2023 Member Benefits & Resources Guide

Celebrating 80 years of helping local business be more successful with access to networks, knowledge, and a team of professionals dedicated to helping you thrive.

Connect | Advocate | Drive Progress | Build Community
"The Chamber has not only helped me stay informed and provided a plethora of networking opportunities, but also has helped me feel more a part of the community. Building a business—especially in the last year—has had its difficulties, and the Chamber has continued to be a steadfast resource."

Siddisee Hirpa, Owner
Kumon Math and Reading Center of Carrboro

"The Chamber has been an incredible partner of the years providing timely data and industry knowledge and supporting high quality real estate development in our region. If you want to get connected, stay informed and grow your leadership role in our community, you should join The Chamber."

Tom Wiltberger, CO-OWNER, BROKER, REALTOR®
Terra Nova Global Properties

"The Chamber is an invaluable partner for the busy small businessperson, I know they are vigilant on my and my town’s behalf on advocacy, planning and benefits. Membership easily pays for itself."

Jamie Fiocco, Owner & General Manager
Flyleaf Books Chapel Hill

As Chamber members, we’ve been able to make many crucial connections with community stakeholders through direct referrals and networking events. Having this platform to engage with families and community leaders has been such a valuable tool for us.

Vince & Sheba Brown, Owners
APlus Test Prep

I trust this Chamber to keep me informed, look out for our interests, and help create an economy and community where our businesses can thrive.

Sweta Adkin, Managing Partner
Adkin CPA, PLLC
Successful businesses create successful communities and we are passionate about both. Get informed, get engaged, and make your voice heard.

**My Chamber CONNECTS me to the people and resources my business needs to succeed.**

- New customer leads through online and in-person **referrals**
- Website listing, links, and key words in our **online membership directory**
- Free access to **monthly programs** including industry leader small groups, business briefings, networking events, and critical issues forums
- Expertise and guidance on how to apply research and **community data** to your business
- Complimentary city maps and annual visitors and relocation guides
- Posting of member job openings and member events online
- Ribbon cuttings and promotions of your grand openings and anniversary celebrations
- Access to strategic **money saving partnerships** to lower your cost of doing business
- Access to offer and use member-to-member discounts
- Membership in the **Carrboro Business Alliance** and **Black Business Alliance** - if applicable

**My Chamber ADVOCATES for local business interests.**

- **Professional and volunteer advocacy** outlined by a robust **Public Policy Platform and Action Agenda**
- **Quarterly Critical Issues Event Series:** Coordinated by the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee, the series includes forums and featuring influential guest speaker(s) who address timely topics related to the economy, economic development, workforce development, and local elections.
- Access to timely **information briefings and action alerts**

**My Chamber DRIVES PROGRESS and BUILDS COMMUNITY**

- **Big Bold Ideas:** A community engagement and goal-setting venture. It is a focused strategic action plan for our region to guide our shared work for the years ahead. Learn more at [www.bigboldideas.org](http://www.bigboldideas.org)
- **Annual State of the Community Report:** Each year the Chamber hosts a comprehensive briefing featuring the latest data on the well-being of Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro across social, economic, and environmental indicators. Using this data as a benchmark, this work allows us to bring together the Chamber, Orange County, The Town of Chapel Hill, and the Town of Hillsborough on the key ways to build a more thriving community for all. Learn more at [www.carolinachamber.org/stateofthecommunity](http://www.carolinachamber.org/stateofthecommunity)
- **Leadership Chapel Hill-Carrboro:** A cohort-based intensive learning program designed to inform, develop, and engage committed and emerging leaders in Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro.
- **Inter-City Visit:** A convening of 75-100 of our local business and community leaders to learn from the experiences of another community, understand our own community assets, build relationships among our local leaders, and vision for a better tomorrow. All with the goal of helping us address our local challenges. Over the last decade, we’ve visited Lawrence (KS), Ann Arbor (MI), Madison (WI), Asheville (NC), Greenville (SC), Athens (GA), and Boulder (CO).
Know Your Chamber

**2023 Board of Directors**

**Board Officers**
Lori Doherty, Chair, Doherty Home Inspections  
Dan Lehman, Vice Chair, UNC Hospitals  
Vakesia Graves, Immediate Past-Chair, Duke Energy  
Sweta Adkin, Treasurer, Adkin CPA, PLLC  
Creighton Blackwell, Chair of The Partnership, Coastal Credit Union  
Robert Saunders, General Council, Brooks Pierce

**2023 Board of Directors**
Elie Abou-Rjeileh, Olmaz Jewelers  
Manish Atma, ATMA Hotel Group  
Jes Averhart, Jes & Co.  
Donna Bell, Congruence Counseling  
La-Tasha Best-Gaddy, Infinity Bridges  
Tim Dalton, Truist  
Greg Fitch, Fearrington Village and Fitch Creations  
Rory Gillis, Triangle Digital Partners  
Dr. Nyah Hamlett, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools  
Betsy Harris, Vice Chair for Government Affairs, Armacell  
Mayor Pam Hemminger, Town of Chapel Hill  
Kelly Holcombe, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina  
Joel Levy, Joel I. Levy, CPA  
Scott Maitland, Top of the Hill  
Lydia Mason, Piedmont Health  
Chris McClure, UNC Chapel Hill  
Poonam Nandani, Hendrick Southpoint Auto Mall  
Tola Oguntoyinbo, Vice Chair for Technology, ShineBiG  
Feedback  
Chris Peronto, Vice Chair for Strategy, Kenan-Flagler Business School  
Jennifer Player, Habitat for Humanity  
Eliazar Posada, Posada Strategy Consulting  
Anna Richards, Orange County Board of Commissioners  
Caroline Riggsbee, Pinnacle Financial Partners  
Michael Rodriguez, Subway  
Wes Rowe, Wintergreen Hospitality  
Mayor Damon Seils, Town of Carrboro  
Mark Sherburne, The Carolina Inn  
Ryan Stewart, Trinsic Residential Group  
Connolly Walker, Vice Chair for Membership, Harris & Company Insurance

**Mission**  
To serve and advance the business interests of our community and build a resilient community where business thrives.

**Vision**  
To be a resilient, globally recognized community with the talent, infrastructure, and investment that drives the success of local employers and supports world-class education, public amenities, and thriving downtowns.

**Chamber Staff**

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Aury St. Germain, MS (828.674.8982)  
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Signature Event Dates

Friday, February 3 | Chamber Annual Meeting  Presented by: Trinsic Residential Group
Join us as we bring you The Chamber’s 80th Annual Meeting in person at the Carolina Club. Help us celebrate the our local business community and get a preview of exciting developments for 2023.

Thursday, April 13 | Community Bocce Derby
This fun-filled tournament draws up to 150 participants for a lighthearted bocce competition with great food.

Thursday, May 4 | Leadership Chapel Hill-Carrboro Kickoff
Leadership is a cohort-based learning experience now in its 37th year. An extensive program designed to inform, develop, connect, and engage committed and emerging leaders in Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro.

Friday, June 16 | Business Excellence Awards  Hosted by: American Legion Post 6 Event Venue
This luncheon & awards ceremony honors exceptional businesses and leaders for their great achievements in the Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro business community. Nominations open in February.

Thursday, September 14 | State of the Community Report  Presented by: PNC & Triangle Community Foundation
In its 16th year, this annual briefing will feature a comprehensive presentation with the latest data analyzing the well-being of Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro across social, economic, and environmental indicators.

Monday, October 23 | Hendrick Golf Classic at Governors Club  Presented by: Hendrick Southpoint Auto Mall
This day-long tournament traditionally draws 100+ golfers. Golfers enjoy 18 holes in a "captain's choice" format with breakfast, lunch, and post-tournament awards.

Thursday, December 14 | Local Government Appreciation Reception
A festive December event recognizing and thanking the public servants who are committed to making Chapel Hill-Carrboro a thriving, healthy, and sustainable community.

Chamber Programs & Networks

2023 Critical Issues Series
A series of thoughtful forums convening business and community leaders on critical issues facing the Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro community.

Presented by: Chapel Hill Media Group, Servpro of South Durham & Orange County, & SBTDC
- February 23: The Economic Outlook Forum
- April 27: The Economic Development Forum
- October 3: Candidates & Electeds Breakfast
- November 30: The Legislative Forum

Women's Networking Events
Quarterly learning, relationship building, and networking opportunities for women.

Presented by: The Women of State Farm & The Women of Merrill
- January 10: Networking Social at The Siena
- May 23: Luncheon at Chapel Hill Country Club
- July 25: Networking Social at Blue Hill Event Center
- November 2: Luncheon at Fearrington Village

Chapel Hill Young Professionals
The Chapel Hill Young Professionals (CHYP), serves member employees ages 40 and under. Educational and networking events are held monthly.
- 2nd Tuesday (of most months) from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Industry Leader Small Groups
Check the Chamber’s calendar for these regular gatherings of professional peers designed to share the information, resources, and support you need so that you don’t have to lead your business alone.
- Real Estate Professionals (virtual, 1st Monday)
- Nonprofit Leaders (in-person, 4th Wednesday)
- Retail Roundtable (in-person, 1st Friday)

Black Business Alliance
A group created to convene, engage and empower Black business owners and leaders to support the growth of a thriving Black business community.
- Quarterly socials

Business After Hours Networking Events
- January 19
- March 23
- April 20
- May 18
- July 20
- August 17
- September 21
- October 19
- December 14

Ribbon Cutting or Milestone Celebrations
It is a Chamber tradition to celebrate and acknowledge member business grand openings, anniversaries, or other special milestones with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Email Aury St. Germain at astgermain@carolinachamber.org to schedule your promotional celebration!

*The above dates are subject to change. Confirm details and register online at carolinachamber.org/events
The Chamber's policy platform is made up of four pillars (economic, community, workforce, and business development) and is grounded in our four values. The Chamber Government Affairs Committee uses this policy platform to guide its advocacy efforts and educate policy makers on matters that matter to the local business community. Learn more at carolinachamber.org/advocacy

I. Economic Development
Economic development is the growth of the commercial tax base with commercial development and job creation. Done well, economic development generates economic well-being and contributes to many community benefits.

We advocate for:
- Policies and projects that create local jobs and increase the formation, retention, and relocation of businesses in our community.
- Policies that make it easier to build, renovate, and redevelop commercial property.
- Policies that promote development density, streamline regulatory requirements, and reduce regulatory hurdles.
- The development of additional commercial space, including retail, office, flex, warehouse, and manufacturing.
- The implementation of successful tools like ‘form-based code’ that create clarity and certainty for all involved.
- Proactive and cooperative recruitment of employers and industries.
- Public investment of infrastructure, such as water, sewer, and parking in the economic development districts and zones.
- Plentiful, accessible parking in the downtowns.
- A fair tax and fee system that does not negatively target nor disadvantage specific sectors or industries.

II. Community Development
Community development is the improvement of public infrastructure, amenities, and institutions that make a community a desirable place to live, learn, and work. Done well, community development improves quality of life, attracts and retains talent and employers, and fosters a more connected and vibrant community.

We advocate for:
- Improved transit and transportation infrastructure to ease local and regional commuting and reduce congestion.
- Accessible, reliable, resilient, and affordable utilities and services, including water, energy, high speed internet, and telecommunications infrastructure needed to support business continuity.
- The construction of diverse housing that accommodates projected community growth rates and improves housing affordability.
- Policies that address reductions in carbon emissions, modernize the energy grid, and keep energy prices as affordable as possible.
- Policies that support job growth and investment in the renewables and clean energy sectors.
- Creating and maintaining community amenities that foster a quality of life that attracts and retains talent and employers, including well-planned parks, sidewalks, and greenways.

III. Workforce Development
Workforce development prepares people for employment, helps workers advance in their careers, and ensures employers have the skilled workforce they need for their current and future needs. Done well, the talent pipeline is employer-led, thoughtfully managed, and increases community competitiveness.

We advocate for:
- Our public schools and an education system that prepares all our community’s children for a globally competitive world of work.
- Our community colleges and universities to be well-funded, economically impactful institutions that are responsive to the needs of regional and state employers.
- Increased access to early childhood education.
- An immigration system that gives local employers reliable access to workers they need to thrive.
- Strategic investments in, and management of, an employer-led talent pipeline that addresses local skills gaps to better meet the existing and projected workforce needs.

IV. Business Development
Business development is the establishment, expansion, and retention of revenue-generating enterprises. Done well, business development services and activities make up an innovative ecosystem that helps entrepreneurs and leaders of existing enterprises develop, grow, and sustain through all phases of their business lifecycle.

We advocate for:
- Policies, projects, and programs that make it easier to start, grow, and sustain a business in our community.
- The development and maintenance of an ecosystem that supports entrepreneurs and startups in all phases of their business lifecycle.
- Creation and expansion of municipal and county grant and loan funds.
- The increased exportation of local products and services to global customers.
**Credit Card Processing**

Member organizations get a big discount on Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express card transactions. No cancellation fees, transparent processing fees that won’t change, and no need to change banks.

**Contact:** Matt Valego • (919) 357-9972 • matt.valego@infintechnl.com

**Info:** https://infintechn.i3merchant.com/partners/chapelhill/

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**Health and Dental Care**

Piedmont Health provides affordable health and dental care to all employees and family members of Chamber member organizations regardless of insurance status. Participation is free. Primary care visits are $60 and most Rx are filled on-site for an average of $13 each.

**Contact:** Amy Rix • (919) 537-0463 • rixa@piedmonthealth.org

**Info:** carolinachamber.org/small-business-health-service

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**Office**

Exclusive discounts on Lenovo’s entire product line. Shop at our online portal lenovo.com/carolinachamber, and enter the passcode ChapelHill.

**Contact:** lenovo@carolinachamber.org

20% off your in-store Print & Marketing Services order. (Including signs, banners, decals, business cards, brochures, disposable menus, and more.) 10% off your in-store purchase of regularly priced items. (Including markers, envelopes, boxes, tape, furniture, desk accessories, coffee, snacks, and more.) Plus, earn on every purchase with Staples Rewards®

**Enroll:** carolinachamber.org/staples

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**Operations**

Competitive, stable workers’ compensation coverage for small and medium sized businesses. Talk to your current insurance agent about applying for the FBI program. **Workers’ Comp Insurance is mandated by state law if a business has three or more employees.**

**Contact:** (888) 393-2667

**Info:** carolinachamber.org/FirstBenefits

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**Explore Greece with The Chamber**

**November 3-11, 2023**

- Airfare from RDU Airport
- Extended stay in one location
- Discussions with local guest speakers
- Local olive farm plantation visit
- Tour Acropolis and Parthenon
- Ouzo tasting

**$3,299**

9 Days, 7 Nights including hotels, meals, and day trips


**FREE Marketing Opportunities Included With Your Membership!**

- Online business directory page with links: [www.carolinachamber.org/localbusinessdirectory](http://www.carolinachamber.org/localbusinessdirectory)
- Post to our Community Events Calendar
- Schedule your ribbon cutting celebration
- Offer a Member to Member Benefits discount
- Post to the Chamber’s online Job Board
- **New Members** receive social media and newsletter membership announcements

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**Custom Communications**

**Membership Matters E-Newsletter**

E-mailed to over 2,000 Chamber members:

1 banner ad: $150

**Member Exclusives Email Blast**

2,200 people receive our Member Exclusive e-newsletter with an average 30% open rate:

Single E-mail Blast: $300

4 Quarterly E-mail Blasts: $900
($75 discount for camera ready artwork)

**Sponsored Social Media Promotion**

Simultaneous posts on the Chamber’s Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter accounts:

Single Day Post: $225

**www.carolinachamber.org**

Over 38,000 unique visitors each year with more than 100,000 pageviews (15% of site traffic is on the business directory)

**Enhanced Business Directory Listing:** $300/year

**Banner Advertising:** $85/month or $900/year

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**Chamber Branded Publications**

**Chapel Hill Magazine Relocation Guide**

Reach over 10,000 visitors and potential residents with the annual Visitors & Relocation Guide. Chamber members receive a 5% discount on advertising and 10% of all sales are reinvested back into local economic and community development.

**Community Map**

10,000 copies of the Chamber’s Community Map are distributed each year to Chamber members, local residents, visitors, relocators, and businesses inquiring about membership or relocation. The map is full color and includes a large map of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, a map of Orange and northern Chatham counties as well as inset maps of the University of North Carolina and downtown Hillsborough.
Community Champions

Chamber Major Investors

Community Investors

Platinum Sponsors