



# BEAUFORT, SC

REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Let's Do Business.*

# Together.



# *Who* **WE ARE**

## **The Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce is:**

An independent network of local leaders representing business of every size and sector.

Advocates for a strong business climate and a prosperous future for the Beaufort region.

United by a belief that successful businesses are the cornerstone of a thriving community.

# *What* **WE DO**

## **Support Local Businesses**

through Advocacy, Information, and Connections

## **Grow the Economy**

through Partnerships, Sectors, and Military

## **Build Leadership Capacity**

through Vision, Insight and Organization

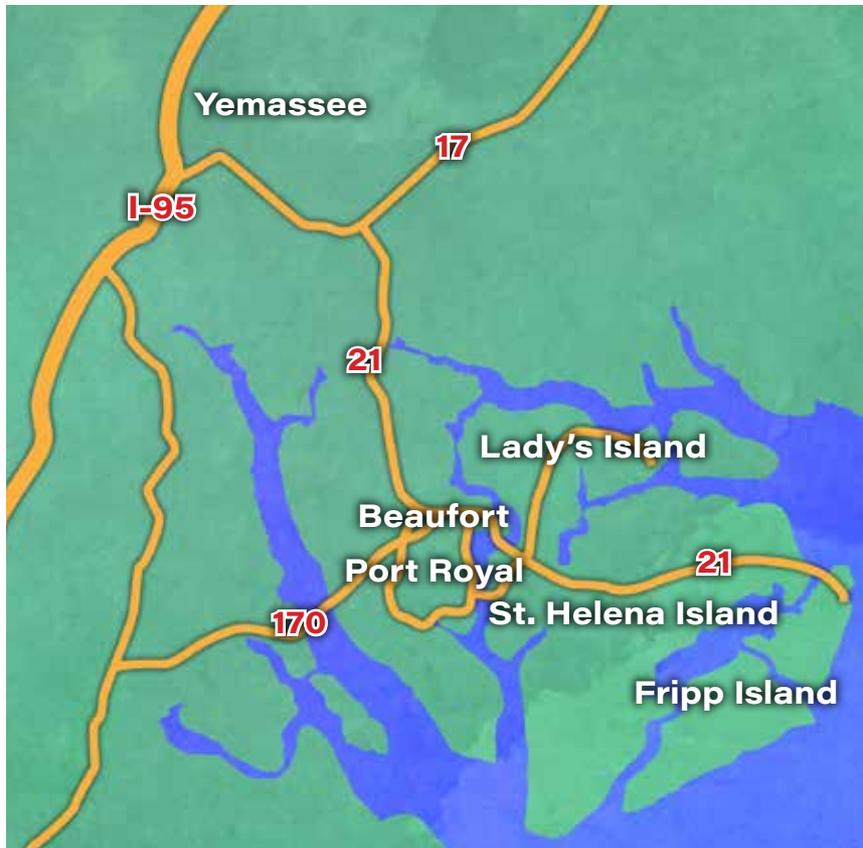
# *Our* **VISION**

A thriving region based on a resilient economy, today and for the future.

# *Our* **MISSION**

We promote economic prosperity to enhance the well-being of everyone in our region.

# *Our* **REGION**





# Support

## Local Businesses

Successful, profitable local businesses are the backbone of a vibrant regional economy. The Chamber provides advocacy, information and connections that help local businesses prosper.

### Advocacy

- Actionable public policy agenda to improve the region's business climate.
- Dialog with local, state, and federal elected officials to advocate for businesses.

### Information

- Curated news, perspectives, resources and promotion opportunities.
- Seminars with innovative thinkers and best practice leaders.

### Connections

- Frequent, well-organized opportunities to interact with other business leaders.
- Unique ways to brand your business and reach target customers.

*Let's do business.* **Together.**

## Key Sectors

Military & Defense

Technology & Cyber Security

Hospitality & Leisure

Health Care & Wellness

Advanced Manufacturing

Real Estate Development



*Build*

# Leadership Capacity

A prosperous future demands planning and advocacy today by visionary leaders with reliable information through a well-equipped organization.

## Vision

- Use convening power of the Chamber Board to engage with regional leaders from other sectors.
- Engage chamber members in future visioning through events and surveys.

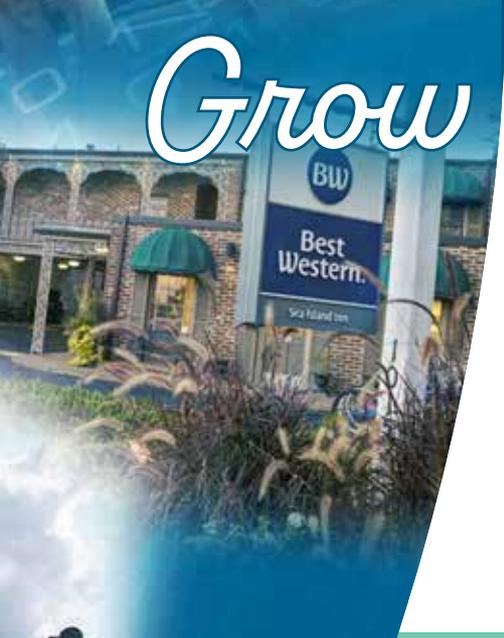
## Insight

- Track and report on key regional economic, workforce, and demographic data.
- Publish reports, release op-eds, and offer commentary about significant regional issues.

## Organization

- Grow membership and revenue by attracting new members and upgrade existing members.
- Deepen member engagement in strategic work areas

*Let's Shape the Future.* **Together.**



*Grow*

# the Economy

Multiple strong employment sectors will create a more resilient economy. The Chamber works with partners to promote the region's target growth sectors and strengthen existing economic pillars, specifically the region's military installations.

## Partnerships

- Establish partnerships with allied organizations working to promote economic growth.
- Use advocacy, convening and communication strengths to advance partner's missions.

## Sectors

- Convene member businesses by economic sector to assess needs and explore opportunities.
- Organize work groups and share economic/employment data to advance key sectors.

## Military

- Advocate for policies, programs and investments needed to secure the region's military missions.
- Identify and promote opportunities to attract complementary missions by building on existing assets.

*Let's create jobs.* **Together.**



# Signature

## EVENTS

The Chamber's signature events are annual milestones for the business community. They are designed to connect individuals, create business opportunities, and propel the Chamber's mission.

### Economic Forecast

At this morning event our guest speaker will explain national trends shaping the economy over the coming year. We will also highlight local economic bright spots and track progress with our region's Prosperity Dashboard.

### Legislative Reception

Mix with elected officials and local business leaders over a glass of wine as we recap pro-business public policy enacted at the Statehouse during the legislative session.

### Educator Appreciation Breakfast

Thank the people who devote their lives to inspiring young minds. This expo format event will also give businesses a chance to reach hundreds of household decision makers.

### Civitas Awards

A popular event designed to recognize outstanding individuals and organizations in our community. Celebrate with the community's leaders with great food, music and awards presentations.

### Salute to Service

The beloved Military Appreciation Day is now even bigger. On Veteran's Day we will thank everyone who wears or has ever worn the uniform – active duty, retirees, veterans and their families. Join for a community-wide celebration including live music, food, family activities and exhibitor space.

# Member **PROGRAMS**

The Chamber organizes multiple opportunities each month for members to connect, learn and do business.

## Coffee with Colleagues

Begin the workday by making a new contact. These monthly events are designed for busy people to network while enjoying their morning coffee. Members have an opportunity to host.

## Business After Hours

Socialize and reconnect over a drink and a bite at an area business. These monthly events are an opportunity to wind down while networking. Members have an opportunity to host.

## Workshops

Offered electronically or in-person, Chamber workshops connect members to timely and practical information and training to apply in their business.

## Grand Openings and Milestone Celebrations

The Beaufort region celebrates business investments. Let the Chamber help mark your business opening, anniversary or milestone with a ribbon cutting event.

# Leadership **PROGRAMS**

## Leadership Beaufort

Established in 1985, Leadership Beaufort is a 9-month, cohort-based community immersion program. Selected participants get a holistic view of the region and learn how to make a difference.

## Leadership Alumni

Program graduates continue community engagement and keep connections strong through an active alumni group.

## Senior Leadership

Similar in structure to Leadership Beaufort, the senior program offers a smaller group and a program structured targeted for retired community members.

## Junior Leadership

Newly launched program with content designed to expose high school students to career and engagement opportunities in their community.





# ADVOCACY

Advocating on behalf of businesses with state, local and federal governments is essential to fulfilling the Chamber's mission. Every year, the Chamber publishes a Public Policy Agenda with specific, actionable legislative priorities at every level of government. Our agenda is shaped by Guiding Principles and focused on top business and community issues like:

## Affordable Housing

Support incentives and market-driven solutions to ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing options for everyone in the region.

## Business Climate

Advocate for regulatory processes and business fee structures that are clear, predictable, efficient and cost-effective.

## Economic Development

Support tax policies and economic development programs that help the region attract, retain and expand businesses and industries that create high quality jobs.

## Education and Workforce Development

Advocate for the changes necessary in early childhood, K-12 and higher education to prepare all students for the careers of the future and to provide a skilled workforce to support the region's employers.

## Infrastructure

Make investments necessary to ensure adequate capacity and maintenance of our transportation network and flood protections including roads, bridges, pedestrian and bike facilities, shoreline and stormwater infrastructure.

## Tax Climate

Advocate for a competitive, pro-growth tax climate that ensures fairness, predictability, and compliance while balancing income, property and sales tax levies.



# MILITARY

The Beaufort region is home to three military installations - Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, and Naval Hospital Beaufort - which house multiple training and force readiness missions that are vital to national defense. Combined, the installations generate \$2.4 billion annually in economic activity annually and support nearly 20,000 people.

Ensuring that local military installations are well supported by the community and at all levels of government is a top priority for the Chamber. We advocate for policies and investments that promote the retention and expansion of military operations in the Beaufort region.



# BOARDS, COMMITTEES *and* COUNCILS

Volunteer leaders add capacity to advance the Chamber's mission through service on boards, councils and committees.

## Board of Directors

Represents the membership by providing oversight, establishing policy and setting strategic direction for the Chamber.

**Chair:** Jennifer Tuckwiller, Carolina Air, Inc.

## Finance Committee

Provides oversight of resources and works to ensure the Chamber is financially and operationally equipped to accomplish its mission. Comprised of sitting Board Members

**Chair:** Liz Mitchum, Adams Outdoor Advertising

## Public Policy Committee

Monitors local, state and federal public policy issues germane to the Chamber, and recommends new legislative priorities and positions to the Board of Directors. Members are appointed by the Board Chair.

**Chair:** Kendall Erickson, Robinson Grant & Co.

## Nominating Committee

Provides oversight of resources and works to ensure the Chamber is financially and operationally equipped to accomplish its mission. Comprised of sitting Board Members and emeritus chairmen of the board.

## Community Advancement Council

Member forum to discuss emerging issues relevant to promoting the region's economic prosperity.

## Chamber Ambassadors

Ambassadors actively promote membership in the Chamber, facilitate networking among members and encourage meaningful participation and involvement in Chamber programs.



# Chamber LEADERSHIP

## Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is a group of dedicated volunteers who establish policy and set strategic direction for the Chamber.

### Officers

**Chair:**

**Jennifer Tuckwiller**, Carolina Air, Inc.

**Chair-Elect:**

**Graham Somerall**, Hargray

**Past Chair:**

**Ben Coppinge**, Coppinge Law Firm, LLC

**Treasurer:**

**Liz Mitchum**, Adams Outdoor Advertising

**Director-at-Large:**

**Russell Baxley**, Beaufort Memorial Hospital

### Board Members

**Jessica Bridges**, Technical College of the Lowcountry

**Mark Cutler**, Truist

**Caroline Fermin**, Parris Island Historical and Museum Society

**Jason Ferrell**, Blythe Construction, Inc.

**Janet Gresham**, Beaufort-Jasper County REALTORS

**Patrick Harris**, Harris Pillow Supply, Inc.

**Hope Lanier - Freeman**, BP America

**Robert LeFavi, Ph.D.**, University of South Carolina Beaufort

**Nick Mesenburg**, Lockheed Martin

**Beth Shaw**, Breakwater Restaurant & Bar

**Dick Stewart**, 303 Associates, L.L.C.

**Whit Suber**, Grey Ghost Properties, LLC

**Thomas Tayloe**, Kinghorn Insurance Agency of Beaufort

**Evan Wheeler**, Dominion Energy

**Christina Wilson**, CAPA

**Rita Wilson**, AlphaGraphics

## Chamber Staff

The Chamber's professional team works every day to support member businesses and execute the Chamber's strategic plan.

**Ian D. Scott**, President & CEO

**Susan Fogelman**, Membership Development Director

**Megan Morris**, Member Services Director

**Ginger Olszewski**, Operations Manager

**Myrna Cruz**, Financial Controller



# Leadership Circle

Investments by these businesses and organizations advance the Chamber's mission and sustain its operation.

## Visionaries



Beaufort Memorial



## Champion



## Advocates



# INVESTORS

## Leaders

- Alpha Genesis, Inc.
- Bank of America Merrill Lynch
- Beaufort County
- Beaufort Inn
- Berman Property Group, LLC
- Better Collision
- Brunson Construction Company
- Butler Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
- Carolina Air, Inc.
- Coastal Community Foundation
- Coppage Law Firm, LLC
- Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Bluffton
- First Citizens Bank & Trust Co. of SC
- Forino Company
- Habersham Land Company
- Harvey & Battey, P.A.
- LS3P Associates
- Magnus Development Partners, LLC
- Mitchell Brothers, Inc.
- Parker's Convenience Stores
- Pepsi Beverages Company of Beaufort
- Regions Bank
- South State Bank
- Technical College of the Lowcountry
- University of South Carolina Beaufort



# BEAUFORT, SC

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