



IN REVIEW



2017 IN REVIEW

The Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce is the leading business organization in Nevada. With more than 106 years of serving this community and championing its growth, the Metro Chamber has a strong and proud legacy of creating solutions and supporting the region, driving its transformation as needs shift and opportunities arise, and ensuring that Las Vegas is – and remains – a great place to do business.

The Metro Chamber is committed to ensuring its members have the resources and environment they need to succeed, create jobs, and thrive. Membership in the Metro Chamber ensures that your voice is heard at every level of government, provides opportunities to meaningfully connect with fellow Southern Nevadans who are invested in the future of our region, provides tools to spotlight your company and its expertise and service to the community, and gives you access to benefits and discounts that directly help your bottom line.

Membership in the Metro Chamber is an investment in your business, the future of our region, and in the health of our business community. Together, we are strong, united, and future-focused. Thank you for your support.

On the cover: CSE Five Star Award winner poses with The Honorable Oscar Goodman; 2017 Chairman of the Board Bill Noonan introduces Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams at the Chamber's Legislative Day in Carson City; Leadership Las Vegas Class of 2017 at Nellis Air Force Base; 2017's Washington D.C. Fly-In on the steps of the U.S. Capitol before meeting with members of Congress.



The Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce office is located Downtown, inside the Boman Pavilion at The Smith Center for the Performing Arts.

WHY BUSINESS MATTERS

This year, the Metro Chamber fought every single day during the 2017 Legislative Session to protect its members from harmful bills that would have negatively affected our business community. As the Voice of Business, the Metro Chamber Government Affairs team was on the ground every single day in Carson City looking out for you. The Metro Chamber worked to convene other business and trade organizations to present a united front against onerous bills that would have led to increased costs, burdensome regulations, and potential lay-offs and business closures, as well as champion legislation that provides opportunities for growth and necessary improvements to our state to stay competitive in the global marketplace.



1,077 bills introduced

67 resolutions introduced

560 bills monitored

109 bills testified on by the Metro Chamber

608 bills signed by Governor Brian Sandoval

41 bills vetoed by Governor Brian Sandoval



Vice President of Government Affairs Paul Moradkhan addresses attendees of the 2017 Legislative Day. Also pictured are 2017 Chairman Bill Noonan, Chamber Trustee Bob Brown, and Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee Hugh Anderson.

Key Legislative Victories

- Fought against minimum wage increases, mandatory paid sick leave, employment discrimination, and other onerous legislation that would have posed significant barriers to employers in hiring, growing their businesses, and keeping their doors open.
- Supported key small business legislation, such as the extension of the NV Grow Program, creating a preference for bids and proposals for state purchasing contracts for Nevada-based businesses, and establishing loan programs and requiring small business loan information to be provided.
- Championed legislation that arose from the Southern Nevada Forum, including expanding Nevada's fair share of federal grant dollars; infrastructure and transportation projects; capital improvement project funding; funding for the UNLV School of Medicine; and planning money for a new engineering building at UNLV and a health sciences building at the College of Southern Nevada.
- Convened other business and trade organizations regularly to present a united front against harmful legislation.
- Created new ways to engage members in the legislative process, including the monthly Carson City Call with Government Affairs vice president Paul Moradkhan; the Paul Call for President's Club members; "The Rundown," a weekly briefing on bills heard during session and the position the Metro Chamber took; the comprehensive legislative summary book; surveys and market research on key policy topics, such as minimum wage and mandatory paid sick leave, to determine how proposals would impact local businesses; and alerts to testify and contact legislators for specific bills.



2017 Chairman Bill Noonan listening as Speaker of the Assembly Jason Frierson addresses attendees of the 2017 Legislative Day.



After meeting with state representatives, a few attendees of the 2017 Legislative Day finish their tour of the Nevada Legislative Building on the Assembly Floor.



Debra Gallo of Southwest Gas, Constance Brooks with the Nevada System of Higher education, and Vice President of Government Affairs Paul Moradkhan at the Chamber's Legislative Reception.

FEDERAL AGENDA

This year, the Metro Chamber significantly increased its presence during its annual Washington, D.C. fly-in. The Metro Chamber took a contingent of more than 100 business and community leaders for a week of intensive meetings with Congressional representatives and leadership, briefings from subject matter experts and think tanks on timely issues, and a series of events – including the brand new Nevada State Dinner Gala and the inaugural Nevada Lights Up The Capitol reception – to further the scope and influence of Nevada businesses in Washington, D.C.

The Metro Chamber's federal agenda included:

- Funding for Interstate 11
- Expanding homeland security dollars for Southern Nevada
- Opposition to the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository
- Tax reform
- Cyber security
- Increasing Nevada's share of federal grant dollars



2017's Washington D.C. Fly-In on the steps of the U.S. Capitol before meeting with members of Congress.



2017 Chairman Bill Noonan and U.S. Congresswoman Dina Titus at the inaugural *Nevada Lights Up the Capitol* event in Washington, D.C.



Attendees of the Interstate 11 Caucus Reception gather at the Porter Group Townhouse in Washington, D.C.

CONNECTING OUR MEMBERS

With a full and varied events calendar that ranges from Preview Las Vegas, the business community's signature annual trade show and conference event, to small-format networking programs, the Metro Chamber provided ways for members to connect with one another, build relationships, and get up-to-date on important topics and policy issues that affect your business.

Overall, we helped to connect 7,000+ attendees at more than 100 Metro Chamber events in 2017.

Guest speakers this year included:

- U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, in her first address to the business community after being elected in November 2016
- Nevada's Congressional delegation, including first-time addresses from Congressman Ruben Kihuen and Congresswoman Jacky Rosen, and timely updates from Congressman Mark Amodei and Congresswoman Dina Titus
- Vegas Golden Knights President and COO Kerry Bubolz
- Newly-appointed Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education Thom Reilly
- Representatives from Hyperloop One, Intel, UNLV School of Medicine, Nellis Air Force Base, Brookings Mountain West and the Brookings Institution, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the Las Vegas Lights FC, and more...



2017 Chairman Bill Noonan interviews U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto at a Business Power Luncheon.

KEEPING YOU IN-THE-KNOW

The Metro Chamber creates ways for members to stay up-to-date on important issues and topics relevant to businesses, on their time and schedules.

- Launched “Like Nobody’s Business,” a social media show featuring our region’s most influential leaders and organizations and how they are positively impacting our community
- Introduced an all-new LVChamber.com, with more opportunities for members to contribute subject matter expertise, share content, and get the information they need
- Added more than 20 new Chamber University webinars, available 24 hours a day at no charge to members, featuring topics from health care to social media marketing
- Held more than 30 Policy Committee meetings on topics such as K-12 and higher education, health care, infrastructure, and more
- Continued to grow the Metro Chamber’s social media presence, with more than 35,000 Twitter followers and 7,000 Facebook fans, and growing audiences on YouTube and Instagram, helping to keep our members updated quickly and efficiently on policy matters, events, and member news
- Created additional content contribution opportunities for the *Business Voice*, the Metro Chamber’s award-winning monthly magazine that combines need-to-know business news and information with member-contributed articles and member news



Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval, at a press conference at the Metro Chamber office, announces the state has officially paid back its unemployment insurance rate loan to the federal government, as well as lowered the state's unemployment tax on Nevada businesses.

PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE OUR COMMUNITY

The Metro Chamber continually cultivates and creates new partnerships with our community, working in synergy with other organizations and groups to continue forward momentum and think long-term about our future needs.

- Business + Education (BE) Engaged Conference, to engage more than 500 business and community leaders in key K-12 education issues
- Customer Service Excellence, in partnership with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, recognized more than 5,000 instances of great customer care, and celebrated 28 years of saying “thank you” to front-line employees who keep Las Vegas a great place to live, work, and visit
- Public Policy Leadership Series, a partnership between the Metro Chamber’s Leadership Foundation and the UNLV Greenspun College of Urban Affairs, helping to prepare community leaders to serve in public office or interface with those in public office
- City of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas, on their respective State of the City addresses
- Las Vegas Valley Water District Citizens Advisory Committee, to address future water needs of our region and how to support them responsibly
- Serving on the board of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority
- Convening trade and business associations state-wide to present a united business community to fight against onerous bills during the 2017 Legislature
- Serving on the Chancellor Search Committee for the Nevada System of Higher Education, and on the College of Southern Nevada’s Institutional Advisory Council
- Serving on the Transportation Resource Advisory Committee and Community Collaboration



Nominees for Customer Service Excellence Awards are recognized in front of the crowd at a Las Vegas 51's baseball game.

INCREASING OUR LEADERSHIP CAPACITY

The Leadership Foundation of Greater Las Vegas, a 501(c)(3) organization affiliated with the Metro Chamber, is dedicated to cultivating knowledgeable, engaged professionals and leaders who will positively shape our community and help it thrive. In 2017, the Leadership Foundation increased its capacity to serve more community leaders and address issues within our region.

- Introduced a new cohort of the Public Policy Leadership Series specific to those wanting to serve on boards of education
- Graduated classes of Leadership Las Vegas and Leadership Advance, as well as cohorts of the Public Policy Leadership Series
- Held four information-packed Focus Las Vegas seminars on topics important to the future of our community, including water resources, Las Vegas' smart city initiatives, and philanthropy
- Grew Vegas Young Professionals to nearly 2,000 members
- Introduced Community Conversations, a new program of Vegas Young Professionals designed to foster meaningful conversation between community leaders and the next generation of leaders
- Announced the debut of Access Las Vegas, an immersion program coming in March 2018 to get executives new to Las Vegas up-to-speed on the region





Leadership Las Vegas Class of 2017 at Nellis Air Force Base.



Leadership Advance Class of 2017 at Three Square.



Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson, Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams, Speaker of the Assembly Jason Frierson, and Assemblyman Nelson Araujo at the 2017 Legislative Session. All are graduates of the Leadership Las Vegas program.

PROVIDING VALUE TO MEMBERS

The Metro Chamber's comprehensive contingent of benefits gives members opportunities to save money, reach more audiences, and serve meaningfully in our community.

- Renewed relationships with Office Depot, Nevada Drug Card, UPS, and other benefit partners to continue providing meaningful discounts for Chamber members – and their employees
- Introduced a new benefit program through ThriveHive, a digital marketing dashboard to manage social media, website, lead generation, and digital marketing in one easy-to-use platform for a member-exclusive price
- Celebrated more than 200 member milestones with ribbon cutting ceremonies, including grand openings, anniversaries, new locations, and more
- Created new cost-efficient sponsorship and advertising products to help members get more from their advertising dollars



Ribbon cutting celebrating the opening of LYFT's hub in Las Vegas.



Ribbon cutting celebrating the opening of a new Goodwill store in Las Vegas.

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