

Hello Members!

We hope that you have been able to take advantage of the webinars the chamber, and our members, have been offering. We had a fantastic one earlier today on the Paycheck Protection Program. If you were unable to join us, [CLICK HERE](#) for a link to the presentation. Upcoming webinars are listed below and new ones are being added daily.

In addition, I mentioned on Friday the ILoveLocal statewide chamber incentive to shop local (www.IllinoisLoveLocal.com) April 11-18. The **logo and additional information are attached** to this email. We ask that you post on your own social media to generate excitement.

Since we are expecting many visitors to our website for ILoveLocal, please make sure you have your hours updated on the appropriate spreadsheet (that are displayed on home page of genevachamber.com) and if you would like to offer gift cards, you have communicated with Jennifer Kaye for the one stop gift certificate page. That information is:

Gift Card Purchase Website

The Geneva Chamber is working with Jennifer Kaye from Jennifer Kaye Photography, who is developing a website (one stop shop) to sell gift certificates/cards to Geneva businesses. If you would like to participate in this website, please send Jennifer the following:

1. High resolution logo
2. Link to your ordering page where you would like your customers to land.
3. If you do not have a website and would still like to participate, please send the phone number of where gift certs/cards can be purchased over the phone.

Jennifer's email is 1000wordphoto@gmail.com. Please send your information to her ASAP so you can be included in <https://www.genevagiftcards.com/>.

WEBINAR (free)

Socially Distant, but Fully Connected – Enabling Success with Today's Remote Workplace

Hosted by member Toshiba

April 8 @ 10 am or 1 pm

Register for [10am HERE](#) or [1pm HERE](#)

Join Toshiba's solutions experts as they outline Toshiba solutions that can immediately address business continuity concerns - such as identifying the most affordable tools that enable your staff to work from home safely and efficiently.

WEBINAR (free)

Coping with Stress and Anxiety for the Business Owner

Hosted by member Intermission Therapies

April 8 @ 11 am

Register [HERE](#)

Due to the popularity of this topic, Intermission Therapies has offered another session for April 8th. Randall Bennett (MA LCPC, LMFT, Small Business Owner and Clinical Director at Intermission Therapies) will moderate a free meeting for business owners designed to discuss how the pandemic is emotionally affecting small business owners. The goal of the meeting is to

support each other through open discussion and offer advice and techniques to help deal with the stress and cope with feelings of fear and anxiety.

The meeting will be limited to 8 participants with additional meetings scheduled based on demand

WEBINAR (free)

Learn more about state and federal programs for small businesses

Hosted by Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

April 8 @ 1:30 pm (will run 1:30-3 pm)

Register [HERE](#) or email lclarke@ilchamber.org

DCEO, in partnership with the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, will be hosting a webinar for small business owners in our district. We hope this will be an opportunity to learn more about the state and federal programs being offered to small businesses in your area and ask Director Guthrie and her team any questions you may have.

WEBINAR (free)

Understanding the Federal CARES Act

Hosted by Geneva Chamber of Commerce

April 9 @ 11 am

Register [HERE](#)

Zoom Meeting Given by Ryan Gleason of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Once registered, the morning of the webinar, you will receive the invite to join.

WEBINAR (free)

Managing a Remote Workforce During COVID-19 and Beyond

Hosted by member Gordon Flesch

April 9 @ 1 pm

Register at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mmFSIkrOQTeocpUWX7s5Gg

COVID-19 has radically changed how we work. The mobile tech we use every day is now the backbone of business productivity as employees log in from home. When it comes to cybersecurity, collaboration, and communication tools, your role as the business leader has never been more important to your organization. During this webinar, learn best practices for successfully managing the technology powering your remote workforce. We'll also explore the considerations IT leaders and business owners should make to ensure productivity and profitability during this time of uncertainty.

From GENEVA BUSINESSES BEATING COVID

[GENEVA EXTENDS VALIDITY OF LIQUOR LICENSES TO 6/30/20 AND RENEWAL APPLICATION DUE DATE TO 7/1/20](#)

[Disaster Loan Update](#)

Although as of 6 pm last Friday 13,669 small businesses received PPP loans valued at more than \$4.3B, many businesses are having issues/delays with banks as new loan program rolls out. SBA to launch search portal to identify PPP lenders to address some issues. Keep watching [SBA website](#). [Current List of IL SBA Lenders](#).

Because of size and complexity, most businesses will experience delays, difficulty, errors and confusion in dealing with banks and government. The most effective way to try to remedy issues with SBA loan programs is by telling your US Senators and Representative (names and links below) that you are having issues. It's important that you please take the time to do this, or it will be assumed that things are working well for you.

EIDL loans include a \$10K "Advance" option that's a "grant" to be issued within 3 days application. Not aware of anyone getting one yet even after 3 days. You must [apply](#) and/or re-apply if you previously applied because SBA updated its website and application process after it first started taking applications. If you receive the Advance, but your loan is denied, you can still keep \$10K. If you get a loan, it will be reduced by the \$10K.

If you are having issues, want to check status of your application, or need other help or information, SBA is advising to call its Customer Service number at (800) 659-2955. However, SBA employees are working remotely and are overwhelmed by demand, so many businesses are having to leave messages and are not getting answers to questions because SBA guidelines have not been finalized.

From Illinois Restaurant Association (IRA)

[Get Your Documents in Order - COVID-19 Relief Requires Accurate Records](#)

Your access to coronavirus relief will require documentation - the key to any successful business continuity/financial recovery plan.

Whether you plan to apply for a [Paycheck Protection Program](#) (PPP) loan, an [SBA Economic Disaster Injury Loan](#) (EIDL), or take advantage of the hundreds of grants and short-term loans being made available through local, state, community, and business development sites, you'll have to fill out paperwork and offer proof of eligibility.

[Click here](#) to review the documentation and records you need to have on hand.

The IRA is adding hourly COVID-19 updates and resources to our website, such as: [How to Apply for CARES Act Loans](#), [Free Training on Safe Delivery/Take Out](#), [Hundreds of Job Opportunities](#), [Employer FAQs on New Paid Sick Leave Law](#), and the [James Beard Foundation Relief Fund](#).

[Webinar for restaurant operators](#)

FOR RESTAURANT OPERATORS - Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) applications and troubleshooting next **Tuesday, April 7 at 12:00 p.m.** (Central).

We are again hosting the program along with the American Business Immigration Coalition (ABIC), National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA), National Restaurant Association, and the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association.

This is the second webinar in our Paycheck Protection Webinar Series, which will share updates on the federal loan program; detailed information & troubleshooting on the application process; and best practices from small businesses and lenders themselves.

Topics to be covered include:

- Application Process
- Addressing FAQ from the last webinar
- Guidance on Addressing Lack of Access and Denials
- Insider Scoop from Lenders & the Small Business Administration

[Click here](#) to register.

From U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Just four weeks ago, the Chamber's [Small Business Council](#) convened for its annual Spring meeting. Fast forward to today, when private banks started accepting loan applications for \$349 billion of coronavirus [small business emergency loans](#).

In the intervening time, the Chamber's Coronavirus Task Force on Small and Medium Enterprises received input on what was needed, and we joined with hundreds of our state and local chambers and association partners to lobby Congress for speedy relief for Main Street.

That effort yielded three laws that were passed in three weeks. We've quickly shifted from advocacy to education to help small business owners navigate the financial aid, by creating several guides and hosting webinars with state and local chambers and our association partners. We are doing all this because we know how critical the financial need is. Today the [MetLife & U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Index](#) published a special Coronavirus edition that showed one in four businesses have temporarily closed and 40% of those currently open believe they will have to shut down in less than two weeks.

Despite the tough road ahead, the community spirit that flows through the veins of American businesses is alive and well. Every day, I am hearing [remarkable stories from small business owners](#) who are helping hospitals, their neighbors, and their employees. And, small businesses' eternal optimism is reflected in the survey, where 23% of small businesses anticipate staffing up and growing in the coming year.

I am buoyed by that optimism and I know my colleagues at the Chamber are equally encouraged by thanks they receive when hosting webinars, answering questions, and doing everything possible to help America's business community exit from the pandemic and get back on track.

Time is of the essence.

--Tom Sullivan, Vice President for Small Business Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

[Visit U.S. Chamber COVID-19 page](#)

From Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (IACCE)

[Childcare for Essential Workers](#)

In the wake of COVID-19 closures of child care programs across Illinois, the state is working with local partners to help reopen some settings to ensure care for the children of first responders and other "essential" employees. ReadyNation's nonprofit network of business executives is striving to share this information, to help those on the front lines of responding to – and helping us all get through – this extraordinary health crisis. We thank local chamber execs for your help in spreading the word, as well, and ask that you keep it up.

Essential workers have two ways to find child care options:

- Call 888-228-1146, or
- Check <https://emergencycare.inccrraa.org>

Hundreds of existing child care providers already have applied to reopen under new, "emergency" guidelines. Other interested providers are encouraged to explore their potential for serving essential workers' families, too. Further information for parents and providers, alike, can be found at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Pages/For-Communities.aspx>

The Monday webinar's final PowerPoint slides, a recording of the webinar, and an updated version of the toolkit will be posted to the [GOECD website](#) after the webinar under "Business Resources" in the "Resources for Child Care Providers" section of the webpage.

IACCE has a set of helpful COVID-19 relief efforts on their [homepage](#).

If you have need to refer back to an earlier email, they are all listed on <https://www.genevachamber.com/coronavirus2.php>. #StayStrongGenevaIL

Paula Schmidt
President, Geneva Chamber of Commerce