

Lafayette Entrepreneurs Club Returns To Its Roots

By Sophie Braccini

The July 17th session was as packed as usual. Thirty to forty local business owners filled up the meeting room of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce for the monthly meeting of the Entrepreneurs Club. The group, which is sponsored by the Chamber, has recently adopted a mission statement and decided to re-center on what members feel is the core mission: providing practical business advice to members. The networking part of the group is still present, in the same friendly and informal manner that's one of the attractive features

of the group.

The new mission statement is: "A Chamber sponsored program where small business owners and managers can share ideas and solve problems that are specific to their business. Practical lessons and information are presented for personal development. Connections and alliances are made creating an ongoing learning community."

"We wanted to make sure that the members understood that this was not a networking group," says Jay Lifson, Lafayette Chamber Executive Director. "There were

some people showing up with the mission of trying to sell their service or product to the others in attendance. We needed to make clear that is not the purpose of the meetings."

The room was filled that day with experienced professionals who were ready to help each other. Many business cards were exchanged as people thought of possible synergies. The next meeting will be on Thursday August 21st at 8:30 a.m. at the Lafayette Chamber offices, 100 Lafayette Circle.