

# PRESS RELEASE

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## CHAMBERS OF THE NORTHEAST ESTABLISH REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Edenton, NC – Representatives of the Chambers of Commerce in North Carolina’s Northeast Region held a two-day retreat last week in Kitty Hawk to establish priorities for a regional plan of work on behalf of businesses in North Carolina’s Northeast Region. Working under the acronym of CONE, the Chambers Of The NorthEast, represent over 3,000 businesses the Northeast Region.



“Our local chambers of commerce have a tremendous responsibility to our business members to provide information, services, and opportunities to help them grow and thrive,” commented John Bone, President of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce and CONE Chairman. “As chamber executives, we have to look beyond our own borders for opportunities for our member businesses and the regional connection is vitally important.”

CONE participants work to set priorities for 2007 at their annual retreat in Kitty Hawk, NC.

CONE’s overall mission is to provide professional development and support of local chambers of commerce by communicating opportunities through networking and education in cooperation with North Carolina’s Northeast Commission.

CONE representatives identified a total of seventeen topics of interest as a regional group and agreed on five top priorities for 2007:

- 1) Support for Emerging Ethnic Businesses
- 2) Technology Applications
- 3) Regional Economic Forecast
- 4) Information & Data Availability
- 5) Education & Workforce Preparedness

Vann Rogerson, President & CEO of the Northeast Commission, was impressed by the discussions among CONE members and the collaboration of both small and larger chambers of commerce in developing a unified workplan for 2007. “CONE’s priorities will help the regional chambers of commerce gain knowledge and understanding of issues not only for their own communities, but for the region as a whole,” commented Rogerson.

North Carolina’s Northeast Commission is dedicated to increasing the standard of living for citizens in its sixteen-county region through industrial and business development and tourism. The 16 counties that comprise the regional Commission are: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington. For more information about the Northeastern North Carolina Regional Economic Development Commission, contact us at [www.ncnortheast.com](http://www.ncnortheast.com) and [www.visitncne.com](http://www.visitncne.com).