

Membership in the Clinton County Chamber of Commerce is designed to promote businesses, individuals and organizations. Our intent is to work together to build a health economy, stronger communities and a pleasant quality of life in the regional area.

This information will acquaint you with the many services we offer to you as a member of the Chamber:

- **Networking:** The Chamber offers a great forum for members to meet other business leaders in the county at regularly scheduled events. Attend these Chamber events and committee meetings to promote yourself and your business:
  - Monthly Luncheon Meetings: Topics at each luncheon are geared to educate and keep members informed. The luncheon gives members an opportunity to meet with other members, exchange business cards and to announce upcoming events at their business. Luncheons are held the 3rd Thursday of the month, beginning at 11:45 am.
  - Business After Hours: A popular Chamber tradition, this networking event is designed to combine business and pleasure while prominently featuring the host business. Business After Hours are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 4:30-6:00 pm.
  - Annual Golf Challenge: At the outing you have a great opportunity to network with other members while having fun. It's also a good time to entertain clients or give recognition to an outstanding staff member or customer.
  
- **Business Promotion:**
  - Membership Directory and Newcomers Guide: These publications list all members categorically. They are distributed free to members, newcomers, visitors and others.
  - Literature Display: Member businesses are encouraged to supply the Chamber with brochures and business cards that will be distributed to potential residents and visitors. Hundreds of visitors stop in the Chamber office throughout the year and most don't leave without looking through the racks and helping themselves to information about different businesses in the area.
  - Presence on the Internet: As a part of your membership investment, you are listed categorically on the Chamber website, plus have a link to your e-mail and web page from the directory listing.
  - Advertising Opportunities: Chamber members have available to them many low cost advertising opportunities throughout the year to get your business noticed. From newsletter inserts and placemat advertising to coffee or luncheon sponsorships, your business gets noticed.
  
- **Chamber News:** The monthly newsletter keeps you informed about activities and upcoming events of your Chamber. Take advantage of providing information about your business for the member news section and utilize the opportunity to include an insert!
  
- **Referrals:** Referrals are made by the Chamber staff when someone visits the office or inquires by telephone, e-mail or mail about your specific type of business. As a standard policy, we only refer our members. When the Chamber office is not open, our 24-hour answering service continues to answer questions to all inquiries. So, in a real sense, the Chamber works for you every minute of every single day.
  
- **Mint Dollar Gift Certificate Program:** This program promotes shopping locally at Chamber member businesses. Individuals purchase certificates in any denomination from the Chamber and receive a list of participating businesses with the certificate. A participating business accepts the certificate as cash and then submits it to the Chamber for reimbursement for the amount of the certificate, minus a 3% service fee. By the end of 2004 we anticipate over \$100,000 in Mint Dollar Gift Certificates will be sold just this year! That means \$100,000 in purchases stays with Chamber member businesses.

- **Ambassadors:** Within the Chamber we have over 30 members that serve as Ambassadors of the Chamber. Ambassadors attend grand openings, ribbon cuttings, luncheons and After Hours. A ribbon cutting is a great way to premiere a new business or to announce a business relocation or new partnership. Ambassadors show up in striking red coats and help get your business noticed.
- **Event Participation:** Members are invited to participate in Chamber events for the community. (Non-members participate in Chamber events at a high fee than members). Some events include our annual Community EXPO/Touch a Truck, St. Johns Mint Festival, An Event So Good It's Scary, Festival of Trees, Breakfast with Santa and more.
- **Postal Discounts:** Members are eligible to use the Chamber's standard mail permit on mailings of at least 250 pieces. Through this method, a bulk mailing can be sent at .248 cents per piece, rather than the standard .37 cents. Also, by using the Chamber's permit, you can save an additional \$150 annually, which is the yearly cost to have your own permit number. As an example: if you were doing a 1000 piece mailing by regular mail, you would pay \$370. By using the Chamber's permit, that mailing would cost \$248, saving you \$122. Add that to the \$150 renewal fee for your own permit and you can save over \$272 annually.
- **Business Representation:** When a business is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, so is every one of its employees. We encourage members to involve their employees in the Chamber by attending Luncheons, Business After Hours and other Chamber sponsored events. Through over 300 business members of the Chamber, we represent more than 11,700 employees in Clinton County. Business members and their employees are also encouraged to serve on Chamber committees, which brings recognition to the business and helps build leadership skills.
- **Member-to-Member Advantage Program:** The Member-to-Member Advantage program was designed to encourage members to do business with other members. Members choose the advantage (discount) they want to offer other Chamber members and receive a membership card each year upon renewal.
- **Sponsorships:** Capitalize on partnering with the Chamber in a multitude of ongoing activities and events. These are marketing opportunities that **put your business in the spotlight.**

**JOIN THE CHAMBER TODAY!**  
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