The Catawba County Chamber of Commerce...

Chamber Programming & Events

CATAWBA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Catawba County Chamber of Commerce
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The Catawba County Chamber of Commerce has a number of involvement opportunities that allow you and your company the opportunity to be noticed, reach new and existing customers and support Chamber events, programs and services. Whether you are looking to volunteer, advertise or attend an event, the Chamber has something for you! Join us in sustaining the important work the Chamber performs on behalf of our business community.

Special Events

Annual Membership Meeting
Feburary 16, 2012; 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Gateway Hotel & Conference Center

The signature Chamber event of the year! The evening will include the review of our 2011 Annual Report & Accomplishments, our 2012 goals & pro-business initiatives; recognition of our current, new, and outgoing Board of Directors, and the celebration of our 40th year of being the business advocate in Catawba County! While enjoying heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and plenty of networking, you will be able to scan the displays full of newspaper clippings of highlights since 1972.

Legislative Issues / Economic Outlook Breakfast: March 15, 2012; 7:30-9:00 a.m.

Special speakers include, Lew Ebert, President of the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Harry Davis, Professor of Banking at Appalachian State University and an Economist with the NC Bankers Association; Scott Millar, President of the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation; and Danny Hearn, President of the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce.

SCHMOOZAPALOOZA
April 19, 2012 - Integrity Building, Hickory
November 29, 2012 - Location TBD

SCHMOOZAPALOOZA is designed to consolidate energy and opportunity! Use the Chamber's newest premier networking event as your opportunity to foster long-lasting business relationships and/or showcase your products or services to Catawba County's business community! Exhibitors and attendees will also enjoy food samplings from Chamber member restaurants, drinks, and a chance to win many valuable door prizes throughout the evening!

Business at the Ballpark
May 24, 2012

All Chamber member employees are invited, as our guests, for a night of casual networking, food, drinks, and special reserved seating at no cost.

Chamber Night at the Races
August 11, 2012

All Chamber member employees can witness the action track-side at America's Most Famous Short Track, the legendary Hickory Motor Speedway, for half price! Come early for some pre-race networking and your chance to meet the drivers.

Prime of Life Senior Expo
August 28, 2012; Hickory Metro Convention Center

The senior population in Catawba County has experienced a net increase upwards of 60% within the past 10 years! Do you have products or service offerings for this ever-growing market? If so, take advantage of this opportunity to display your fare at our inaugural Prime of Life Senior Expo, in partnership with Senior Information Resources Board and the Catawba County Aging Coalition.

24th Annual Chamber Membership Golf Classic
September 28, 2012

The golf course is always a hot spot for conducting business and meeting new prospects. Join over 250 golfers for a round at one of our area's popular courses. All skill levels are welcome!

International Trip to Greece
October 8-18, 2012

Travel with a community group to Greece accompanied by a professional tour guide. This deeply discounted vacation will have you bringing home more than souveniors- friendships that will last a lifetime.

3rd Annual Peelin', Eatin', and Politickin': Low Country Shrimp Boil: October 25, 2012

If this were just a networking get-together, it'd be a humdinger, but it's much more! The shrimp boil will feature great food, music, backyard games, and the opportunity to network with top business leaders and all of Catawba County's elected officials. No program, speeches, or legislative agendas...just an all-American good time!

Women's Leadership Conference
November 8, 2012

Treat your female employees by sending them to our day-long leadership conference for women! One of our most popular programs of the year, the Women's Leadership Conference, is designed to enrich, educate, entertain, and provide breakthrough success strategies for women in their professional careers.

First Friday Morning Brew

Not your normal card swap networking mingle....Our First Friday Morning Brews challenge the traditional mindset of networking towards NETGIVING! At this event you will be asking the question, "What can I do for you?" versus, "Here's how you can help me!"

Leadership Development

Leadership Catawba: *August 2012-February 2013*

35 years and running, Leadership Catawba has educated and equipped hundreds of Catawba County residents about the critical issues facing our community. This program challenges each participant to be an effective and influential leader, not only within their particular organizations, but within our greater community through personal commitment and involvement.

Hickory Young Professionals (HYP)

HYP, a separate membership organization formed through the Chamber in 2008, provides young professionals in the Greater Hickory Metro the opportunity to network with one another and engage in professional development activities to help them excel professionally, socially, and economically.
Visit www.hickoryhyp.com for more information.

Business Services

Small Business Programming & Resources

The Chamber is proud to partner with the Small Business Center at CVCC to provide you, the business owner or representative, with many valuable educational opportunities and resources to ensure your success and sustainability over time.

Entreprenuer Exchange Network

A monthly roundtable group of entrepreneurs and small business owners connecting to new resources, innovation, creativity, and experimentation aimed at growing your business and becoming more profitable. A place where you can learn and be inspired, as well as, an avenue to "pay it forward" by using your experience and expertise to inspire and help others.

The "IN" (Innovations Network) Team

Volunteer to share your ideas and expertise OR schedule a brainstorming session for your business! The purpose of the "IN" Team is to match a group of inspired and creative Chamber volunteers with local Chamber member businesses to generate at least 100 fresh and innovative ideas in just 1 hour! Have a problem that needs a solution? Stuck in a rut when it comes to marketing ideas? Utilize this as a platform to reenergize yourself and your business!

Leads Exchange Groups

The Chamber has three non-compete Leads Groups that meet weekly at various member locations.
Tuesday 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday 8:00 a.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m

The Edison Project
Final Presentation & Awards Ceremony - September 10, 2012

Now expanded regionally! Take your business idea from conception to launch by participating in this entreprenuerial competition. The competition is open to all entrepreneurs who have a venture business idea that they would like to bring to market. Applications will be accepted until May 31st, and the top ten finalists will prepare a business plan based on their executive summary. Finalists will then present their plan to top business leaders, angel investors, and the community at large.

Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

This professional HR Management group meets monthly at the Chamber and schedules specialized training programs that deal with the most up-to-date labor and employment law issues facing companies.

Labor & Employment Law Seminars

With an ever changing legal landscape it is imperative that the Chamber provide specialized training for our HR managers in areas such as the Employee Free Choice Act, mandatory paid sick leave, health care, workers comp, environmental restric-

Education

Champions of Education (COE)

Strong schools and greater academic success by our students result in a stronger economy. This is why education is a top priority for our Chamber!

* Priorities include: Pre K-12 education advocacy, family involvement,business partnerships and innovation in support of education.
*Attend one of their free quarterly breakfast meetings to educate yourself about Champions' current initiatives and goals aimed to positively impact students' abilities to achieve academic success.

CATAWBA COUNTY CHAMPIONS OF EDUCATION
We mean business when it comes to education.

Education Matters

A partnership with business, government and education that will encompass Work Keys (Career Readiness Certification Testing) programs in the high schools; "Graduation Guarantees" to business from educators; businesses, by 2012, not hiring individuals over the age of 25 unless they are high school graduates or have a GED equivalent; business and industry providing human and capital resources to the educational initiatives of the Chamber and the COE.

Government Affairs

Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC)

* The Chamber is the most powerful and influential “voice of business” for its membership.
* Local, state and national pro-business public policy issues are our top priority.
* The Chamber sponsors a 10th Congressional District trip to Washington DC every year.
* Candidate Forums will be held this year for local elections.

Land Use Development Board

This powerful board is composed of representatives from the Chamber, the Realtors Association and the Homebuilders Association who review and lobby for local land use policies that affect how Catawba County will grow in the future.

Other Membership Benefits

Chamber Sur"Pies" Patrol

Join us every other month as we “surprize” 10 member companies to thank them for their membership and present them with an apple pie and special giveaways.

The Future Economy Council

This Chamber “think tank” of volunteers meets on a regular basis to look at weak signals and future trends that will or could have an immediate or future impact on our local economy. They connect these ideas with the right community organization, business, education, government, etc. for the sole purpose of economic development and stability for Catawba County.

Senior Information Resource Group (SIR)

Help enhance the lives of our aging population in Catawba County by being an individual member of this go-to organization for senior information. SIR will be the comprehensive and collabrative point of contact for information related to the needs and interests of aging adults in Catawba County, focusing specifically on education and programs for seniors, their families and caregivers.

Interactive Business Directory

Our interactive business directory lists members alphabetically and categorically. Your listing can include contact name, address, phone number, e-mail, and a link to your website.

Member Hot Deals

We encourage members to do business with other Chamber members. In order to drive more member traffic to your business, you may submit a special offer or discount to be displayed under the Hot Deals section on the Chamber website.

North Carolina Authorized Visitor’s Center

As an exclusive benefit to all Chamber members, our Visitor’s Center will only refer you! In order for us to better direct people to your location, please submit promotional brochures to be placed in our Visitor’s Center on a rotating schedule.

Chamber Weekly E-Newsletter

All members receive an email newsletter every Tuesday to keep you informed. Also, do you have some great news to share? Would you like to highlight a special event your business is having? We would love to help spread the word to the entire membership through our “One-Liners” section. Contact us for more information about material submission.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies/Celebration Services

Are you a new business? Are you an existing business who has moved to a new location? We want to celebrate with you! Call Pam Manfredi at the Chamber to schedule your ribbon cutting ceremony. We will invite the membership, Board of Directors, city officials, and the media to join us for such a noteworthy occasion.

StartSomethingHere.com

“StartSomethingHere.Com…It’s a great place to begin, or begin again,” is Catawba County’s one-click brand to the world. This site does not replace the sites of the entities named above,, but rather gives the searcher a place to land allowing them to explore all they need to know about living, working, and learning in Catawba County.