

New Non-Profit Focus Group Holds Successful Inaugural Meeting

On March 19th, the Chamber launched its Non-Profit Focus Group with an inaugural meeting that drew more than 30 professional and volunteer staff from Monmouth County non-profit organizations. Representatives from local businesses also attended.

“Our work (in the non-profit community) helped keep the Great Recession from turning into the Great Depression,” said co-chair, Julia Zapcic, in her opening remarks. “Forums like this can help us to share needs, goals and best-practices so we do this work even more effectively, for more people.”

Professional fundraisers from local affiliates of national organizations like The American Red Cross - Jersey Coast chapter <http://www.jerseycoast-redcross.org/> and volunteer staff from homegrown organizations like Michael’s Feat <http://www.michaelsfeat.org/> and Center Players <http://centerplayers.org/> agreed that improving mission-critical support should be the number-one goal of the group. Increasing the availability and impact of services offered to the local community is the desired outcome. Co-chair Bridget Hartnett from Sobel & Co. affirmed, “I’ve worked with similar groups throughout New Jersey. When they’re sharing best-practices and using each other as resources, they realize fundraising and service goals, and that’s what we expect for this group, as well.”

Roman Lucky, CFRE, Executive Director of the CentraState Healthcare Foundation, made the first, formal presentation to the group—“How is Your Board Doing?” The presentation and follow-up discussion addressed issues of effective board recruitment, training and performance evaluation. Discussion was so vigorous and productive that the group has asked for ‘Part II’.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 21st, 8:30 AM until 10:30 AM at the Greater Monmouth’s Chamber offices in Freehold, NJ. Anyone who wants to be added to the group’s email list or has a question for the co-chairs can email Julia Zapcic at jzapcic@cpcbhc.org, Bridget Hartnett at Bridget.Hartnett@sobel-cpa.com or Chamber President, Loretta Kuhnert at info@greatermonmouthchamber.com .