

## **If you are not a member of the Clarence Chamber of Commerce....you should be!**

If you are not a member of the Chamber of Commerce, it's not too late to get in on the action. The next big event that the Chamber will be hosting is **The Chamber Holiday Party**, which will be held at The Protocol on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. Owner, head chef and overall good-guy Paul Pelczynski will go all out to throw the Chamber the best holiday bash in town. Festive decorations, music, great food and games wait for all who attend this last major Chamber event of 2013.

2014 will be an amazing year for the Chamber. **The State of the Town** will be held on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at Orazio's from 12-1:30. I will be giving an update on different projects that the Town is either planning, starting or completing, while Planning and Zoning Department Head Jim Callahan will be talking about key issues in building/zoning/development that will affect the Town in 2014.

Shortly after the State of the Town is **Winterfest**, which will be held in the Town Park on Main St. on January 26<sup>th</sup> from noon to five. Winterfest is a FREE 7 hour party for your kids, with sledding, skating, music, sled dog displays, and a chili & chowder cookoff for Mom and Dad. Winterfest has developed into the largest kid-friendly winter event in Western New York, and is hosted by the Chamber and overseen by Town of Clarence Youth Director extraordinaire Dawn Kinney. Winterfest has been a BIG success for the past nine years, has put Clarence on the winter map. It is currently the largest winter festival in Western New York (drawing over 2500 people last year) and is one of the *signature events* (along with the Taste of Clarence) for Clarence, in the way that Canal Fest is biggest yearly event in North Tonawanda and The Taste of Buffalo/Allentown Art Festival are the signature events for downtown Buffalo. Let's hope we get some snow this year!

The **Annual Awards Dinner** will be held on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at Samuels Grande Manor. The theme this year is 'Aloha', so break out those flowered Hawaiian shirts that you promised your wife you would never wear on the mainland and prepare to shake those hips. In addition to exotic music and food, the Chamber will be giving out awards to citizens that have worked hard for many years for the betterment of this amazing town of Clarence. RSVP to the Chamber office by calling Carol at 631-3888.

Whew! What a busy start to 2014! But, the best is yet to come. The annual **Women in Business** conference will be back in May, perennial summer bash extraordinaire **The Taste of Clarence** August 4<sup>th</sup> and **The Chamber Golf Tournament** will be held on September 22.

Between all of these great events will be business mixers, morning networking, the Chamber Business Speaker series, ribbon cuttings and toastmasters. For a small fee, you can be part of it, either to meet new people or to grow your business. Pick up the phone, call Carol, and I guarantee you will have the time of your life!

Should you have any comments or positive suggestions, please feel free to call me at 741-8930, email [dhartzell@clarence.ny.us](mailto:dhartzell@clarence.ny.us) or stop by. My door is always open!