

Press Release
Immediate Release

Bainbridge Island Chamber Names New President/CEO

Bainbridge Island, WA 12-16-2011 – Experienced Chamber of Commerce professional Rex Oliver was named yesterday as the new President/CEO of the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Oliver was formerly the President/CEO of the Murrieta California Chamber, a position he held for 10 years. While with the Murrieta Chamber he served as the President of the Southern California Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (SCACCE) and sat on the board of the Western Association of Chamber Executives (W.A.C.E.). He will assume his new position on January 3, 2012.

According to Jeff Waite, Chairman of the Board of the Bainbridge Island Chamber, “We are very excited to have Rex aboard. He brings a wealth of chamber experience and talents to our Island and region. He will work closely with our partners and members as we focus on our core competencies of creating a strong sustainable local economy through promoting the community, providing networking opportunities, representing the interests of business with government, and promoting sustainable business practices.”

Mr. Oliver was introduced to the Bainbridge Island Community on December 14 at a special event that included such dignitaries as Trudi Inslee, wife of gubernatorial candidate Jay Inslee, Dr. David Mitchell, President of Olympic College, John Powers, Executive Director of the Kitsap Economic Development Alliance, and more than 100 other community leaders.

The recruiting process was a multi-month project that included the engagement of Chamber of Commerce consultant, Frank J. Kenny. Mr. Kenny acted as interim director of the chamber while also facilitating board retreats, creation of the job description, performing the national search, and negotiations. “The board of directors looked at this time as an opportunity for organizational growth and change. I am honored to have been involved in helping this long-established business association work through the process of establishing a vision and then recruiting a chamber professional of national prominence that will help them see it come to fruition”, Mr. Kenny said.

The recruitment team, which consisted of board members, the executive committee, and Mr. Kenny employed the services of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), Western Association of Chamber Executives (W.A.C.E.), and Washington Chamber of Commerce Executives (WCCE) in the candidate search. Steve Snyder, Vice President of W.A.C.E. wrote to say, “Just a short note to congratulate you and the Bainbridge Island Chamber on hiring Rex Oliver from Murrieta CA. I was glad to see the chamber hire a chamber professional. I am confident that Rex will do a great job for the chamber. I am glad that W.A.C.E. was able to provide assistance in this process.”

Chairman of the Board Jeff Waite can be reach at jw@parfittway.com. Frank J. Kenny can be contacted at <http://FrankJKenny.com> or Frank@FrankJKenny.com.

Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce, 395 Winslow Way East, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110.
Tel: 206-842-3700. Website: www.bainbridgechamber.com.

###