membership Development Manager

Firiell Severns, Program & Event Manager



## HERE'S HOW TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

START EARLY, SHOP LOCAL FIRST | SHOP LOCAL ONLINE  
PURCHASE GIFT CARDS | CURBSIDE PICKUP | SHOP IN STORE  
GO SOCIAL | PROMOTE | WRITE REVIEWS | EAT LOCAL

## Upcoming Events

### Thursday, December 3

8:15am Greeters

### Thursday, December 17

8:15am Greeters

7:00 am Governmental Affairs

### Tuesday, December 8

12pm Try This Tuesday

3:30pm Executive Committee

### Friday, December 25

Chamber office closed

### Wednesday, December 9

5:00pm Wine, Women & Chocolate by Zoom

### Thursday, December 31

8:15am Greeters

### Friday, January 1

Chamber office closed

 [facebook.com/albanychamber](https://facebook.com/albanychamber)

 [instagram.com/albanychamber](https://instagram.com/albanychamber)

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