



The following is a message from leadership of EDAWN, the Northern Nevada Chamber of Commerce and Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce.

In an effort to provide our Chamber and EDAWN members with more regular updates on the status of the merger of the Northern Nevada Chamber of Commerce with the Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce, and a shared services agreement with EDAWN, your transition team is providing you this update on the progress that's been made over the past month. Our most recent efforts include:

- **Chamber Leadership:** Consistent with our original announcement, the transition team has completed a draft contract confirming Len Steven's leadership of the combined Chambers. Individual board ratifications will be completed shortly. In the meantime, Len will assume leadership of the combined Chambers on August 1, 2011. He will oversee operations, planning, membership, advocacy, finance and staff. Both Chamber staffs, along with key EDAWN personnel, have provided a clear path to Chamber integration and joint EDAWN partnership. By moving quickly, Len will get a head start on his new combined role as the Chamber's executive director.
- **Hats off to Fred Boyd:** Special thanks to Fred Boyd, who has served this community as interim CEO of the Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce, and as the transition leader evaluating areas in which the Chamber and EDAWN can streamline functions. We're pleased that Fred will continue to be closely involved with The Chamber, as he will be leading the Education Committee, an area he's equally passionate and knowledgeable. Thank you, Fred for all you've done for The Chamber and our community!
- **What are The Chamber/EDAWN Shared Services?** As a result of sweeping economic development legislation enacting during the 2011 Legislature, and state and local funding requirements to economic development organizations, EDAWN will remain a separate entity, and not fully merge with The Chamber. That said, EDAWN will share business support services with the combined Chamber, eliminating duplication of services and realizing economies of scale wherever possible. Additionally, aspects of local economic development and the many valuable services provided by Chamber initiatives and events will now be available through EDAWN membership. The Chamber and EDAWN are already sharing services that will eliminate duplicate functions and expenses. Examples of these shared services are: accounting, events (the Chamber and EDAWN have combined their events calendars and are offering a "member rate" to each other's members), and a new member software program that will consolidate the Chamber databases, provide streamlined member invoicing, event management and marketing tools. Future shared services will include communications and the website.

- **EDAWN Executive Search:** EDAWN's search for a CEO is underway and a job description is available at www.edawn.org/executive-search. Applicants can submit their name and resume directly to Marty Nass of CT Partners, the firm conducting the executive search, at Mnass@ctnet.com.
- **Combined Chamber Board & Bylaws:** the transition team has completed work on combined by-laws, etc, and ratification is expected in the next couple of weeks. Our goal is to have a combined board that equally represents both chambers and doesn't require significant change to the current board makeup than what is dictated by the current terms of each board member. EDAWN will have a liaison on the board, as will other important community organization including the Hispanic Business Network and Leadership Reno-Sparks.
- **Survey:** We have developed a survey that will be sent to the Chamber members on Monday, July 25, asking for feedback on events, programs, services, communications and philosophies. Our transition team determined that the focus of the survey is to determine what services, tools and support are of greatest value to our Chamber members. Their input will help us identify areas of strength and what areas need to be addressed by the new Chamber organization.

All these moving parts have an ultimate goal – to bring the vested interests of our region's business organizations under one roof, with the sole purpose of serving business in northern Nevada and ensuring our sustainable quality of life and economic vitality.

Again – we see this as a time for doing business different, to achieve more substantial, sustainable economic results for our community. It's going to take time, but with your help and support, we will succeed together. We will be in touch with additional developments and updates as we work through this historic process. Please contact us should you have questions.

Thank you for your continued support!

Your transition team,
Bruce Gescheider, (Chair), Mary Simmons (Immediate Past Chair), Randy Brown (Chair Elect),
and Tim Ruffin (CFO)

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