



*Freeholder Director Vicari
Honors Southern Ocean
County Chamber of Commerce
turns 100*

Ocean County Freeholder Director Joseph H. Vicari made a presentation and remarks to about 150 people at the November 12 luncheon initiating the year long celebration of one hundred years of service by the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce. Freeholder Director Vicari presented a proclamation by the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders stating in part:

the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce is about to begin celebration of 100 years of enriching the quality of life for the citizens and guests of Ocean County through the promotion of tourism and business in the greater Long Beach Island region; and

the first meeting of the Long Beach Island Board of Trade was held on March 4, 1914 for those “persons interested in the prosperity of Long Beach Island,” the group evolved to become the Long Beach - Stafford Board of Trade in 1968, became the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce in 1987 and assumed the role of Destination Marketing Organization in 2007; and

the Chamber has helped the region navigate numerous hurricanes, super storms, northeasters and other natural and man-made disasters that threaten the quality of life and financial sustainability of the region; and

the Chamber encouraged the responsible growth of the region through the development of infrastructure from schools, roads, businesses, public sewer and water and the introduction of automobile bridges in 1914, 1959 and 2014 and today is actively working on a regional business development plan; and

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Freholder Director Joseph H. Vicari speaking at the 100th Anniversary of the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce.

Photo credit: Ocean County Public Affairs

the Chamber has operated a visitor center since 1940, assisted in raising more than \$550,000 dollars for local hunger relief since 1995, donated tens of the thousands of dollars for local charitable and civic events and received four separate NJ Governor Tourism Awards including one for the twenty five years of annual Chowder festivals; and

the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce with nearly 600 members continues to play a vital role in support of the \$4.2 billion tourism industry in Ocean County.