

For Immediate Release  
February 11, 2019  
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## **Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce Announces Annual General Membership Meeting**

**Chincoteague, VA—February 11, 2019:** The Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce invites all chamber members to its Annual General Membership Meeting on February 28, 2019. The meeting will be held at The Ropewalk, 6262 Marlin Street Chincoteague, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Event Sponsor is Virginia Space and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport.

The Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority (VCSFA), also known as “Virginia Space”, is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Virginia Space owns and operates the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS), the MARS Unmanned Systems Test Range, and the MARS Payload Processing Facility (PPF). The mission of Virginia Space is to serve as an economic driver by providing safe, reliable, and responsive Space Access at competitive prices; and secure facilities for testing of unmanned vehicles for integration into the National Air Space.

Four nominees will be presented to the membership to fill four vacant seats on the chamber board. The chamber board consists of 11 members from various industry sectors in the community. The chamber is “an organization whereby many different business interests have joined together in a combined manner to maximize their ability to attract and increase the number of visitors to Chincoteague Island.”

Speakers include Thomas (T.J.) Johnson, Dean of Workforce Development Services at Eastern Shore Community College; Robie Marsh, Executive Director of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce & Interim Executive Director of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Tourism Commission; and Nancy Finley, Refuge Manager Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge Complex, US Fish & Wildlife Service.

As a part of the Virginia Community College System, Eastern Shore Community College’s Workforce Development Services focuses on training that lead to industry recognized certifications. TJ works with local businesses to offer short term training opportunities which include customer service, safety training, information technology and healthcare trainings. Additionally, ESCC offers open enrollment classes in areas such as food safety, computer skills, safety, culinary arts, and more.

Robie Marsh, Executive Director Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce took on an additional role on January 1 as Interim Executive Director of Eastern Shore of Virginia Tourism Commission when Accomack and Northampton County Board of Supervisors decided to restructure the existing commission. Robie will explain the goals and strategies of the newly-formed organization and discuss the pathway forward in building a stronger regional tourism economy on the shore.

Nancy Finley serves as the Refuge Manager at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge Complex, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The refuge complex consists of 4 refuges including Chincoteague, Wallops Island, Eastern Shore of Virginia and Fisherman’s Island. Nancy has worked coastal ecosystems from Northern California to the Florida Keys most her 26 year career and is excited to be at Chincoteague. Nancy will provide an update on some key management issues for the refuge and answer any questions.

The Annual General Membership Meeting promises to be a very informative meeting. Call the chamber at 757-336-6161 or email [info@chincoteaguechamber.com](mailto:info@chincoteaguechamber.com) to RSVP by February 21<sup>st</sup>.

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