



NEWS RELEASE

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For more information, please contact:

*Melanie Baillargeon, director of communications:
(207) 623-4568, ext. 110; melanieb@mainechamber.org*

Maine State Chamber names 2015 Chamber Professional of the Year

Skowhegan Area Chamber leader to receive recognition for his contribution to region, state

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce's officers and board members will present its annual local chamber recognition to Cory King, executive director at Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce, during its 2015 Board Appreciation Dinner on the evening of Monday, November 30 at The Harraseeket Inn in Freeport.

The annual Chamber Professional of the Year is presented by the Maine State Chamber in recognition of a local chamber professional's hard work and dedication to their community, which results in positive outcomes, membership growth, and advancement of the chamber profession, as well as the innovative and effective ways they develop and carry out the Board's goals.

"We're very pleased to present this award to Cory," said Dana Connors, president of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. "He's a strong, capable leader among his peers and is a big part of the Chamber family. As vice president of our affiliate, the Maine Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, his 'can do' attitude and 'roll up the sleeves' work ethic has inspired and impressed many of his peers throughout the state. Their nomination of Cory for this recognition, coupled with praise from his community, are a true testament of his ability and his impact. This is truly an honor for us."

Known for his booming voice and jovial nature, King is deeply committed to the advancement and success of the Skowhegan Area and his work with the people, businesses and organizations there. His enthusiasm, work ethic, and willingness to help have earned him a place as a key resource and community leader.

In a rural area such as Skowhegan, it is not easy to fundraise or to find volunteers, but somehow King ignites and inspires the people he works with to do just that. His ability to take control of a stressful situation – in a composed and attentive manner, doing whatever it took to get the job done – is second to none. From setting out traffic cones at 5:00 a.m. to checking in with vendors at 11:00 p.m., King was instrumental in delivering Skowhegan’s River Fest.

Partnerships are often critical to the success of most local and regional chambers. Skowhegan is no exception. King’s leadership has harnessed a unique set of partnerships among area businesses and organizations to solve problems and find innovative solutions for the betterment of the community.

King corrected the Skowhegan Chamber’s seriously failing finances with many successful fundraising initiatives. He set up a payment schedule with the IRS and stuck to it, bringing the chamber up-to-date without incurring penalties. He established an accurate and usable budget that keeps the organization in check. His ability to attract and retain members has been very effective in strengthening the chamber.

From new program development to membership growth to financial stability, Cory King is truly an innovator, a collaborator, and a motivator.

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For more information regarding the Maine State Chamber’s annual awards or the board orientation dinner, or to arrange for interviews or photographs, please contact Melanie Baillargeon, director of communications, by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 110, or emailing melanieb@mainechamber.org.

About the Maine State Chamber of Commerce...

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce represents a diverse network of 5,000 businesses statewide and advocates on behalf of their interests before the Legislature and regulatory agencies and through conferences, seminars, and affiliated programs. Through its OneVoice program and collaboration with local and regional chambers throughout the state, the Maine State Chamber represents thousands of businesses with fewer than 10 employees. Its Grassroots Action Network works to involve members and their employees in the legislative process through outreach campaigns.