

# Central Vermont Chamber

*"Where Business & Technology Meet"*



Your partner in business

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### Dear Member,

We have a busy spring scheduled, starting with meeting with our legislative leaders on Tuesday March 9. We end the spring run with a great family outing followed by a Mountaineers game. And there's lots in between.

Read on and make plans now to enjoy a very busy spring!

## Legislative Breakfast



Governor Douglas, Senate Pro Tem Shumlin and House Speaker Smith will be the guest speakers at the Chamber's Legislative Breakfast on Tuesday March 9, sponsored by National Life of Vermont.

Find out how business will be affected by legislation in the works. Cuts this year are eminent, and legislation to re-fund the unemployment tax as well as providing paid sick days will affect your business!

Registration at 7:15. A buffet breakfast will be served in the Montpelier room of the Capitol Plaza at 7:30. [More...](#)

## Issues of Importance to Business

### S. 290 Restoring Solvency to Unemployment Fund

In order to implement the shared responsibility found necessary by the general assembly to bring the unemployment trust fund balance to a level recommended by the U.S. Department of Labor, this act proposes to implement the following reforms and changes:

- (A) Implement a graduated increase in unemployment insurance taxes to be paid by employers, by increasing the taxable wage base.
- (B) Implement a fee on reimbursable employers indexed to the cost of borrowing money from the federal government.
- (C) Continue a temporary freeze on the maximum weekly benefit amount at \$425.00 until the trust fund is at an adequate level again.
- (D) Delay weekly benefit amounts by implementing a one-week waiting period before unemployment benefits are paid.
- (E) Change the method of determining qualifications for claimants who have lost a job due to employee misconduct.
- (F) Create an incentive for temporary or seasonal workers to return to work by implementing a new method of determining benefit amount by averaging the wages of four rather than two quarters.
- (G) Implement safeguards that trigger contributions and benefit changes when the unemployment trust fund reaches certain balances.
- (H) Implement a payroll tax of 0.002 to be paid by the workforce until the balance in the unemployment trust fund reaches the current recommended level of \$325 million.

[View full bill S. 290](#)

### [Take Our Quick Poll](#)

**H.382 Mandates Universal Health Leave** - H.382 would require even Vermont's smallest employers to provide paid time off for personal or family sickness, doctor's appointments, domestic abuse or stalking. Any employee working 30 hours per week is eligible. The mandate would require pay for up to 56 hours per year. Rep. Paul Poirier of Barre is among the sponsors. Bill posted at [www.central-vt.com/legis/H.382.pdf](http://www.central-vt.com/legis/H.382.pdf)

[/H.382.pdf](#)

Check on more issues important to Chamber members [here](#).

## Mark Your Calendars

Mark your calendars now for the many upcoming spring events.

**April 15th Mixer** sponsored by **A Wireless Solution**

**April 28th Annual Raffle** meal sponsor **Fair Point Communications**

**Cigna Chamber Challenge Golf Tournament** May 7th

**June 17 Family Picnic w/ Mountaineers**

**Central Vermont Workforce Investment Board's Career & Job Expo**

Wednesday, May 5, 2010 At the Montpelier Elk's Club

If you are a business interested in participating, please contact Eric Peterson at 802-922-6677 at [cvwib@cvwib.org](mailto:cvwib@cvwib.org) to register.

## Town Meeting Day: Participate & Vote!

For more than 200 years, Vermont has held town meetings where citizens gather to discuss important issues in their community. It's time to discuss business of your town, elect local officials and vote on budgets. Do your part and participate!

I look forward to seeing you at one or more of these upcoming events! Please take a moment to provide your feedback on the issues reported in this newsletter by taking our [quick poll](#).

**Sincerely,**

*Brenda Comstock*  
Central Vermont Chamber

[Forward email](#)