

January Chamber Corner
Submitted by Marji Graf, Executive Director
Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce

The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce wishes everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

If you missed our Annual Meeting with Secretary of State Deb Markowitz, you can view it online at www.lpctv.org. Be sure to also watch our monthly program "Okemo Valley, Your Place in Vermont". This month I interviewed Pam Nelligan the photographer of the 2010 Men of Okemo Valley calendar; and new Chamber members Jason Marcheaux of East Coast Collision & Restoration; and Shelley Sas of Waterwheel House Quilt Shop.

We would like to introduce you to our new 2010 Board Members. Jessica Alberty of Hawk Inn & Mountain Resort; Michael Alon of DaVallia-Arts & Accents; Liz Crowley of CZ Construction Management; Brian Halligan of Okemo Mountain Resort and Mark Verespy of The Killarney.

They join our returning directors, Tesha Buss of Good Commons; Bill Dakin of Dakin & Benelli, Annie Fujii of The Village Green Gallery; Sheldon Ghetler of the Stone Hearth Inn & Tavern; Barbara Lemire of Chittenden Bank; Laurie Marechaux of Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts; Lynne Reed of Misty Valley Books; Maria Tomaselli of Bovine Bookkeeping; Laura Tuttle-Williams of Calm Moments Spa Services; and Jim Kubec of The Governor's Inn, who is now our past-president.

We would like to thank the following retiring board members for their years of service; Linda Aldrich of The Inn at Weston; Stephanie Karner of The Traveling Hoe Gardening; John McAveaney from Sunshine Acres Garden Center (Past President); Ken Saccardo of Spring River Enterprises; and Jack Smart of Giggs Antiques.

Our advertising has been targeting **out of state visitors** with the Vermont Vacation Guides (inside front and inside back covers), Connecticut Magazine, Yankee Magazine, Vermont Life Magazine, Okemo Magazine, Vermont Magazine; and **in-state visitors** with TravelHost Magazine, Okemo Valley Regional Guidebook and Regional Map, RSN-TV, and LPC-TV. Now, the Chamber is introducing a new program called **Chamber Mail** which targets new residents to help our business-to-consumer member companies reach new customers: www.okemo.chambermail.us

The second program we are introducing is called "**Travel with the Chamber**". We have teamed up with Collette Tours to bring you great trips. Our first trip is scheduled for **November 4-13, 2010 to TUSCANY!!** \$2699 includes bus to and from Boston, round trip airfare, taxes, transfers, meals and tours for 10 days. Includes 13 meals: 8 breakfasts and 5 dinners. Brochures are available at the Chamber office.

Our May 12th mixer at Bella Luna will kick off our Tuscany trip. Collette Tours will be giving us the inside scoop on the trip. You do not have to be a chamber member to travel with us.

We had a great December in the Okemo Valley. All events were well attended; Christmas in Weston, Overture to Christmas in Chester, and the Ludlow through the Stone Village to Chester scavenger hunt.

The Chamber brings you the following programs in 2010:

1/13 **Customer Service** at Newsbank Conference Center in Chester 5:30pm

1/21 **Legislative Day** at the Statehouse 8:30am

3/10 **Constant Contact** Training 5:30pm

5/10 Bella Luna with **Collette Tours** 5:30pm

6/9 **Efficiency Vermont** 5:30pm

9/22 **Business Showcase** at Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts. Open to the public.

12/8 **Annual Meeting** at The Fullerton Inn in Chester.

Our Vision Statement:

The Okemo Valley region, consisting of the Towns of Andover, Cavendish, Chester, Ludlow, Mount Holly, Plymouth and Weston, is recognized as a four-season sustainable Vermont destination to be enjoyed by all.

The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce is recognized as an organization providing leadership, support and services vital to the health and future growth of the member businesses in the communities that we serve.

Chamber members are ambassadors for the Okemo Valley region, promoting the area as a vibrant place to live and to visit.

Our Mission Statement:

The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit, member-driven organization. It is the voice of its members and the business communities in the Towns of Andover, Cavendish, Chester, Ludlow, Mount Holly, Plymouth and Weston, Vermont. It provides advocacy, support and unified regional marketing to promote and enhance our regional businesses and four-season economy.

#####