

Chapter Two

About the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

Overview

Our Chamber Mission

The Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to serving the Wilmington area business community by: strengthening the business environment, listening to our members and providing them with benefits and services to support their success: advocating positions on those business-related issues most beneficial to our members and to the community and participating in initiatives that positively affect the quality of life in the community. Our Mission is enhanced through proactive leadership and partnerships throughout Southeastern North Carolina.

What is the Chamber of Commerce?

The Greater Wilmington Chamber is the largest business leadership organization in the region, uniting business and professional firms to accomplish collectively what cannot be done individually. While it is organized as a not-for-profit corporation, it operates as a business and lives within its financial means. We are a non-partisan, 501 (c) 6 business organization.

The Chamber's efforts are focused on five major areas – member services, education, government, infrastructure, and environment. Through our work in these arenas, we play a critical role in strengthening our local economy and improving our community's quality of life for you and your employees.

What We're Not!

The Greater Wilmington Chamber is not a department of the city, county or state government; nor are we a social, service or charitable institution.

Who Are Its Members?

The Chamber's 1,700 members include the largest and most successful businesses in the region, recently organized start-ups, and almost every conceivable business in-between. What our members share in common is a commitment to Wilmington as a place to invest, do business and live!

Who Calls the Shots?

The Chamber is governed by a 40 member Board of Directors that is representative of the range of businesses among the organization's membership. Elected directors serve 3-year terms with five being elected each year. Other directors are elected by the board (six 1 year terms) or serve by virtue of leadership positions they hold. The President hires and manages the professional staff of 13 members.

Benefits of Membership

Business Contacts

Meet the decision makers of member firms at networking functions such as Member Orientation, Annual Meeting, Chamber of Commerce Golf Open and Business After Hours.

Advertising that Works

Promote your business to more than 4,000 prospects with 2 free listings in the Chamber's Business Directory. Members may also advertise in the weekly Friday Fax, Insert Mailer Program, *ROI: Return on Investment* (the Chamber's bi-monthly newsletter), Newcomer Resource Guide or on the Chamber's website.

Newcomer Lead Program

A weekly list of potential newcomers to the region is available by subscription from the Chamber.

Current Business News

Concise information about current Chamber projects and how your investment is being used to help your business is contained in the ROI: Return on Investment, the weekly Friday Fax, the Chamber's web site and other timely communication pieces to members.

Helpful Facts and Figures

The Chamber maintains demographic information, maps, a video and general lifestyle information.

Business Referrals

The Chamber responds to over 500 inquiries per month about specific services available in Wilmington. We only refer Chamber member companies. Referral cards are sent each month to members to let them know they were referred.

The Chamber's web site receives an average of 23,000 visits each month. Monthly traffic continues to increase.

Board of Directors

2007 Officers

James S. "Jim" Bryan, Chairman, First Citizens Bank

Louise McColl, First Vice Chair, McColl and Associates, Inc.

Vinton E. Fountain III, Second Vice Chair, Fountain Financial Associates, Inc.

Windell Daniels, Immediate Past Chm., United National Tours

David N. Smith, Treasurer, RSM McGladrey, Inc.

Herb P. McKim, Jr., Vice Chair – Infrastructure, McKim & Creed

Camilla Herlevich, Vice Chair – Environment, NC Coastal Land Trust

Jackie Joyner, Vice Chair – Governmental Affairs, Progress Energy

Randall C. “Randy” Tomsic, Vice Chair – Membership, Wachovia Bank

J. Dickson McLean, Chairman’s Appointment to the Executive Committee, Helms Mullis and Wicker, PLLC

Connie Majure-Rhett, President and CEO, Greater Wilmington Chamber

2007 Directors:

Jack Barto, New Hanover Health Network

Kathleen Baylies, Just for Buyers Realty, Inc.

Laura Cavagnaro, Attorney at Law

A. Scott Cromartie, Stevens Mortgage Consulting, Inc.

Bob Gruber, Star News

Bill King, INVISTA

David A. Kingman, David A. Kingman, CPA, Inc.

Emily Longley, Longley Supply Company

Phillip Marion, Jr., BB&T

Ronnie McNeill, Liberty Health Care

Dr. Stewart W. Point, Delaney Radiologists

Carolyn Polston, Edward Jones

Dr. Howard Rasheed, Institute for Innovation (Black Chamber Council)

Jon Rosborough, Wilmington International Airport

Thomas Rumsey, General Electric Company

David Sweyer, Sr., Century 21 Sweyer and Associates

Raiford Trask, III, Autumn Hall

Ken Weeden, Ken Weeden & Associates, Inc.

To Be Named, Hispanic/Latino Council

Ex-officio Directors:

Ronnie Burbank, Wilmington Downtown, Inc.

Chairman Bill Caster, New Hanover County Commissioners

Dr. Rosemary DePaolo, Chancellor, UNCW

Glenda Flynn, Wrightsville Beach Chamber of Commerce

Bruce Holsten, Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Eric McKeithan, Cape Fear Community College

Dr. John Morris, Jr., New Hanover County Schools

Franklin D. “F.D.” Rivenbark, Pender County Board of Commissioners

Mayor Bill Saffo, City of Wilmington

David Sandifer, Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Need Assistance?

Call your Chamber Staff!

Key Staff Contacts

Connie Majure-Rhett	President & CEO	762-2611, ext. 214
Faye Dunaway	Chief Operating Officer	762-2611, ext. 211
Tom Cunningham	Vice Pres., Community Development	762-2611, ext. 204
Vera Weiss	Vice Pres., Organization Development	762-2611, ext. 209
Stephanie Mannen	Account Executive	762-2611, ext. 206
Lorene Champlin	Account Executive	762-2611, ext. 221
Joanie Martin	Account Executive	762-2611, ext. 223
Megan Winslett	Education & Chamber Foundation Dir.	762-2611, ext. 213
Kathryn Freeman	Member Services	762-2611, ext. 212
Scott Czechlewski	Communications	762-2611, ext. 216
Mary Jacobs	Staff Assistant	762-2611, ext. 202
Jean Crouse	Receptionist	762-2611, ext. 200

As soon as you hear the recording, press the appropriate employee extension (see above) and you'll be connected to that employee, or if that employee is not available, that employee's voice mail. If you need to speak with someone immediately just press "0" for the operator.