



April 1, 2023

Dear Fellow Lyme-Old Lyme Chamber Member,

Please join us on Wednesday, April 26th, 5pm-7pm, for Bridging Businesses, as we celebrate the joining of Lyme-Old Lyme Chamber of Commerce with Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce. The celebration will take place at Essex Savings Bank & Sotheby's International Realty, 101 & 103 Halls Road. This "after hours" reception is free to Lyme and Old Lyme businesspersons.

We are proud of, and want to celebrate, the businesses of Lyme and Old Lyme who have survived the tumultuous last few years. For so many, this has been a time of rebuilding: products and services, customer bases, supply chains, market presence. We have seen the resiliency and dedication of our local business owners and we are honored to have served in our local Chamber of Commerce that has been in existence for 90 years.

Now is also the time to create new opportunities for our local businesspeople to further build regional relationships, marketing opportunities, and potential customers.

To do so, the Lyme-Old Lyme Chamber of Commerce is joining with the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce to create one stronger regional business networking presence.

The Old Saybrook Chamber will bring our Lyme-Old Lyme businesspeople together with other regional small businesses, banks, and other service providers opening new doors to local relationships.

The current Old Saybrook Chamber, which has over 400 members and a professional staff, has numerous opportunities to promote your business as a member. This includes membership directories, participation in its Saybucks e-gift card program, and stocking promotional literature at its popular "visitor center" at the beginning of Main Street in Saybrook.

A number of Lyme-Old Lyme businesses are already active members of the Old Saybrook Chamber and participate in networking programs such as the First Thursday Business Connection Hour (a morning event), the Women in Business Council, the Nonprofit Resource Council, PLOT (geared to the 21-40ish crowd) and Business After Hours monthly events.

Although the Lyme-Old Lyme Chamber of Commerce will officially disband, our signature program of scholarships to deserving business and art students from Lyme and Old Lyme will continue through funds transferred to the Old Saybrook Chamber. Lyme-Old Lyme will also be represented with a dedicated seat on the Old Saybrook Chamber Board of Directors.

The Old Saybrook membership dues are based on business size and profit status. Annual dues are \$240 for businesses with 1 to 49 employees, \$180 for 501c3 non-profit organizations and there is a \$120 community member level for individuals. Additional tiers and business sectors are at www.oldsaybrookchamber.com/member/newmemberapp

The Old Saybrook Chamber is offering newly-joining Lyme-Old Lyme Chamber members 17 months of membership benefits for the price of 12 months in this first year of transition. Join by May 12, 2023, and you will be included in the 2022-2023 Member Directory. See details at www.oldsaybrook.chamber.com or call Judy Sullivan, Old Saybrook Chamber Executive Director, and 860-388-3266.

Please join leaders of both organizations on April 26th as we honor you, the businesspeople of Lyme and Old Lyme, and celebrate new beginnings together. RSVP for the free event by Friday, April 21 by emailing Laurie Walker at LaurW5579@gmail.com or text or call Laurie at 860-227-5571. Please bring some of your brochures and business cards on April 26th to share during the reception.

We look forward to you joining us on this new path!

On behalf of the Lyme-Old Lyme Chamber of Commerce it has been an honor to serve you,

Tim Griswold Richard Shriver Suzanne Thompson Laurie Walker Jean Wilczynski

Lyme-Old Lyme Chamber of Commerce
Transition Committee