



# 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 businesses 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 and support each local industry sector.
- Dialog with local, state, and federal elected officials to advocate for businesses and the people who work in the region.

## **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, collegial businesses, and consumers.
- 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

Business & Financial Services

Education



# *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 in other sectors and government.
- Engage chamber investors in future visioning through events, surveys, round tables, and strategic planning.

## **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 investment and revenue by attracting new investors and upgrading existing investors.
- Deepen investor 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 and create collaboration to drive economic growth.
- Use advocacy and communication strengths to advance missions of partner organizations.

## **Sectors**

- Convene investor 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.

### State of the Region

The Chamber hosts the State of the Region breakfast for investors to interact with, and hear from, community leaders and industry experts. Content is focused on local public policy, the latest economic data, and key sector updates in our region. Make valuable connections and receive timely information to support your business strategy.

### 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 and hear updates from local municipal representatives.

### Young Professionals Gala

The inaugural signature event for the Lowcountry Young Professionals will be a night of food, fun, and friendship. All who are in the early stages of their career are welcome to join, with special recognition given to the Civitas Buzzworthy Award Finalists. This is a celebration of networking and programming geared towards Young Professionals in support of retention in our region's workforce.

### Civitas Awards

This semi-formal award ceremony is a popular tradition designed to recognize outstanding individuals and organizations in our community. Celebrate with the community's leaders with great food, music and awards presentations. Nominations for the awards are made by fellow Chamber members.

### Military Appreciation Event

Join us for a community-wide celebration of everyone who wears or has ever worn the uniform – active duty, retirees, veterans and their families – featuring live music, food, family activities, exhibitor space and special appearances by military leaders.



# *Investor* PROGRAMS

The Chamber organizes multiple opportunities each month for investors 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. Investors 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. Investors have an opportunity to host.

## **Maximize Your Membership**

New Chamber investors, and ones who may like a “refresher course,” are welcome to attend Maximize Your Membership. This informative session is an orientation to Chamber benefits, so investors can utilize tools and understand the value of their investment.

## **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.

Other programs, like Lunch & Learns and Speaker Series allow investors to connect & receive valuable information.

# *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.

## **Lowcountry Young Professionals**

Recruiting and retaining prime workforce aged citizens is the one of the larger initiatives of our region. While businesses do their part, the Chamber hosts a Young Professionals network to connect, unite, and develop the area’s future leaders. Activities include monthly socials, professional development programs, and a signature event.



# COMMITTEES *and* COUNCILS

## 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.

## 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.

## Nominating Committee

Oversees Board tenure and recruit new members to the Board of Directors, reflecting a diverse group to represent the region's business environment. Comprised of sitting Board Members.

## Community Advancement Council

Serves as a member forum to discuss emerging issues relevant to promoting the region's economic prosperity. Open to all Chamber investors.

## Lowcountry Land Council

Promotes best practice in sustainable development, reviews public policies that have implications for land development, dialogs with local officials, makes recommendations to the Chamber's Public Policy Committee for consideration. Members are an interdisciplinary group of development professionals.

## Chamber Ambassadors

Ambassadors actively promote membership in the Chamber, facilitate networking among investors and encourage meaningful participation and involvement in Chamber programs. New Ambassadors are welcomed each January.

# 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 \$2.5 billion annually in economic activity and support nearly 20,000 people.

The Military Enhancement Committee (MEC) of Beaufort County works with community and government partners to sustain and enhance the quality and value of the military installations of Beaufort County. The MEC is comprised of nine voting members appointed by public and private entities from around the region.







# 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.

## Executive Committee

**Nick Mesenburg**, Lockheed Martin

**Mark Cutler**, Ameris Bank

**Graham Somerall**, Hargray

**Liz Ware**, Adams Outdoor

**Courtney Worrell**, 303 Associates

## Chamber Staff

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

**Megan Morris**, President & CEO

**Scott Bowman**, Membership Development Director

**Hannah Myatt**, Operations Manager

**Myrna Cruz**, Financial Controller

**Mary Mitchell**, Administrative Specialist

## Board Members

**Russel Baxley**, Beaufort Memorial Hospital

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

**Roger Bright**, Forino Builders

**Monique Dawson**, Dawson & Dawson Homecare

**Caroline Fermin**, Individual

**Jason Ferrell**, Blythe Construction

**Chris Fisher**, Coastal Waste and Recycling

**Kevin Ford**, Dominion Energy

**Tom Frost**, Fripp Island Resort

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

**Pinky Harriott**, University of South Carolina Beaufort

**Ethan James**, Charter One Realty

**Lisa Philp**, Mitchell Brothers, LLC

**Dr. Frank Rodriguez**, Beaufort County School District

**Whit Suber**, SC21, LLC

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

**Rita Wilson**, AlphaGraphics

# Leadership Circle INVESTORS

Current as of 8/1/2024

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

## Visionaries



Beaufort Memorial



## Champions



HARGRAY



## Advocates





## Partners

Adams Outdoor Advertising	M. B. Kahn Construction Co.
Alpha Genesis, Inc.	Magnus Development Partners, LLC
Beaufort Construction of SC, LLC	Mitchell Brothers, Inc.
Beaufort County School District	Pepsi Beverages Company of Beaufort
Beaufort Inn	Power Washing Man
Better Collision	Regions Bank
Brunson Construction Company	SC21, LLC
Butler Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram	South Atlantic Bank
Clark Landscapes	South State Bank
Coastal States Bank	Sprenger Health Care Systems
Coppage Law Firm, LLC	Stinger Home Management
First Citizens Bank & Trust Co. of SC	Technical College of the Lowcountry
First Watch Daytime Café	Town of Yemassee
Forino Company	University of South Carolina Beaufort
Habersham Land Company	VIVO Living Port Royal
Harvey & Battey, P.A.	Wood + Partners, Inc.
Jah' Lion Grill & Bar	



# BEAUFORT, SC

## REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



[www.beaufortchamber.org](http://www.beaufortchamber.org)

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