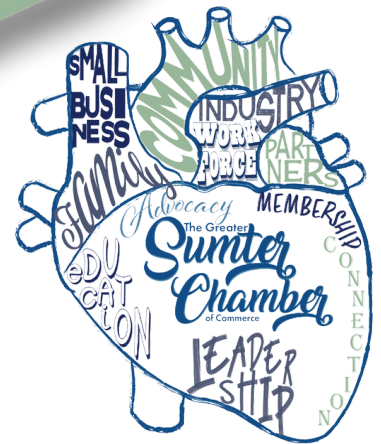


2022 ANNUAL REPORT

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Sumter, South Carolina



THE GREATER SUMTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



www.sumterchamber.com



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Chamber Partners,

Although our community is still recovering from the Covid pandemic in some ways, **YOUR Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce could not be happier** that we were able to hold all our programs and events in person in 2022. Attendance was back to pre-pandemic numbers, which goes to show why our business community is so strong.

We are still experiencing many challenges that the pandemic brought us such as workforce shortages, supply chain issues and not to mention staggering inflation. Through all these obstacles, **we are still thriving and growing as a community**. YOUR Chamber had a great year starting with our Annual Retreat in Isle of Palms and finishing with our Military Appreciation Picnic, which had not taken place since 2019.

The year 2022 brought us some new programs that we believe will help shape our community for years to come. Our new Women in Business program (SHE) was specifically designed to provide a platform where businesswomen could network, share experiences

and learn from each other. We continued to address the benefits and services that we offer while advocating for our community on a local and state level. We are **fortunate to have a state delegation that truly has Sumter's best interest at heart** and will fight to ensure Sumter remains on the state's radar.

We hope you view this report as a way for us to show you the work that we do as a community builder, community advocate and community partner. After all, the relationship that each of you have with the Chamber is in fact a partnership. **We are grateful** to have served our community for over 100 years and we look forward to sharing a fantastic 2023 with you.



Chris Hardy, IOM, CCE, CCEC
President & CEO

Meet The Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce Team



Chris Hardy, IOM, CCE, CCEC
President & CEO
chris.hardy@sumterchamber.com



Debra Mims
Office Manager
debra@sumterchamber.com



Ariel Wilkie Floyd
Director of Communications
ariel@sumterchamber.com



Breanna J. Hughes
Director of Programs & Events
breanna@sumterchamber.com

COMMITTEES *at work*

Small Business continued to focus on providing quality programs and assistance to the small business community which consisted of reworking the 2022 Small Business Week programs/events and celebration. This year, small businesses were given the opportunity to participate in a video highlight series produced by Palmetto Video + Photo. The videos were then released on social media to help promote small businesses and given to the individual businesses for their own promotions. The 2022 Small Business Week Celebration was held at The Hive @ Lavender Estate and the Chamber awarded Small Business of the Year (Air Solutions Heating and Cooling), Micro Small Business of the Year (Sumter Trophies & Engraving), and announced the Marketing Scholarship Recipient (The Well Counseling), and Social Media Contest Winner (Tri County Concrete and Curbing). The committee voted to move the FUEL program to spring of 2023 to line up with Small Business Week.

Membership continued to review member benefits and began the task of renaming the tiered dues to be more inclusive and representative of the benefits associated with each tier. Take a quick look at our banners and you will notice name changes! Chairman's Club members will now be referred to as Shareholders and President's Club members to Strategic Partners. Executive and Leadership levels will remain the same with Partner being referred to as Signature and Benefactor as Basic.

Leadership Development continued to soar to new heights as the Young Professionals of Sumter increased their membership and created a new program for women in business, SHE - See Her Empowered. YPS increased their membership and implemented new ways to give back to the Sumter Community through charitable giving and partnering with local businesses. SHE kicked their inaugural year off with two successful seminars featuring local female leaders and becoming an ATHENA Affiliate.

Existing Industry welcomed a new chair, David Eargle with Caterpillar and will begin their new efforts in 2023.

Military Affairs was finally able to resume their meetings after a hiatus due to COVID-19. With a new structure, they have begun efforts to increase communication with SHAW and ensure the current airmen and women are becoming involved in the Sumter Community and providing incoming families with valuable information to ease their transition into Sumter.

Education & Workforce Development was able to resume Career Leadership Forums and the Golden Apple Awards as they were put on hold due to COVID-19. Career Leadership Forums have seen an uptick in community participation and the Education Committee is working diligently to ensure the program meets the needs of our local schools.

Government Affairs changed its name to **Advocacy** as that is more representative of the work being done. The yearly legislative agenda was shared with state delegation and the Chamber continues to advocate for Military Retirement Income Exemption, renewal of the Angel Investment Act, Reciprocal licensing for Military Families, Comprehensive Tax Reform and much more. Participated in the SC Chamber's Business Speaks and Washington Night to hear from state and federal elected officials.

Ambassadors welcomed a new chair, Traci Nelson with Synovus Bank. They successfully reached out to new members, welcoming them to the Chamber and inviting them to programs and events. Ambassadors successfully carried out our annual Operation Thank You during the summer months delivering guides and new Chamber decals to members.



PROGRAMS *at work*

In September 2022 the eighth class of **Leadership Sumter: The Next Step** kicked off the 2022-2023 program with a retreat to Camp Cole in Eastover, SC where they learned more about teamwork and got to know each other. The following months consisted of monthly meetings led by Mark Partin & Clay Smith and in May 2023 we will welcome 20 more graduates to Leadership Sumter Alumni!

SHE - See Her Empowered held its first seminar in September of 2022 welcoming over 140 women and in December of 2022 they experienced the same success. In 2023, SAFE Federal Credit Union will begin sponsoring the SHE Program and SHE will be offering Ladies Night Out events and will host seminars in March, June, September, and December.

FUEL is typically held during the fall however, the Small Business Committee made the decision to move it to Spring 2023 so participants could graduate at our Small Business Celebration & Awards Reception.

After a two-year hiatus, we were able to reconvene the **Career Leadership Forums** where local business leaders are able to sit down with students to expose them to the possibilities the workforce has to offer. In addition, the **Golden Apple Awards**, sponsored by Caterpillar were able to begin their ceremonies recognizing students for their outstanding characteristics.

Did you know?

The Chamber partners with USC Sumter and the Sumter Economic Development Board to facilitate the Emerging Leaders Program for high school students in Sumter & Lee County. This program prepares students for leadership through monthly interactive models. Each session is designed to provide insight on the innerworkings of the community allowing students to utilize critical thinking skills and team building to explore and create solutions for self awareness and community development.

The Chamber made the decision to sunset the First Friday Breakfast Series and implemented a new program reflective of the wants and needs of the Sumter business community. The **Feed Your Mind Seminar Series** is a series of programs throughout the calendar year that are intentional about bringing education and awareness to the Sumter Community. Four new seminars were created and will be included in the Feed Your Mind Seminar Series. The seminars included in this series are:

- SC State Chamber Grassroots Tour
- Commander's Breakfast
- Sumter's State of Education *
- Legislative Breakfast
- State of Sumter *
- State of Healthcare *
- State of the Economy *

**Indicates a new seminar*

Feed Your Mind Podcast is a new podcast series hosted by the Chamber featuring various leaders in the Sumter Community and covering a multitude of topics. Sessions are aired on WDXY and recorded at our local radio station, Community Broadcasters. You can find our podcasts on Apple Podcasts!



EVENTS *at work*

The 2022 50th **Annual Retreat** Golden Past, Platinum Future presented by Quixote Club & Thompson Family of Companies welcomed over 225 attendees to the Wild Dunes Resort in Isle of Palms, SC. Speakers included: Steve Gilliland, Daniel Shoy Jr., Allen Smith, and Sammy Way.

Rub O' The Green presented by Waccamaw Dermatology had 59 event sponsors and 116 golfers!

Porches of Sumter presented by FTC and The Well Counseling Services had 21 event sponsors and 340 attendees!

Member Appreciation Picnic Chamber staff and volunteers served over 60 members hotdogs and hamburgers to show our thanks and appreciation to our amazing members!

After a two year hiatus, the **Military Appreciation Picnic**, presented by SAFE was a huge success with 25 Chamber businesses present and our volunteers served over 700 airmen and women!

Seven **Business After Hours** were hosted by Chamber members: Kiwanis Club of Sumter & USC Sumter, Central Carolina Technical College, Synovus Bank, Tandem Health, Bank of Clarendon, USC Sumter, Galloway & Moseley.

Annual Awards Gala presented by Thompson Family of Companies was held at La Piazza featuring music by D.J. Howie D. Kim Hatchell turned the gavel over to new Chamber Board President, Cary Coker and 8 awards announced.

Talmadge Tobias, *Philip L. Edwards Business Person OTY*

Josh Glenn, *Young Professional OTY*

Brent King, *Chairman's Award*

John Crosswell Home for Children, *Non Profit OTY*

Laura Lyles, *Elementary School Educator OTY*

Katherine Peyton, *Middle School Educator OTY*

Ann-Frances Brown, *High School Educator OTY*

TSgt. Elizabeth Tapley, *Military Citizen OTY*

This year's **Holiday Social** presented by FTC started the holiday season off right with almost 200 guests in attendance!

Small Business Celebration & Awards

Ceremony held at The Hive @ Lavender Estate hosted 66 guests and presented the following awards:

Sumter Trophies & Engraving, *Micro Small Business OTY*

Air Solutions Heating & Cooling, *Small Business OTY*

The Well Counseling Services, *Marketing Scholarship*

Tri County Concrete & Curbing, *Social Media Contest*



ORGANIZATIONAL Excellence

The Chamber

- Created a new 2022-2025 Strategic plan and presented it at the 2022 Annual Retreat in Isle of Palms.
- The Chamber Board of Directors voted to support the 2022 Pennies for Progress renewal referendum.
- Remains an active participant in our National Chamber association ACCE while learning best practices from Chamber professionals across the country.

Breanna J. Hughes

- Completed her first year at the Institute of Organizational Management hosted by US Chamber of Commerce
- Board Chair for The Advocacy Pregnancy and Parenting Resource Center
- Board member of the Young Professionals of Sumter (Vice Chair) and Crimestoppers
- Serves on the Sumter Senior Services planning committee and ESteam planning committee
- Completed the Chamber's Leadership Sumter Program

Thank you!



Debra Mims has been the Office Manager for 22 years and her dedication to the Chamber is unmatched! Thank you, Debra, for the many ways you contribute to the Chamber!

- Finalist for the CACCE Communications in Excellence award.
- Received the 2022 Best of Sumter award for "Best Networking Organization"
- Continues to review current policies and has been intentional with ensuring Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are woven into the Chamber's body of work.
- Will be adding a new team member in 2023 to focus on Partner Development.

Chris Hardy

- Received his Certified Chamber of Commerce Executive designation from CACCE at the Annual Management Conference in Statesville, NC.
- Served as a speaker during the 2022 Staff Development Conference for CACCE and presented YOUR Chamber's body of work in relation to Education and Workforce Development.
- Serves on the Board of Directors for the Carolina's Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.
- Chris currently serves as the President-Elect for the Rotary Club of Sumter.
- Chris serves on the Sumter Accommodations Tax Advisory Board.
- Chris is a member of the Sumter Economic Development Board.

Ariel Wilkie Floyd

- Completed the ATHENA International Women's Leadership Program and will complete ATHENA facilitator training the end of this month.
- Serves on the board of Young Professionals of Sumter, SHE - See Her Empowered, Sumter Senior Services Planning Committee.
- County Chair for Sumter's 2023 Ag & Art Tour
- Provisional member for the Sumter Junior Welfare League
- Maintained a 3.9 GPA in her Master's program and will graduate in Spring 2023 with an MA in English Creative Writing.

THE GREATER
SUMTER CHAMBER 20
OF COMMERCE 22

YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

220

**NEW
MEMBERS**



987

MEMBERS



78

**PROGRAMS
& EVENTS**

35

**RIBBON
CUTTINGS**



OVER

2,500

IN EVENT ATTENDANCE

SPONSORS

178

**PROGRAM
& EVENT**



3,572

**Email
Subscribers**



6,826

**Social Media
Followers**



1,468

**E-newsletters
sent**

**CHAMBER
of COMMERCE**

Sumter, South Carolina



THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS FOR AN INCREDIBLE YEAR!

Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce Executive Board

Chair: Cary Coker, *Nu-Idea School Supply*

Chair – Elect: Jimmy Davis, *Air Solutions Heating and Cooling*

Immediate Past Chair: Kim Hatchell, *Galloway & Moseley Jewelers*

Vice Chair Small Business: Patina Calhoun, *Audri J's, Elephants & More, SO COOL*

Director: Cheryl Baker, *Hyatt Place Sumter*

Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Director: Charlie Allen, *Black River Electric Cooperative*

Past Chairs Council: Mitchell Williams, *MVEST Wealth Partners*

Director: Jennifer Sonntag, *Sumter Utilities, Inc.*

Vice Chair, Existing Industry: David Eargle, *Caterpillar*

Ex – Officio

Josh Glenn, *STIFEL The Glenn Group*

Deron McCormick, *City Manager*

James McCain, *Sumter County Council*

David Merchant, *Mayor of Sumter*

Thomas McElveen, *South Carolina State Senate*

Gary Mixon, *Sumter County Administrator*

Greg Thompson, *Thompson Industries, Sumter County Econ. Dev. Board*

Julian Bargas, Jr. , *GS-14 DAFC, Shaw Air Force Base, 20th Mission Support Group*

Thank you

TO OUR CHAMBER PARTNERS!

**CHAMBER
of COMMERCE**

Sumter, South Carolina

