

# Bank of Granite

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## **Bank of Granite Announces Regional Organization**

GRANITE FALLS, NORTH CAROLINA—Bank of Granite’s Chief Executive Officer and President R. Scott Anderson announced the formation of three organizational regions for the first time in the bank’s 101-year history. According to newly-named CEO Anderson, this strategy is prompted by the bank’s significantly expanded footprint, and strengthens its ability to act quickly and responsively in each region. The Catawba, Mountain and Metro regions will be led by W.C. “Corky” Upchurch, Earl B. Searcy, III and Samuel M. Black respectively. As a group these three seasoned bankers have more than 100 years of banking experience.

Upchurch, senior vice president and office administrator, will assume direct responsibility for the Catawba region to include all seven offices in Catawba County and the commercial lending team there. His new office will be on the second floor of the bank’s downtown Hickory location at 25 Third St. N.W. “Corky is a valuable member of the bank’s executive committee and will continue to be the conduit for bank-wide office administration, annuities, investments, insurance and bank card services,” stated Anderson.

Searcy, senior vice president and Burke regional executive, will continue to serve in that capacity and work from his Morganton office at 201 East Meeting St. He will now also assume responsibility for the Mountain region that includes the six offices in Caldwell County, the Boone and the Wilkesboro office. “Earl is the perfect leader to bring together these offices to ensure we deliver innovative financial solutions and the best possible experience for our customers,” said Anderson.

Additionally in Caldwell County, Vice President and Lenoir Office Manager T. Rahn Chase has been named Caldwell County executive and will be the lead representative for the bank there. “Rahn has been in leadership roles with Bank of Granite in Caldwell County for 15 years,” said Anderson. “He will be invaluable to Earl in assisting with managing those offices.”

Black, senior vice president and Charlotte/Mecklenburg regional executive, will continue to provide leadership for Bank of Granite’s four Mecklenburg offices and work from his uptown Charlotte office at 301 South McDowell St. Additionally, he will now assume responsibility for the Metro region that includes the Statesville and the Winston-Salem offices. Senior Vice Presidents and Regional Executives Gayle H. Harris and Terry N. Freeman will continue to be the lead representatives in their respective markets in Iredell and Forsyth counties.

“We always have been local bankers making local decisions,” Anderson said. “Historically we have empowered each of our offices to be responsive to customer needs. Our bank has added nine new offices and entered major markets since 2003. Appointing executives responsible for these newly created regions assures strong leadership in each as we continue to grow. We strive to always be in sync with our expanding customer base and to exceed expectations.”

*Bank of Granite and Granite Mortgage are subsidiaries of Bank of Granite Corporation whose stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol “GRAN.” The bank operates 22 full-service banking offices in Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Forsyth, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Watauga, and Wilkes counties, and a lending office in Guilford County. Granite Mortgage, headquartered in Winston-Salem, originates home mortgages in these counties and in Fayetteville and Salisbury, N.C.*

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W.C. 'Corky' Upchurch



Earl B. Searcy, III



Samuel M. Black



T. Rahn Chase