



Richard Kos, Chairman of the Board of Directors
Chicopee Chamber of Commerce

Chairman's Message to Members:

I am honored to have this opportunity to help lead the chamber for the coming year. As we strongly continue to depend on the knowledge and expertise of all our business partners that serve on the Board with me, I want to thank you, Marie, for your leadership. I hope to build on your successes as we move forward.

In the months to come, I encourage all of our chamber members to respond to the rapid change in the business environment. As President Kennedy said, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

Your Chamber leadership will work with other chambers and other organizations; but we will respect our autonomy that allows us to be so responsive to your needs. We know that the region is where we want to see new economic development, and together with you - our members and key organizations, we will strengthen our business community.

Knowledge based activities will dominant jobs and sifting through the mass of data could become a career of its own. We have to be clear about cloud technology and perhaps learn to put our best FACEBOOK on.

Remember though, this chamber is yours. The breakfasts, the after-hours, the outings and other events are ways to interact and fund this organization. My question to each and every one of you is, "What can we do to improve your business?"

The Chicopee Chamber may become a hybrid organization based in continued collaborations with other chambers and partnerships within our membership, while at the same time using new technology for innovation and creativity.

We will continue to improve upon our website and work on our electronic and social media tools to enhance communication, marketing, and education that will impact our ability to do business.

To that end, we will be asking you, as members, "What are your concerns?"

Soon a survey will go out. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it to us – electronically is preferred. You are why the chamber exists. To paraphrase one of our member's mottos, " We are here working for you, working for all of us."

Please, in the next year, feel free to contact me or other Board members and let us know what you are thinking and how we can help make that a reality. It is as basic as A-B-C. In my position with the City of Chicopee, it was a BETTER CHICOPEE. Now it is a BETTER CHAMBER.