



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT
Carlin Smith, President
Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce

ANNUAL REPORT, PART ONE, 2014 Accomplishments

In 2014, your award-winning chamber of commerce kept true to its traditional style of high energy programming. As our Chairman of the Board Bill Marshall said, "I can't believe how much work comes from just four people in one little building!" But we continue to crank it out successfully and with great engagement from our membership. Thanks to you, our chamber members, our programs and events are well attended and well sponsored, and remain effective in making business connections.

Here are the highlights:

- 83 ribbon cuttings/anniversary photos/new member photos (up from 47 in 2013)
- 9 Connecting Women in Business events with an average attendance of 75
- Provided hospitality training to 359 area employees through eight Hospitality the Little Traverse Way seminars
- Presented three business-enrichment seminars with an average attendance of 48
- Hosted the Win by Losing Weight Loss program where 29 teams collectively lost 1,821 pounds
- Published annual Visitors Guide and annual Membership Directory
- Hosted eight Business After Hours (avg. attendance 101) and one Business Expo (attendance 550)
- Hosted the following larger-scale events:
 - Art in the Park
 - Breakfast for Champions
 - Golf Outing
 - Restaurant Week (2)
 - State of the Community Luncheon
 - Farmer's Market (16)
 - Record Winter Celebration
 - Festival on the Bay
- In all, the chamber hosted 56 events in 2015!
- Endorsed and campaigned for two ballot issues: the elimination of the Personal Property Tax and the Petoskey Schools' bond issue for the construction of the Community Athletic Complex. Both were successful
- Assisted Indian Trails Bus Line on new pick-up and ticketing location
- Worked with MDOT for friendlier language on construction signs
- Co-hosted two Candidate Forums
- Hosted events for Congressman Dan Benishek, Tricia Keith of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, and David West, VP of Travel Michigan
- Hosted 130 business counseling sessions through SCORE

Oh, and did I mention that the Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce was named Outstanding Chamber of Commerce in Michigan in the Mid-Size Category by the Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals? We're very proud of this recognition and believe it reflects the strong level of programming offered by your chamber of commerce.

Thank you for your continued support of the Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce. If you would like to discuss any of these issues more directly, please call me at 347-4150, or better yet, give me a call to set up a time when I can stop by your business or organization for a visit.