

## From your Chamber of Commerce

From the beginning, our community has succeeded only by working together. Today's situation, though dire, is no exception. The Chamber's role remains: Be a stalwart voice for local business to local, state, and national government and to serve as a nexus of communication between local businesses.

### **So, what are we doing right now?**

- Of course, we're gathering news on the quickly evolving stimulus, relief, regulation, and support programs being developed at all levels. You'll find the latest information here.
- We're connecting members with resources and answers as fast as possible. Call, email, message or shout to us. Let us know what you need and let's see if we can take some of your burden right now.
- We're taking your stories, worries, and needs to legislators and regulators to help them make changes and adjustments that help local businesses and relieve some of the burdens already in place. Tell us what you're experiencing.
- We're making plans for the most robust, quickest recovery we can manage -- one that gets as many people back to work and preserves as much of our existing business environment as humanly possible.
- It's not going to be easy and we're not going to look the same when it's over, but we will be here and if we work together, we might even be stronger for it.

### **What can we all do?**

1. Take care of our people, our neighbors and ourselves – we can't help anyone if we aren't OK ourselves.
2. Conserve cash and secure your business for a potential long-haul. Let's make sure our laid-off employees have a place to return to when this is over.
3. Keep track of COVID-19 related expenses and losses. It's not clear whether relief funds and programs will emerge that will be helpful, but it's certain that if they do, documentation will help qualify and quantify any benefits.
4. Plan for recovery. This includes not making decisions today that will hamper your business in the long term. If revenue is dropping or stopped, can we build loyalty? Can we support our customers and neighbors in some creative way? There are already some great examples right here in Warrenton and Astoria and we'll share them when we see them.
5. Keep up hope. We're small business owners, we figure stuff out. Frankly, we wouldn't be in business here on the North Coast if we weren't tenacious, creative, and smart. Let's get to work!