

## Letter From The 2010 Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce President, Carol Chappell



We have entered another exciting year for the Salem/Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce and it is an honor for me to serve as your 2010 President in a time of renewed hope and optimism for economic recovery.

Over the past 75 years your Chamber has demonstrated its commitment as a leader in the promotion and support of the business community in the region. Under the leadership of Bill Jones in a challenging 2009 economy, our chamber achieved growth in membership, increased event participation and improved our financial condition. We are very grateful for Bill's dedication and accomplishments during his term and wish to thank HomeTown Bank for supporting him during his presidency.

I personally believe that one of the keys to a strong organization is to have the right people in the right position and support them in what they do well. We are very fortunate to have Debbie Kavitz, our Executive Director, and her dedicated team of Bryan Haley and Carla Curtis. This great staff works long hours with little recognition and we should all be thankful to them for all

they do to manage and support Chamber activities.

Membership is where our organization starts – without our members we have no reason to exist. It is the support of our member companies and individuals that have made the Chamber a strong organization for over 75 years. We have a dedicated team of board members, ambassadors, committee chairs and many volunteers who commit their time and energy towards making our events successful. I appreciate the investment your organization has made in this Chamber and I encourage you to get involved by attending or volunteering in as many events as you can. By taking advantage of these opportunities available through the Chamber, you can meet and work with people committed to helping the community and enjoy the benefits of networking and promoting your company.

This excellent relationship between businesses and the Chamber has evolved over the years well beyond simply providing a venue to promote your company. The Salem/Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce has become a valuable resource in helping companies grow through networking, business education and legislative representation. We are fortunate to have the exceptional quality and commitment of our members in the Roanoke Valley.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Chamber. We look forward to a great year of working together to strengthen the economy of our local businesses and to promote this wonderful community.

Sincerely,  
Carol Chappell  
2010 President