



Is it Not Just a Matter of Semantics



Four area chambers of commerce have joined forces to oppose the name change by the South Kingstown Chamber of Commerce to the Southern RI Chamber of Commerce.

Narragansett, North Kingstown, Greater Westerly/Pawcatuck and Charlestown Chambers have banded together and formed the United Chambers of Southern RI in response to the action by South Kingstown.

Their name change is a gross misrepresentation of their sphere of influence and is regarded by the United Chambers as an aggressive and hostile action. The move to redefine themselves is an attempt to represent their organization as the definitive membership organization for businesses in southern RI.

The root of the opposition is not the fact that they chose to change their name but their choice of names. The result will be confusion on the part of area businesses and a disservice to visitors looking for a complete South County vacation experience.

South Kingstown is not *THE* Southern RI Chamber of Commerce but *A* Southern RI Chamber of Commerce.

There are four other Chambers of Commerce, all viable, some with larger memberships, that definitely do not regard the South Kingstown group as the dominant business organization in this part of the state. What the South Kingstown Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Executive Committee and Board of Directors failed to anticipate was the strength and scope of the

opposition they would face from the community as well as from the Charlestown, North Kingstown, Greater Westerly/Pawcatuck and Narragansett Chambers of Commerce.

The Town Councils in Westerly, Charlestown and Narragansett have all officially voiced their opposition to the name change through resolutions that have been passed onto the SK Chamber Board of Directors.

The South County Independent has taken a strong editorial stance in opposition to the action.

The *Narragansett Times* published an editorial cartoon (reprinted below) ridiculing the action by the SK Chamber.

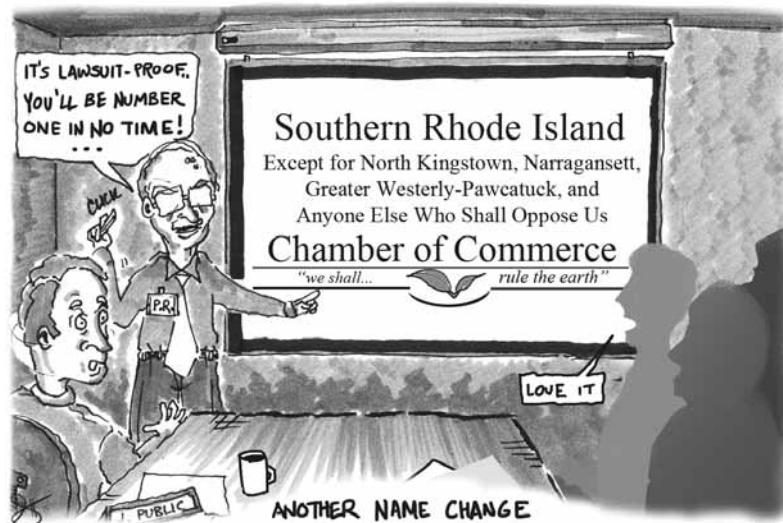
The *Westerly Sun* took an editorial stance in opposition to the action almost immediately after the announcement.

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November 2011

NARRAGANSETT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

* Cartoon courtesy of Chris Sheppard
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United Chambers of Southern RI

Narragansett Chamber of Commerce is a proud member of the newly formed United Chambers of Southern Rhode Island. Charles-town, North Kingstown and the Greater Westerly/Pawcatuck Chambers of Commerce have created the new alliance to promote mutual goals, foster stronger collaborations and create a wider market for member businesses to network within.

The United Chambers will be offering new opportunities for our members including a European Trip planned for the spring of 2012.

We invite you to visit the website dedicated to the new alliance at www.unitedchambersri.org



* Editorial Cartoonist

Chris Sheppard

Chris Sheppard is a freelance cartoonist from Rhode Island who creates cartoons on a variety of subjects, for a variety of mediums. If you need a cartoon or would like a sample, he can be reached at csheppard@my.uri.edu.

Annual Dinner October 25th Spain Restaurant



Ken Rosbottom (above left) receives the James M Kelso Community Service Award presented by Chamber Board Member Gene Wills (center) and Kelso Award Committee Chairman Kevin Mulholland (right)



Ken Rosbottom (above) delivers an emotional acceptance speech.

Dr. Edward Mazze (left) Distinguished University Professor of Business Administration University of Rhode Island and Chairman of the Town of Narragansett Economic Development Committee engaged the crowd as the featured speaker.



name (con't from page 1)

The law firm of Adler, Pollock and Sheehan has been retained by the United Chambers to combat the name change.

The SK Board Chairman Joe Viele, responded to a letter sent to the South Kingstown Chamber Board of Directors from The United Chambers legal counsel asking their Board to reconsider the action. Mr. Viele sent an email response to some

members of each board of the United Chambers. The response did not directly address the name change but proposed a meeting between the board chair and vice-chair from all parties involved.

The United Chambers of Southern RI will consider meeting with Mr. Viele et al when his Board of Directors recognizes that by continuing to use the name "Southern RI Chamber of Commerce" they will continue to alienate, and have no hope of col-

laborating with, the four other Chambers of Commerce operating in this geographic area.

Chamber resources of time and money are now being spent to combat the assault.

The Narragansett Chamber is asking member businesses to support our position by donating any amount to our legal challenge fund. Contact Executive Director Deborah Kelso if you would like to contribute.

Upcoming Chamber Events

- November 16** Board of Directors Meeting 4:00 pm
Chamber Office
- November 17** Business After Hours
Bay Scape Landscaping and Nursery
933 Boston Neck Road 5:00 - 7:00 pm
- December 4** Jingle Bell Run Narragansett Town Beach
North Beach Clubhouse 1:00 pm
- December 21** Board of Directors Open House 4 - 6 pm
Chamber Office

The Chamber currently has openings for any interested members who would like to volunteer on the Events and Membership committees. Contact us for more info

RI General Treasurer Gina Raimondo Addresses Pension Reform at a United Chambers of Southern RI Event



Treasurer Raimondo (right) speaks with guests at the conclusion of the breakfast meeting

General Treasurer Gina Raimondo addressed a crowd of about 100 attendees at a breakfast held at the Village Inn on Friday, October 28.

The United Chambers of Southern RI plus chamber of commerce members from East Greenwich were invited to hear the particulars of the proposed pension reform bill. The Quonset Development Corporation sponsored the event.

Treasurer Raimondo opened the event with a 20 minute overview on the pension reform proposal that is currently before the General Assembly followed by a 30 minutes of questions from the attendees.

Want to voice your opinion? The Narragansett Chamber has added a link on our home page to email your State Representative or Senator with your thoughts on the pension reform bill.
www.narragansettcoc.com



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