

Local Government Victories

Worked with Tucson's City Council and Pima County Board to build a more business-friendly atmosphere, including:

- Successfully created and promoted adoption of a Business Bill of Rights (Joint Business Objectives) platform with Pima County and the City of Tucson to improve business-friendly service delivery.
- Successfully promoted the adoption of a local purchasing preference in City of Tucson procurement.
- The Southern Arizona Business PAC attained a 'Super-PAC' status. The Chamber is the only business organization with a Super-PAC headquartered in Southern Arizona. This places the Tucson Metro Chamber in a unique political position to strongly support pro-business candidates and public policy.
- 94% of candidates supported by the Southern Arizona Business PAC won their election demonstrating that the voice of business is listened to in our community.
- Legislative agenda was created for 2013 and communicated to members of the Arizona Legislature in face-to-face meetings.
- Created *Interface* program to provide members with access to city and county leaders.
- Created issue-oriented Government Affairs committee structure that puts volunteers with special expertise on committees such as Infrastructure, Healthcare, etc.
- Non-partisan candidate evaluation committee held more than 40 candidate interviews providing an excellent opportunity for Chamber volunteers to meet candidates and assess business positions of future elected officials.
- Met with city, county and state officials more than 100 times.
- Hosted the State of the City presentation with Mayor Rothschild to deliver information about city issues.

Local Government Victories - cont.

- Hosted town hall style debate for Arizona Corporation Commission candidates providing direct access for members to interface with candidates and elected officials.

Federal and State Victories

The Tucson Metro Chamber worked to promote a pro-business agenda through the following:

- Implemented new legislative tracking system allowing the Chamber and members to effectively manage and track over 300 bills at the legislature this session.
- Created online access to a tracking list of the Chamber's most important bills allowing open and transparent access for members to follow issues the Chamber is working on.
- Hosted the State of the State presentation with Governor Brewer to deliver information about state issues.
- Hosted meetings with all newly-elected state legislators in January so they would know the Chamber's priorities and positions on state business issues.

Education

- Collaborated with the Tucson Center for Cultural Enrichment to deliver the State of Education to provide information on education needs in our community.
- Collaborated with the Tucson Center for Cultural Enrichment to award seven scholarships to graduating high school seniors to continue their education and establish careers in Southern Arizona.

Community Affairs

- Publicly promoted eradication of weeds on City streets and medians.
- Backed Prop 409 to repair City streets.

Economic Development

- Works to support the F-35's arrival at the 162nd Air National Guard station to create 2,000 construction jobs.
- Chamber leads multi-organizational effort called the Southern Arizona Defense Alliance (SADA) to protect and promote the military presence in Southern Arizona.
- Chamber President & CEO, Mike Varney serves on the Mayor's Business Advisory Group to promote a stronger local economy and a more business-friendly City government.
- Promoted permitting for the Rosemont Copper mine facility to create 1,500 construction jobs and 600 permanent jobs.
- President & CEO, Mike Varney serves on Air Service Committee to encourage more airline flights into and out of Tucson.
- Worked to defeat single use plastic bag ban in City of Tucson keeping the choice of bagging options between the retail consumer and business owner.
- President & CEO, Mike Varney serves on Pima County Sports and Tourism Authority board to increase tourism through amateur sports events.
- Asked for and received appointment of Dale Calvert, CPA to the Road Bond Oversight Committee to ensure compliance with financing intentions and application of funds.
- President & CEO, Mike Varney works on City work group to represent business and deal with abandoned shopping carts.
- Promoted the development of the Red Rock multimodal transportation facility and improved trade with Mexico.
- Promoted regional approach to job creation tour that included outreach to suburban communities.
- Held Outlooks event to deliver information about growing and improving our community.

Business and Workforce Development

- Saved members hundreds of thousands of dollars by way of Chamber affinity programs with Office Depot, SCF Arizona and EffortlessHR.
- Implemented the Office Depot employee discount program providing members a money-saving benefit to share with their employees.
- Conducted a successful marketing support project for small businesses through the University of Arizona Eller College to assist member businesses in solving marketing challenges.
- Launched the Peerspectives program to give small and medium size businesses a resource for problem solving.
- Upgraded the Chamber's resources library to provide a comprehensive body of resources for small businesses.
- Introduced Tools for Business providing members a resource for extensive information on how to start and grow a business.
- Recognized and celebrated locally owned small businesses at the Copper Cactus Awards.
- Held Military Affairs Committee federal procurement workshops to help small businesses do business with the federal government.
- Created a library of resources on the Chamber's website to help members navigate the Affordable Care Act.

Communications

- Integrated mobile website increasing visibility and lead generation to member businesses.
- Received WACE Journalistic Excellence Award recognizing the Chamber for quality communications with members.
- Increased website traffic by 16% providing members greater visibility and lead generation.
- Increased distribution of *The Chamber Edge* by 25% providing members greater visibility and access to information.