



# MODC Matters

A Publication of the Monmouth-Ocean Development Council  
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## E-Newsletter

December 2009

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### Upcoming Events

Annual Holiday Luncheon  
12/11/09  
Shadowbrook, Shrewsbury

"Employee Handbooks--What Every Employer Needs to Know" Seminar  
1/7/10  
Meridian Health, Wall

Coastal Climate Change Conference  
1/15/10  
Monmouth University, Wilson Hall

### "Storm Watch"

To check the status of MODC activities which may be affected by inclement weather conditions log on to [www.wobm.com](http://www.wobm.com) or [www.943thepoint.com](http://www.943thepoint.com) and click on the "stormwatch" link to obtain up-to-date information.

### Recent Events

October General Membership Meeting  
October 16, 2009

#### PREVENT-PROTECT RESPOND-RECOVER

The mantra of the Rapid Response Institute at Monmouth University became more recognizable as institute director Dr. Barbara Reagor described their mission to the audience at the October membership meeting. The Institute spearheads development, integration, and mining of data to help rapid military, homeland security, and disaster response agencies make critical decisions in times of local or national emergencies.



The MODC Education Foundation was also proud to acknowledge our 2009 scholarship recipients, three of whom were in attendance at the October General Membership meeting.



From left to right: Steve Bumbera, Vice Chair, MODC Education Foundation; Jamillynn Carrigg, Ocean County College; Rich Dominguez, MODC mentoring program; Melissa Butcher, Georgian Court University; Cary McCormack, Trustee, MODC Education Foundation; Michael Caponetto, Ocean County College.

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Grow Your Business Seminar "Beyond the Hiring" Managing Employee Job Performance & Conduct  
HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital, Tinton Falls  
November 4, 2009



Panelists  
(l-r) Kathleen Connelly, Esq. and Cristina Amyot



Seminar Attendees

Take a moment to complete the MODC Business Outlook Survey

[click here](#)

### Committee Reports

Business Growth & Development  
(Len Nitti, Chair)

Although somewhat slow getting out of the box (latecomers?; stragglers?) the room did fill up nicely at the November 18th Business Growth & Development Committee meeting. After some discussion on a few legislative issues and projections for change with the new Governor taking office in January, the committee devoted the balance of the meeting to planning for some of their future seminar programs. A popular subject was to develop a panel of business executives who have successfully modified or adapted their businesses to address the current economic environment. There was also some discussion on customer service issues, and how business leaders need to maintain a high level of service despite the fact that staffing levels are down due to the economic recession. The committee will work on proposed participants in these programs as well as their June luncheon program at the next committee meeting on December 16.

Cultural & Tourism  
*(Tom Gilmour, Chair)*

The Cultural & Tourism Committee recognized a few new committee members at the November 16th meeting, and brought everyone up to date on pending agenda issues. The Convention and Visitors Bureau in our region is planning a legislative function for the winter of 2010 to impress upon the local and state legislators the importance of tourism to Monmouth and Ocean Counties. The committee is also looking at an online customer service training initiative that could be offered to regional service and hospitality businesses. The committee also spent some time discussing their spring luncheon and seminar program, scheduled this year for the month of May. An invitation has been extended to the new governor, Chris Christie to speak before this event. The next committee meeting is scheduled for December 21st.

Economic Development  
*(Ed Gurskis, Chair)*

Attendees at the October 30th Economic Development Committee meeting had the pleasure of a presentation by Bonnie Goldschlag from the Monmouth County Planning Board, along with two of her associates, Laura Kirby and Russel Like, on their recently completed Economic Profile. The analysis of the data once again reflects that Monmouth County is among the best locations in the state to live and work. The committee also devoted some time to final details of their seminar program scheduled for late January on Green Building Opportunities. A sub committee looking at potential programs relating to Fort Monmouth and the new Joint Base in Ocean/Burlington counties met briefly after the regular committee meeting to develop strategies and time frames to consider these offering education forums on these important economic development issues. The next regular committee meeting will be on November 20th at New Jersey Natural Gas Company in Wall.

Energy & Environment  
*(Penny Griber, Chair)*

With Penny Griber back at the helm the Energy & Environment Committee devoted the majority of their October 27th meeting to finalizing the program for their January conference. This joint program with the Jersey Shore Partnership and the Urban Coast Institute will take place at Monmouth University and will focus on global climate changes and the impact it will have on the coastal communities in our region. The luncheon program at this event will address regulatory changes in regard to this same topic and how it will affect the way we do business. More to come on this exciting event at next month's meeting scheduled for November 24th.

Nonprofit  
*(Paul Brook, Chair)*

It sometimes appears that the MODC Nonprofit Committee just keeps on growing! A couple of dozen members packed the conference room of our host, Amper, Politziner & Mattia, located in MODC's office building in Wall. For the Member Spotlight Lee Marconi, Scout Executive for Monmouth Council of Boy Scouts, and his associate, Ross Munt, provided an overview of some of the special initiatives BSA has underway for the coming year as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of Boy Scouts. And our host spotlight was offered by Tony Faugno, Officer with Amper and long time member of the Nonprofit Committee. Paul Brook devoted some time to reviewing the applications for this year's Project Connection, then moved into discussions regarding a number of topics and speakers that have been proposed for consideration by the Education Sub-committee. There were a number of other updates on activities and events by committee members, and a discussion on the need to change the regular meeting date for this committee's monthly meetings due to a conflict with Thursday mornings by the Vice Chair and select other committee members. A suggestion was made to change the monthly meetings to the first Wednesday of the month, with the next meeting now scheduled for December 2nd at a location to be determined.

## Reminder

The MODC Membership Directory is available to members free of charge at any time in either electronic or hard copy format. The directory is updated daily so call or e-mail the office to receive your current copy now.



## Quick Links

[MODC Website](#)  
[Event Registration](#)  
[More About Us](#)

Technology  
(Marshall Wright)

With their monthly mebership meeting behind them, the Technology Committee focused on a series of programs they have in the works for the first half of 2010 when they met on November 19th. This group will be partnering with the Economic Development Committee to host an event in Ocean County showcasing the business opportunities that will come out of the new Joint Base. Additionally, they will be collaborating with the New Jersey Technology Council on a program in the Spring to showcase the technology based businesses and jobs prevelent in our region. A hands-on tranining seminar on how to establish a business presence on a social media site will take place in February, with a follow-up program in April on how to properly use the social media site for your business. With the holidays in December interfering with regularly scheduled meetings, the next committee meeting was scheduled for January 21st.

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**Upcoming Committee Meetings**

(Note - meetings are at the MODC office at unless otherwise noted)

- Nov 24 Energy & Environment, 8:30 am
- Dec 2 Nonprofit, 8:30 am, Monmouth Council  
Boy Scouts of America, Morganville
- Dec 8 Marketing, 3:30 pm
- Dec 9 Member Services, 3:30 pm
- Dec 16 Business Growth & Development, 8:30 am
- Dec 18 Economic Development, 8:30 am, New Jersey  
Natural Gas, Wall
- Dec 21 Cultural & Tourism, 8:30 am

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