

CHAMBER FAQ

How large is the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce?

Your Chamber is nearly 890 members strong with five staff, thirteen standing committees and a vast array of events and activities. Your Chamber is the only 4-Star accredited Chamber in the State of Maryland, and only one of 136 in the Country.

What does Accreditation do for me?

It ensures that your Chamber is operating at the peak performance for its members. The review process is extremely intense and allows your Chamber to assess every aspect of membership from the initial contact through the disbursement of funds.

How is the Chamber organized?

As a member driven organization we function with an elected Board of Directors of thirty-one (31) people, representing all segments of our economy, which meets once a month to monitor and update the Chamber's condition. All members serve a three-year term (staggered to assure experienced members are present). An organizational chart and list of the current Board of Directors and Staff is included.

The condition of the Chamber is reported every month at the General Membership Luncheon where members gather to network and to learn about the local and national issues affecting the Chamber.

How can I find out about events?

The website is a great way to get the most updated information on events, meeting and activities for not only the Chamber, but member companies and local entities as well. The website is www.salisburyarea.com. It also includes current issues of "News & Notes" and our calendar with Chamber and community events listed on it.

In addition, an e-mail, print or fax version of the calendar and event registrations are sent to the members monthly. Please make sure we have accurate contact information so your information is not delayed.

Who is eligible to attend meetings and events?

All members and their employees are members and are encouraged to attend events; however, some require payment for meals so RSVPs are encouraged. Membership, based on number of full-time and part-time employees, includes all of your employees; therefore, they are welcome to attend meetings and events as well.

What is the best way to take advantage of a Chamber membership?

Attend events hosted by the Chamber. Networking is the most important benefit of membership. Attending events increasing your company's exposure and can increase your business. By joining the Chamber, you are getting advertisement through many channels: *The Business Journal*, hosting events, referrals by Chamber staff, and participating in events with preferred status (i.e.-ChamberFest and Business-to-Business Expo).

What advertising opportunities are there?

- **Directory** – publication distributed annually to all members and other locations throughout the area. Offers an opportunity to advertise your business beyond the listing.
- **News & Notes** – bi-monthly electronic newsletter to update members on events, special offerings and educational opportunities offered in the area and by members.
- **Website Listing** – all members are listed on the website in the directory for the Chamber and are able to purchase enhancements to the listing provided.
- **Wicomico County Map** – publication produced annually that has advertisement spaces. Given to people inquiring about our area in a relocation packet and available to the general public at a reasonable cost.
- **Mailing List** – current mailing list is available to Chamber members at a cost of \$60 and can be delivered via e-mail, CD or paper.
- **Publication Clearinghouse** – member supplied brochures and business cards are displayed in the office making them available to walk-in traffic. Any oversized materials are kept in the member's file.
- **The Business Journal** – monthly publication done in conjunction with Morningstar Publications that offers competitively priced advertisement costs to members, with specials offered for new advertisers.

What is the Chamber's relationship with local government?

The Chamber maintains an autonomous position; however we work with the local governments on several events and invite them to all Chamber functions to ensure a good working relationship. We are the advocate for business so it is imperative that we stay in touch with the local governments to keep abreast of issues facing our area.

Does the Chamber endorse candidates for public office?

NO! The Chamber policy is to review and respond to issues that may impact the local business environment.

How do I become involved in a committee?

Just ask! Anyone interested in serving on a committee just needs to let any staff member know either by phone at (410) 749-0144 or by e-mail membership@salisburyarea.com. Committees are an integral part of your Chamber and membership in them ensures that your voice is heard.