



BIOS (in order of appearance)

Thursday, 1:30 PM: **“Benchmarking: Strengthen Your Chamber’s Potentials”**

Mathew Wasserburger

Manager for the Political Affairs and Federation Relations division at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce
MWasserburger@USChamber.com

Mathew works closely with chamber and association members to build awareness of top policy issues, generate grassroots momentum, and provide unique programs, information, customer service, resources, and services that lead to sustained involvement in the public policy-process.

He manages the U.S. Chamber’s Accreditation program, the only national program that recognizes chambers for effective organizational procedures and outstanding contributions toward positive change in their communities. Mathew has been heavily involved in enhancing the Accreditation process: working with industry leaders to redesign the application, investigating ways to bring the process online, and making sure that the standards for Accreditation facilitate continuing excellence in the chamber industry and foster a pro-business environment across America.

Mathew received his bachelor’s degree in Political Science and International Relations from Boston College and spent two years in the Peace Corps promoting community and youth development in Eastern Europe.

Benchmarking Consultants:

Maria Ariga, IOM, Executive Director, Troy Area Chamber ****

mariga@troyohiochamber.com

Maria Ariga comes to the Troy Area Chamber with nearly 25 years of various business experiences in corporate management and marketing. A native of Hungary, Maria began her career in office management in 1970 with The T. Eaton Co. Ltd. Headquartered in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. In 1983 her family moved to Redondo Beach, California, where she became involved in volunteer school activities at her children’s school, teaching “Art at Your Fingertips”. In 1988 she joined PhoneMate Inc., as Assistant to the Vice President of Engineering.

Due to her family’s business commitments, in 1993 they moved to Ohio and subsequently, in 1995 Maria joined Bruns General Contracting, where she became Assistant to the President and Marketing Manager. She joined the Troy Area Chamber of Commerce in July of 2000 as Director of Operations, and in 2007 was named Executive Director. She is an IOM Graduate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Maria is married, with two daughters, Adriana and Tracey

Jill McCartney-Becker, IOM, President & CEO, Tuscarawas County Chamber ****

jillb@tus chamber.com

Attended KSU

Dale Carnegie graduate in 2003

Leadership Tuscarawas graduate in 2003

2004 graduate of IOM

Started in the chamber business in 2000 as office manager and became president in January of 2007.

Live in New Philadelphia with 2 daughters. Tess is 12 and Elli is 6.

Janet Tressler Davis, CCEO-AP3, IOM, CCE, President & CEO, Westerville Area Chamber ****

jdavis@westervillechamber.com

As President and CEO of the Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce since August 1992, Janet guides the chamber in leading business development and growth for the Westerville area on behalf of the 23-member board of trustees. Since she joined the chamber the membership has more than doubled. Through Davis’ leadership the chamber has:

- developed an ongoing news story, Chamber Corner, in the local newspaper to keep the community informed about the chamber’s role and business efforts;
- implemented the Westerville Area Chamber website, www.westervillechamber.com which includes rich content and a marketing flare to help promote Westerville and the area businesses;
- led a public relations effort creating the first Westerville promotional video and marketing brochures;
- created an election academy for Westerville residents interested in running for public office;

- documented the need the Chamber is now actively involved in Government Relations researching and recommending positions on state and local legislative business issues;
 - Implemented a small/office group and women in business in business group.
- She is currently serving on the Board of Directors for ACCE in a three year term. In 1998 she was awarded by CCEO with the Chamber Professional of Year award.
Janet, a lifetime resident of Westerville and her husband Jim have two children 17 and 19 and they continue to reside in Westerville.

Sharon Deschambeau, President, Darke County Chamber ***
sharond@darkecountyohio.com

John Harris, IOM, President/CEO, Northeast Cincinnati Chamber ***
jharris@necchamber.org

Board of Directors 1986

Elected Volunteer President 1992; 141 members, budget \$27,000

Ten years in cellular telephone industry. Hired as the chamber's first full time compensated president in 1996. Served as the volunteer president for four years prior.

Founder, Graduate, Leadership Warren County; Graduate the Institute of Organizational Management at Villanova University, 2006: Invested Leadership continuing education 2007 and 2008

Current membership: 800+

Current board seating: Northeast Institute Board of Regents, US Chamber of Commerce, Class Advisor Northeast Institute 2007-2008; Design Review Board, City of Mason; Downtown Mason Association 501 C-3; Tri State Chamber Collaborative; State of Ohio Worker' Compensation Oversight Board; Lindner Center for Hope Ambassador.

Forty six year Warren County resident presently residing in Deerfield Township

Wife Sherry 39 years; Three daughters, Jennifer, Sara, Diana; Three grandchildren

Debra Lynn-Schmitz, CCEO-AP3, IOM, President, Greater Medina Chamber ***
debrals@medinaohchamber.com

Debra started with the Greater Medina Chamber of Commerce in 1987 as a full-time intern while pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Business and Organization Communication at the University of Akron. Debra became the President and CEO in 1995.

She serves on the Board of Directors for United Way of Medina County, participates in a variety of city and county committees and teams and is working with the other Chambers in Medina County to create a coalition for benefit sharing, member services and programs.

Debra is a graduate of the six-year Institute for Organization Management through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a 1994 graduate of Leadership Medina County and a graduate of the Ohio Economic Development Course. She completed her Master's Degree in Organization Management in 2006. Debra is an Accredited Professional of the Chamber of Commerce Executives of Ohio where she received the Professional of the Year Award in 2002 and served as Chairman of the Board from 2003-2005.

Mark V'Soske, IOM, CAE, MCCE-AP, President, Toledo Regional Chamber *****
mvsoske@toledochamber.com

Mark has been in the chamber of commerce profession for 33 years. His past chamber positions include president of the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce in Kalamazoo, Michigan; president of the Erie County Chamber of Commerce in Sandusky, Ohio; and vice president of the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce in Monroe, Michigan.

V'Soske is a graduate of the Institute for Organization Management, and the Academy of Organization Management conducted by the US Chamber of Commerce at the University of Notre Dame. He is also a graduate of the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, North Carolina. He holds an AA degree from Inter-American University of Puerto Rico and a BA degree from Michigan State University. He has also earned the Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation from the American Society of Association Executives.

Currently in the Toledo community, V'Soske participates on numerous boards including the Business Advisory Council for the University of Toledo College of Business, and LISC (Local Initiative Support Corporation). Professionally, he holds the office of Chairman for the Chamber of Commerce Executives of

Ohio (CCEO), and is Immediate Past Chairman of the Board for the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) in Alexandria, VA.

Thursday, 7:00 PM: **"What's at Stake Nov. 4?"**

Ben Taylor

Manager, Great Lakes Region Office, Congressional & Public Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
www.uschamber.com

The mission of the regional office is to cultivate and maintain legislative, political and grassroots resources in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania to achieve the U.S. Chamber's public policy goals.

Ben helps lead the organization's effort to strengthen its relationships with Members of Congress through member businesses, associations, and local chambers of commerce across the region.

Before joining the U.S. Chamber staff, Ben served as a Legislative Assistant in Congressman David Hobson's (OH-07) Washington, D.C. office. He has also served as the Special Assistant to the Administrator of the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, and has interned in the Ohio General Assembly. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and History from Miami University in Oxford, OH.

Friday, 8:00 AM: **"Clues for Thriving in Advocacy Mode"**

Linda Woggon

Vice President, Governmental Affairs, Ohio Chamber of Commerce
lwoggon@ohiochamber.com

Linda joined the Ohio Chamber of Commerce as vice president of governmental affairs in January 1996. She leads the Chamber's public policy and political education efforts and lobbies on legal and regulatory issues, as well as campaign finance, elections and ethics policy. Additionally, Linda serves as Vice President of Citizens for a Strong Ohio, the Ohio Chamber's issue advocacy organization. Citizens for a Strong Ohio was organized in 2000 and has played a major role in educating the public about the importance of the state judiciary and the effect judicial decisions have on the lives of Ohioans and the state's economic climate.

Linda served as President of the Ohio Alliance for Civil Justice from mid-1996 through 1999 and led the organization's CourtWatch initiative. She is a member of the public affairs committee of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the immediate past-president of the Ohio Lobbying Association.

Prior to joining the Ohio Chamber, Linda practiced environmental law with the Toledo firm of Fuller & Henry and served as Government Affairs Director with the Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce. Her previous employment also includes five years as program manager with the Metropolitan Toledo Consortium, a former federal grants and lobbying body for Toledo area public sector entities. Linda holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a juris doctor degree from the University of Toledo.

Chris Brock

Grassroots Coordinator, Ohio Chamber of Commerce
cbrock@ohiochamber.com

Now serving as Grassroots Coordinator at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Chris Brock works with local chambers across the state as well as with members of the Ohio Chamber in an effort to improve business advocacy. He also coordinates and runs the Chamber Action Alliance program, a partnership between the Ohio Chamber and local chambers designed to improve the effectiveness of business grassroots efforts.

Chris first became involved in politics in 2004 as a legislative intern to State Representative Larry Flowers (R- Canal Winchester). After interning for Representative Flowers, Chris served as a page for the Republican Caucus in the Ohio House of Representatives until May 2005 when he became an intern in Speaker Jon Husted's (R- Kettering) Majority Communications Office. From January 2006 until April of 2008, Chris was a Communications Assistant for Speaker Husted.

Born and raised in Chillicothe, Ohio Chris graduated from Chillicothe High School in 2002 where he was an all conference golfer in 2001 and 2002. He received his B.A. in Political Science from the Ohio State University in June 2006. Chris currently lives in Groveport, Ohio with his wife Hilary.

Friday, 9:00 AM: **“Supercharging Your Events & Non-Dues Revenue”**

Kordell Norton

President, Synergy Solutions, Twinsburg, OH

www.kordellnorton.com,

As one of our most highly rated presenters at previous CCEO events, we're pleased to have Kordell join us again! As a senior executive with several multi-billion dollar companies his experience and unique ability to get people to talk and share their insights, coupled with his abilities as a certified Graphic Facilitator helps organizations quickly leverage their capabilities and set clear direction.

His consulting company, Synergy Solutions, works with education, government and business organizations like: First Energy, Microsoft, The Ohio State University, the Social Security Administration, and many other small to large organizations.

Kordell is also one of the workshop presenters at the upcoming ACCE National Convention in Pittsburgh later this month.

Friday, 11:00 AM: **“High Tech vs. High Touch: Connecting with Your Customers”**

Joe Hinson

President/CEO, West Chester Chamber Alliance

jahinson@westchesterchamberalliance.com

Joe has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of the award-winning West Chester Chamber Alliance for nearly ten years. Under his leadership, the Chamber continues to see sustained growth in membership and operating income, becoming the 4th largest Chamber of Commerce out of 25 in our three state region. This has been due, in part, to maximizing the opportunities afforded by a great location, combined with a clear vision and strategic plan to create cutting edge programs and services for our members. In turn, the West Chester Chamber Alliance has become known as the “Chamber of Choice” along the I-75 Growth Corridor. Promoting the team aspect and a "family first" work environment, Joe has built a solid organization of “can do” business professionals.

The West Chester Chamber Alliance is proud to be a business partner in the West Chester and Liberty communities, recognized by Business CNN/Money Magazine as the 45th best place to live in the U.S. Other recognition that has occurred under Joe's leadership at the Chamber includes:

- Red Carnation Community Award – Ohio Development Association
- Two-time award recipient for the Chamber's web portal design
- Four-time award recipient for the Chamber's logo design
- Over The Rhine Chamber of Commerce Star Award
- Two-time award finalist for the Business Courier's Best Places to Work
- Four-time recipient as one of our region's 100 Most Influential Business Leaders by Cincy Business Magazine
- 2006 - 2007 Ohio Chamber Professional of the Year - CCEO
- Ohio Society of Professional Journalist Award for Connections Magazine

A graduate of the college of business from Northern Kentucky University, Joe is a former corporate executive and small business entrepreneur. He is a past recipient of the Business Courier's 40 Under Forty Award for emerging leaders, a Kentucky Colonel, honored three times by the Ohio Senate and various other distinguished leadership awards. Joe is also a graduate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce prestigious Chamber Instit