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WELCOME TO THE CHAMBER!

The Chamber is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, volunteer network of over 400 members of the LGBTQIA Community and our Allies with over 5,000 professional supporters, who own or are employed by businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies in DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

The Chamber is the area’s affiliate of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and was named Chamber of the Year in 2012. The Chamber has ranked as one of the top 20 Chambers of Commerce by the Washington Business Journal.

The Chamber’s mission is to further the acceptance of all people, help overcome adversity, and advocate, empower, promote, and facilitate the common economic interests of all LGBTQIA businesses, professionals, and our Allies.
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Chamber Board has a maximum of 15 members who volunteer to serve for terms of three years. Elections to the Board are made in staggered terms to provide continuity in leadership and policies.

Class of 2018

Manny Cosme (Treasurer)
CFO Services Group

JC Cummings
James Cummings, AIA

Morgen Hunt
Horizon Paramedical, LLC

Rachelle Tepel
Federal Economist

Class of 2019

Cornelius Joy
CJOY Events

Class of 2020

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Infinity Sales Partners

Walter DeLeon
Main Street One

Eleasa DuBois
Tight Body Makeover

Justin George
EY (Ernst & Young)

Riah Gonzalez-King
Stunner Social

Peter Glazer : General Counsel
Lori Booker : Accountant

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ABOUT THE CHAMBER

The day-to-day operations of the Chamber are executed through a series of standing and ad-hoc Committees. Each Committee has a responsible Board liaison. The following list includes many of the Volunteers that are sustaining the Chamber.

Ambassadors: (JC Cummings)
Joan Bielski (Finesse Design Remodeling), Susan Borke (Borkeworks), Taylor Byrd (Monument Home Loans), Brian Cohen (BPC Consulting Alliance), TJ Flavell (GoGayDC!), Marguerite Sagatalian (HRC Human Rights Volunteer), Jane Troxell (Eagle Bank Residential Lending), Jorge Valdés (Merrill Lynch)

Communications and Social Media: (Riah Gonzalez-King)

Events: (Cornelius Joy)
Susan Borke (Borkeworks), Joshua Hill (Hill & Hurtt)

Finance: (Manny Cosme, Justin George)

MegaNetworking: (Chuck Coveleski, Cornelius Joy)

Membership: (JC Cummings, Cornelius Joy)

Political Advocacy: (Walter DeLeon)

Pride: (Cornelius Joy, Rachelle Tepel)

Sponsorship: (Chuck Coveleski, Rachelle Tepel)

Volunteers: (Eleasa DuBois)

If you’d like to join our team, contact any member of the Board at any of our events or where they are listed in this directory.  Have an impact!  Make a difference!

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EVENTS

The Chamber hosts events throughout the year to provide members and guests a chance to meet, learn, network, socialize, and celebrate. Hosted events provide opportunities for sponsors to gain visibility.

Most events are free to members, guests, and the public. Where entry fees exist, they can often be deducted from a new member’s fee to join. Entry fees can be waived for those willing to volunteer.

Chamber Connect
An open-format cocktail-hour networking event, hosted on the second Thursday evening of each month; free.

MegaNetworking
The largest LGBTQIA networking event in the region, organized with many of our Partners to gather a wide representation of the community to promote business, awareness, membership, volunteering, organizing, and fund-raising. The official start of Spring; free to all.

Pride Festivals
Annual events intended to celebrate the community and our accomplishments with our friends and allies. We want to be visible in all areas of the community to invite people to get involved. This is a good chance to volunteer; free.

Holiday Party
The end-of-year annual December networking event to honor and acknowledge all Chamber hosts and sponsors; free.

Special Events
The Chamber hosts special events and joins our partners in planning, promoting, and attending special events as they arise. We have hosted and represented our members at awards dinners, sponsorship events, business expos, educational events, health fairs, and anniversaries.
JOIN THE CHAMBER

The Chamber provides members access to business with over 5,000 loyal members of the LGBTQIA community and our Allies, including professionals, entrepreneurs, business owners, clients, shoppers, and consumers.

This entrée to the LGBTQIA community and our allies occurs through multiple channels including new media, educational seminars, intentional referrals, and diverse network-building events.

No other organization has the attention of, or can deliver, such an impressive market.

PURSUE YOUR GOALS

• **Meet** exciting people and **expand** professional networks

• **Network** with people who share **passion** for business and the community
  
  • **Find clients**, customers, and employers
  
  • **Conduct business within the comfort of like-minded people**
  
  • **Find guidance and support while pursuing new career goals**

• **Learn** useful ideas, strategies, and insights for **advancement**
  
  • **Build leadership skills, mentor others, give back to the community**
  
  • **Promote and strengthen the universal interests of the community**
  
  • **Discuss, consider, and surmount challenges for the community in business**
  
  • **Interact with community role models** and regional leaders
  
  • **Have a voice in regional government and regulations**
MEMBERSHIP

Corporate
Annual membership for large interests, including six complimentary entries to Chamber core networking, educational, and business development events. Corporate Members receive enhanced visibility at Chamber events and on the website. Corporate Members have priority consideration for sponsorship, hosting events, and advertising.

Premier
Annual membership for a business, ideal for a firm seeking increased visibility in the community, including three complimentary entries to Chamber core networking, educational, and business development events, and a listing in the Business Directory.

Business
Annual membership for a business, ideal for sole practitioners, including one complimentary entry to Chamber core networking, educational, and business development events, and a listing in the Business Directory.

Professional
Individual annual membership, including one complimentary entry to Chamber core networking, educational, and business development events.

Student
Individual annual membership for a student, including one complimentary entry to Chamber core networking, educational, and business development events.

Nonprofit Community Partner
Level III
Equivalent benefits to Corporate Membership, except Level III membership includes twelve complimentary entries to Chamber core events.

Level II
Equivalent benefits to Premier Membership, except Level II membership includes six complimentary entries to Chamber core events.

Level I
Equivalent benefits to Business Membership, except Level I membership includes two complimentary entries to Chamber core events.
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EagleBank Residential Lending
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As a longtime CAGLCC, now Equality Chamber member and former Board member, I was humbled to be recognized by the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA), my industry’s oldest and largest Association. NAIFA created the Diversity Champion Award to recognize exceptional efforts promoting the full and equal participation of diverse people within the insurance and financial services profession. I appreciate the words of past NAIFA President Keith M. Gillies, CFP, CLU, ChFC, “Brian’s service to diverse communities in his personal and professional lives as well as in his leadership role with NAIFA-Greater Washington makes him a worthy Diversity Champion. NAIFA is committed to promoting diversity in its own leadership, membership and in the insurance and financial industry as a whole, and to ensuring that all members of our society have access to products and services to help them achieve financial security. NAIFA members like Brian make this possible.”

What do I actually do for my clients?

I am passionate about helping my clients make the financial decisions that they want to make but may not understand how to make. There’s a lot of information out there, much of it conflicting, so it can be hard to know how to make sense of it. I want to help you interpret that information so you can apply it properly to your situation. It’s a collaborative process where we weigh out pros and cons, and ultimately, I help facilitate the option that you feel suits best.

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