



The Lancaster Depew Elma Chamber of Commerce

Contact: Jeffery Zeplovitz, Executive Director

director@wnychamber.com 716-681-9755 (office) 518-522-9944 (mobile)

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Jerry West – Board Chair
WNY Social

Deborah Glowny – Board Vice Chair
BankonBuffalo

Tommy R. Sweeney - Treasurer
Glassco Management, LLC

Alyssa Klimuszka – Secretary
Her Hr solutions

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Sally Stier
Clarity Group

Lisa Eisensmith
Individual Member

Irene Kanutsu
Individual Member

Lynn M. Magistrale Kreiger
WNY Heroes, Inc.

Brandon Pope
Alden State Bank

Chris Guck
NBT Bank

Andrew Privitera
Chick-fil-A

Julie Garvey
Pet Connection Programs, Inc.

Jill Pawlik
Jill Pawlik Strategic Marketing

Bernie Aja
ESC

CHAMBER STAFF:

Jeffery Zeplovitz
Executive Director

Bailey McDonnell
Director of Member Services

Debbie Blask
Director of Member Relations

Chambers Propose Combining to Create a Stronger Business Advocacy Network in Four Communities New Org would be known as **Western New York Chamber**

Friday, August 28, 2026 (Lancaster, New York) – The Board of Directors of the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce and the Lancaster Depew Elma Chamber (LDEC) of Commerce are proposing the organizations join forces to form one strong, regional Chamber. Once approved, the larger business advocacy group would be known as the WNY Chamber serving Lancaster Depew Cheektowaga Elma Chamber of Commerce and total approximately 700 members.

Members of both chambers will vote on the proposal in September. When the proposal passes, the merger is authorized, and legal proceedings will proceed with an October 1 transition date. In anticipation of the merger, a WNY Chamber membership mixer will take place on September 24 from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Depew Community Center, 57 Gould Avenue, Depew, NY, 14043.

“We have shared interests and objectives - and a lot of crossovers between our groups - so we are being intentional about creating one strong business community to share the benefits and opportunities,” LDEC Chamber Board Chair Jerry West said.

West said members will gain access to a larger referral network, stronger advocacy and increased visibility while the local relationships and community pride of each Chamber will remain. See the FAQ at www.wnychamber.com/cheektowaga/

“On behalf of the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce, we are energized and excited about this merger with the Lancaster Depew Elma Chamber of Commerce,” Pierre Aubertin, Chairman for the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. “By merging, we are creating one of the largest Chamber footprints within Western New York, focusing on local businesses and innovation. This new joint venture will offer all members a broader network to grow and thrive with other businesses and consumers in the community.”

The WNY Chamber would be governed by a board of directors representing each community, and it would be led by Lancaster Depew Elma Chamber Executive Director Jeffery Zeplovitz and his tenured member services staff. The office will be located at 11 West Main Street, Suite 100, Lancaster, New York, 14086, the site of the LDEC Chamber.

“This partnership will create an environment that expand markets, fosters collaboration, and leads to new business opportunities,” Zeplovitz said. “The Chamber staff are here to answer any questions or concerns.”

11 West Main Street, Suite 100, Lancaster, NY, 14086
www.wnychamber.com
info@wnychamber.com
Phone: (716) 681-9755