



Membership Has Its Privileges



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Chamber membership is an important part of being in business in the greater Savannah area. Don't believe us, well then ask any of our 2,000 members! Plus, we have lots of reasons right here:

The best part of the Savannah Area Chamber?

Its members, people who realize that through the Chamber they can accomplish collectively what none of them can do individually. Currently, 2,000 diverse member businesses, large and small, influence Chamber programs and work together to enhance the economic climate of the Savannah area for business growth and quality of life through excellence in programming, services and marketing.

Our mission to the members is to provide quality customer service and programs that meet the needs of our members, improve the economic environment of our community and build a legacy of leadership for the next century.

Networking, networking & more networking!

Eighty percent of Chamber members are small businesses that request networking opportunities. They know that people do business with people they know. The Chamber hosts many events each year that are attended by thousands! Here is a list of some events:

Business Connections

One of the Chambers most popular and well-attended networking opportunities are monthly Business Connections which occur Thursday evenings from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and may bring up to 800+ members and prospects together for informal networking.

Monthly Member Breakfasts/Luncheons

Programs represent a diverse selection of issues affecting businesses in our area as well as on a state-wide and national scale. Another opportunity to meet new prospects and renew existing relationships.

Quarterly Business Seminars

Hosted by the Chamber's Small Business Council these meetings allow business professionals to have an opportunity to get together in an informal, round-table setting to learn better business practices and share ideas and tips on how to grow their business. Topics and speakers vary by quarter.

New Member Orientation

Several times each year, the Chamber hosts a breakfast that connects new members with lead volunteers for each of the Chamber's main councils and committees. A great chance to plug your company!

Business Networking Expo & Awards Banquet

Chamber members in good standing may participate in the Chamber's annual event and the Savannah area's largest business to business expo featuring close to 100 regional companies and organizations showcasing their products, selling their merchandise and explaining their services to hundreds of business professionals. Members may also be nominated for the Chamber's Annual Small Business Awards (some nomination criteria may apply).

Marketing Opportunities

- SavannahChamber.com - all Chamber members are featured on the Chamber's website
A complimentary link from the Chamber site to the member site is provided
- Chamber members may be featured or showcased on the Chamber's and/or Visit Savannah's Facebook pages and Twitter feed
- Members that provide services to the weddings industry are featured on www.SavannahIDo.com a website launched in August of 2010 to help promote Savannah as a destination for weddings
- Hospitality members receive:
 - One listing in the Savannah's Official Visitors Guide
 - One listing on Visit Savannah web site www.VisitSavannah.com (Over 1.5 million unique viewers a year)
 - Link their site to their SavannahVisit.com listing
 - The option to place special offers on www.SavannahSpecialOffers.com
- Tybee Island-based Hospitality members receive:
 - Same benefits as Hospitality members plus Tybee members also are listed in the Tybee Island Vacation Planner and on TybeeVisit.com (Over one million unique viewers visited this site in 2010)
 - Tybee members may be featured on the Tybee Island Facebook page
 - Savannah TAP (Tourist Assistance Portal) is an interactive kiosk or digital signage network which connects people—your customers—with the purchasing information they need via LCD screens which are placed in high traffic locations - like the Visitor Information Centers and the Savannah/HH International Airport
 - All members in good standing receive a complimentary listing by major category on all TAP units - over a \$500 annual value
 - Only members are able to become full advertisers

Advertising Opportunities

Only Chamber members can advertise on the Chamber, Visit Savannah, Savannah I Do and Tybee Island web sites, Savannah TAP, Official Savannah Visitors Guide (circ. 550,000), Tybee Island Vacation Planner, Relocation and Resource Guide, Special Events Calendar and more!

Publications

- Official Visitors Guide
- Economic Trends
- Relocation Resource Guide
- Tybee Island Vacation Planner
- Destination Brochure
- Group Tour Planner
- Military Reunions Brochure
- Media Guide
- Calendar of Events
- Sports Facility Guide
- Savannah's Black Heritage Brochure
- Meeting Planner
- Savannah Area Maps (Downtown, Savannah, Tybee Island)

More Member Benefits

MemberCare Alliance of Savannah Area

MemberCare Alliance of Savannah is a program that makes available group health insurance and other employee benefit products at reduced premium rates for member companies based in Chatham County with 50 employees or less. Your Chamber, responding to concerns of our small and medium sized business members about health insurance costs, has joined with a statewide network of Chambers of Commerce who has used their large-group buying power to negotiate reduced premium rates for business members. Businesses that qualify can earn a 3-5% discount off group health insurance.

Drug Free Workplace

The Chamber provides member companies the information necessary to become certified so they may qualify to receive a 7.5% discount on Worker's Compensation Premiums.

Member-to-Member Discounts

From time-to-time Chamber members offer discounts or free products/services to members. Currently all members in good standing receive a complimentary subscription to Georgia Trends magazine - mailed to the main contact listed on the membership each month. Other discounts may be mailed directly to members in good standing.

Referrals

The Chamber and Visit Savannah receive thousands of calls and e-mails each year asking for recommendations of goods or services. Only member companies are referred.

Mailing Labels

The Chamber provides labels sorted by zip code which can be purchased for .10 cents per label and .05 cents per label for new members. Some restrictions apply.

E-Newsletter

All Chamber/Visit Savannah members receive e-mail weekly newsletter to keep them informed of events, activities and opportunities provided by the Chamber/Visit Savannah.

E-Newsletter Announcement

New members are listed in the Chamber's e-newsletter that is sent to more than 4,500+ subscribers who will read about your company.

E-Newsletter - Member News Section

Members in good standing are welcome to submit their news and be included in the Member News section of the Chamber/Visit Savannah weekly e-newsletter. Some content restrictions apply.

Brochure Racks/Courtesy Phones/Display Cases

Members may place marketing materials at the Chamber office brochure racks. Hospitality members may also place approved brochures at each of the Savannah Area Visitor Information Centers. Tybee Island Hospitality Members may place approved brochures at the Tybee Island Visitor Information Center. Restrictions apply - see policy for clarification. On a space available basis, there are additional marketing opportunities for members only at area Visitor Information Centers - contact Mava Byrd, Visitor Information Manager directly at (912)944-0440 for details.

Advocacy, Involvement & Education

Governmental Affairs

The business community needs the unified voice the Chamber provides. Savannah-Chatham has a place at the table, and if we don't speak up, other regions will split our piece of the pie. The GAC leads delegations annually to Washington, D.C. and Atlanta and holds candidate forums. The Council also manages the Savannah Area Business Political Action Committee, representing the business community's interest in lobbying efforts.

Economic Outlook Luncheon

The Chamber's largest member luncheon of the year brings 600+ together to receive a copy of Economic Trends, a forecast of the upcoming year. The speaker represents the University of Georgia Terry College of Business.

Seminars & Special Programs

The Small Business Council provides monthly seminars on topics from wellness in the workplace to insurance, bill collection, marketing, etc. In addition, the Chamber provides educational programs via several monthly events.

Councils

These groups may function as task forces that run events, provide networking and like-minded programs for groups like the manufacturers and small business owners, or advocacy teams. Learn about the opportunities and choose your best fit.

Ambassadors Council

Provide members the one-on-one networking opportunity while serving as liaisons between new members and the Chamber. Ambassadors orient new members and insure they maximize their Chamber membership by providing information on the Chamber's many opportunities and upcoming events.

Visit Savannah

Visit Savannah is the designated destination marketer for the Savannah area. Visit Savannah provides the vehicle for individual businesses to market their operations to travelers. Visit Savannah improves our area economy and stimulates increased overnight spending from visitors.

Governmental Affairs Council

To ensure that our local, state and federal governmental officials have our members' business in mind! This group polls members to select priority business issues and conveys them to the appropriate levels of government, keeps members updated and alerts members to opportunities for individual advocacy.

Greater Savannah Sports Council

The mission of the Sports Council is to market Savannah and Chatham County as a site for major local, state, regional, national and international sports events. We create economic impact through sports business, enhance participation in area athletic programs and serve as a catalyst to develop sports infrastructure.

Manufacturers Council

To monitor issues of importance to those companies having the largest economic impact on our area. Manufacturers generate \$1.6 billion of business in our area. This council ensures that their interests are being protected and this segment of the community is recognized for the impact it has. This Council is the single forum where all member manufacturers and other supportive interests can receive a hearing and a response to their issues. The Council provides members with relevant information, advocacy and networking opportunities that assist them in maintaining the growth of their operations in the Savannah area.

Military Affairs Council

One of the Chamber's top priorities is to preserve and enhance the military value of this community. This is accomplished through community leadership and the Military Affairs Council while encouraging and strengthening community awareness and involvement. With the events of September 11th and another round of closing military installations, the Chamber is committed to our men and women in uniform.

Small Business Council

To provide our small businesses with resources they can utilize to help their businesses grow. Our membership is 80 percent small business, and the top request we receive is networking opportunities. In addition to providing monthly member luncheons and 10 business connections annually, the Chamber strives to provide a voice and venue for those members through our Small Business Council.

Tybee Island Tourism Council

This Council is comprised of a board of directors representing the island's tourism industry as well as other industry stakeholders. The mission of the Council is to promote year-round tourism through marketing and promotional efforts and to educate island visitors through the operation of the Tybee Island Visitor Information Center.

CEO Council

Participation in the CEO Council is by invitation only. Its membership consists of the CEO's of the Chamber's larger private sector employers. There is an annual investment for involvement which includes the cost of luncheon meetings.

Owners Council

The mission of this council is to protect, grow and sustain business in Savannah by acting as one voice for the viability and good of our community for today and to ensure a better business future. Participation in the Owners Council is limited and is by invitation only and requires an annual investment. The Owners Council meets bi-monthly (six times a year) and council members are able to network with their fellow business owners, discuss local and state issues that affect business in the Savannah area.

