

Meadowlands Regional “2040 Foundation”

Leadership, Vision, Education, Action

In 2009, the Meadowlands Regional Chamber (MRC) established the 2040 Council, an economic development “think tank” comprised of C-Suite level executives from small to large companies who have invested mightily here in the Meadowlands region.

Business leaders met regularly throughout the year to discuss “big picture” issues that would affect the economy now through the year 2040: transportation infrastructure & mobility, flood control, education & workforce development, the regulatory environment and overall economic development.

This prestigious and dynamic group, the Meadowlands Regional 2040 Council, has for the past few years helped shape the public affairs advocacy initiatives of the MRC—tackling the tough issues that affect business owners and residents of the region.

In 2012, the MRC adopted a five-year Strategic Business Plan that called to transition the 2040 Council into a 501c3 Foundation so the necessary resources could be established to have a real and lasting impact. The mission of the “2040 Foundation” is to provide a business perspective and a long-term vision to plan for a growing and sustainable economy through the year 2040.

One of the driving goals for the 2040 Foundation is to enhance the local economy by strengthening the workforce and improving the overall quality of life for the Meadowlands community, so the group has identified educational outreach as key to their mission. The 2040 Foundation will help promote awareness of workforce training programs to ensure that our region maintains high quality human capital to meet the needs of growing businesses. An educated and better developed workforce will retain existing companies and entice new businesses to relocate or invest in the Meadowlands.

The group is comprised of business leaders that have deep roots in the region and a strong commitment to improving the area for those who live and work here.

“Goya Foods has invested almost \$1 billion dollars in a new 650,000 square-foot headquarters facility and state of the art distribution center here in the Meadowlands. The future of the region is critically important to our business and our family,” comments Peter Unanue.

Today the Meadowlands Regional 2040 Foundation, now fully installed as a foundation, has a nine member board of trustees led by Chairman Fletch Creamer of J. Fletcher Creamer & Son and Vice Chair Bill Hanson of NAI James E. Hanson.

Fletch and Bill are joined by Rich Branca, CEO of Bergen Engineering; Dominick D’Agosta a former senior banking executive; Alex Klatskin, CEO of Forsgate Industrial Partners; Ed Russo, CEO of Russo Development; John Saraceno, Principal of Onyx Equities; Tony Scardino, former Mayor and NJ Senator of Anthony Scardino & Associates, Inc.; and Peter Unanue, COO of Goya Foods.



Thought Leaders Conference: Join the Conversation

The 2040 Foundation will host a Thought Leaders Conference, its first major fundraising event, on October 6th at the Meadowlands Hilton Hotel. More information can be found at www.meadowlands.org.

“The Thought Leaders Conference will be a powerful tool to help create a vision of how this region can be a driving force in our overall economy for many years to come. We must be bold and willing to find solutions to any and all obstacles,” states Fletch Creamer.



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