

Benefits of Membership

Business Advocate: The Chamber works as your voice at local, regional, and state agencies on emerging critical issues that pertain to your business, organization or industry.

Business Before/After Hours: These monthly events are hosted by Chamber members and offer an exciting time to make new and lasting business contacts. Each informal gathering provides you with the opportunity to promote your business to fellow Chamber members. Detailed information on hosting a Business Before Hours or Business After Hours at your business location can be found at www.kinstonchamber.com

Business Showcase: Showcase your services and/or products to the community through this annual show. The Chamber offers you the opportunity to exhibit your business before hundreds of potential customers in one day.

Chamber Newsletter: *Business Update*, the Chamber's twice-monthly newsletter now published in The Free Press will keep you up to date with information and developments in the business community.

Chamber Website: The Chamber's website www.kinstonchamber.com, is the premiere information source about Lenoir County. The website contains an on-line membership directory and the most up to date Chamber and community information. The Chamber website is also the home of the area's **Community Calendar** listing events and meetings. The Calendar's interactive functionality makes it easy for users to post their own events.

Committees: The Chamber is a volunteer driven organization. Various committees work on projects and programs that will benefit membership. Volunteering for a committee that interests you provides an excellent opportunity to work shoulder to shoulder with other community leaders and prospective new clients. Current committees include: Membership Services, Special Projects, Governmental Affairs, Diversity Affairs, Agri-Business, Community Development, Business and Tourism Development, Manufacturing and Industry and Education.

Fast Fax/Email: This mailing service provides an opportunity to promote your business with advertising reaching Chamber business professionals and their employees within Lenoir County and adjacent areas at a reasonable rate.

Internet Membership Directory: Thanks to www.kinstonchamber.com, Chamber members now have Internet exposure for their business at no additional cost. All Chamber members are listed on the Chamber's web site membership directory for 24/7 access. The online membership directory will provide a link to your company's website and email address. Members may choose up to three different categories for their listing. Visitors to the site can search for businesses alphabetically, by category or by name. New Chamber members are additionally listed under the new member button. Promotional upgrades for your business or organization's listing are available at a nominal fee.

Membership Directory: The Chamber's printed guide to the goods and services of Lenoir County is the annually published Membership Directory. Newcomers and visitors use the directory as a quick reference for the established businesses and services of Lenoir County. It is distributed to all member business, real estate agencies, and hotels as well as other outlets including the Visitor's Center. The directory gives each member two free listings (alphabetically and categorically) and the opportunity to purchase additional advertising.

Membership Decal: Display it proudly so that all who visit your establishment will know that you are a quality business that made an investment in our community to ensure that Lenoir County remains a great place to work, live, and visit. Your decal demonstrates your commitment to the community by becoming a part of the vision and strategies of the most influential business organization in Lenoir County.

Monthly Relocation List: Find out who is planning to move to Lenoir County and begin marketing your business to them first.

Newcomer/Visitor Packages: Information is sent to business professionals, individuals, and retirees and others who are considering moving or visiting Lenoir County. Among other items, each package contains the Membership Directory and provides directions to the Chamber website thus promoting your business.

Professional Development: Education and information are a big part of what your Chamber is all about. Learn new business skills at a variety of seminars, workshops, President roundtable discussion groups, and "Leadership Lenoir."

Quick Updates: Email/fax updates are sent to members only. This notification includes various Chamber tidbits of information, Upcoming Events, and special announcements. It one more way the Chamber of Commerce communicates to members the most up to date information.

Referrals: The Chamber has always been known as the primary source of information for residents, tourists, and newcomers and the place to look for businesses, goods, and services. Each year the Chamber makes thousands of telephone, walk-in and e-mail referrals to its members. Plus, Chamber members receive referrals from the Chamber's web site, www.kinstonchamber.com.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies: The Chamber will arrange for city or county officials, Chamber Ambassadors, Board Members, and community representatives to attend ribbon cuttings that promote a new business opening or expansion, new branch location, or new management or ownership. Detailed information and a Planning Guide can be found on the Chamber web site at www.kinstonchamber.com

Special Events: Members are encouraged to take advantage of sponsoring and attending high profile events: Annual Banquet, Administrative Professionals Luncheon, Membership Campaign, Business Showcase, Festival on the Neuse, Planning Conference, Business Before/After Hours, Membership Receptions, Leadership Lenoir, President's Forum-Straight Talk, Annual Reverse Drawing, Wake-Up Lenoir, and the various Chamber community events. Members choosing to sponsor events enjoy high visibility as well as recognition in the advertising, marketing, and press venue used for each event. Detailed information about joining the Presidents Club sponsorship program, can be found on the Chamber website at www.kinstonchamber.com.

Tax Deduction: Chamber membership is considered by the IRS to be a necessary business expense.

United States Chamber of Commerce Membership: Also accompanying your membership investment with the Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce is a federation partnership with the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Call the Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce at 252.527.1131 for more information on becoming a Chamber Member.