

Membership Guide



- Ribbon Cuttings
- Business Resources
- Networking Programs
- Educational Programs
- Weekly Update E-mails
- Website Listings

Washington Area Chamber of Commerce

323 West Main Street • Washington, MO 63090

info@washmo.org • (636) 239-2715

www.washmochamber.org

Get to know your Chamber...



With over 500 members and an annual operating budget that exceeds \$2 million, the Washington Area Chamber of Commerce has been ranked the second-largest chamber in the region by the St. Louis Business Journal. Our chamber, founded in 1923, is unique because we have three main operating components; the Chamber Office, the Washington Town & Country Fair, and the Washington Division of Tourism. The Town & Country Fair is the third-largest fair in the state, bringing five days of fun and entertainment to Washington every August. In 1999, a lodging tax was created, with proceeds going specifically towards marketing Washington as a tourist destination. The Director of Tourism has been employed by the Chamber since the position was created.

2018 Chamber Board of Directors

Chairman

Dave Politte
(Zick, Voss, Politte, &
Richardson, P.C.)

First Vice Chair

Dan Cassette
(Cassette Electric)

Second Vice Chair

Paul Brune
(MFA Co-Cop Assoc. #2)

Executive Board Members: Jay Nowak (Bank of Washington), Andy Robinson (School District of Washington). **Ex-Officio:** Sandy Anderson (Citizens Bank)

Directors: Becky Cox (Four Rivers Area YMCA), Scott Hillermann (Hillermann Nursery & Florist), Joe Maniaci (Performance Food Group), Tanya McCormack (Mercy), Craig Mueller (Imo's Pizza, Sugar-fire Smokehouse), Jay Nowak (Bank of Washington), Steve Strubberg (Horn Architects), Karen Timpe (Legacy Embroidery), Casey Zastrow (American Family Insurance), Brad Zobrist (Pepsi-Cola Bottling of New Haven)

Mission Statement

The mission of the Washington Area Chamber of Commerce is to provide services that strengthen the capacity of our members to prosper and grow, and to enhance the region's economic climate and the quality of life of area residents.

The Chamber will promote the economic well-being of the area through controlled, high-quality industrial growth as well as through strict attention to issues important to the continued viability of existing area businesses. The Chamber will enhance quality of life by providing active leadership in the support of life enrichment activities and programs intended for the benefit of all area residents.

Educational Programs/Business Resources

Government Forum

Knowing your elected officials and the current issues is important for owners of businesses, both large and small. The Chamber hosts an annual forum where members have the opportunity to submit questions directly to their public servants. Our State Senator and Representatives, as well as our US Senators and Congressman are invited to a forum each February. In the future, the Chamber could also host "Meet the Candidate," and "Hear the Issues" events so that Washington-area residents can be informed voters at each election.

Board Room Rental

The Chamber of Commerce board room was recently renovated and is available for use by members and the community. The room holds 25-35 people with tables, and approximately 50 with chairs only. A 60" plasma screen is in place for viewing your presentation. Your laptop can be connected to the plasma screen, and the room is equipped with wireless internet access. The room is free to members for use during regular business hours (8 a.m.-5 p.m.) or at a cost of \$50 before or after hours. A \$50 security deposit is required, but will be refunded after inspection of the facility. Non-member rental is available for \$75, plus a \$50 security deposit.

If you would like to utilize our board room for a meeting or event, please contact Brittany (636-239-2715 x100, breed@washmo.org).

Other educational programs are offered on an "as-needed" basis. In 2016, the Chamber organized a Google Analytics class for members, based on feedback from a Member Satisfaction Survey.

Opportunities to Promote Your Business

Website

The Chamber's website makes it easier than ever for our members to get the exposure they deserve. Additionally, the site gives members the ability to log-in and utilize features that previously were not available. Members are encouraged to review and update their web listing, and take advantage of all that the site has to offer. If you are not familiar with the website features, please contact Amanda (agriesheimer@washmo.org) to set up a learning session.

Chamber Blog

Another great feature of the Chamber website is the Blog, which contains information on upcoming events, ribbon cuttings, member news, and more! Blog posts are also showcased in the Weekly Update e-mail sent to the membership. Members are encouraged to submit "Ask the Expert" columns for the blog. For more information, please contact Amanda (agriesheimer@washmo.org).

Chamber Event Sponsorship Packages

Members will be mailed a sponsorship overview each year. The file is also published on the website. Those interested in sponsorship have the option of choosing events individually, or selecting an "everywhere package" that includes base-level sponsorship to each of the Chamber's events.

Just for Fun

The Chip And Ale Ladies' Golf Tournament is held annually in May. Teams are made of three ladies, who bid on their fourth player/caddy (a male) and their auction package. This one-of-a-kind event was started in 2015 and has been delivering laughs each year.

Networking Opportunities

Business Breakfast Meeting

The membership gathers each January to hear the Annual Report from the Chamber of Commerce, Town & Country Fair, and Washington Department of Economic Development. This event is held at the Knights of Columbus Hall and includes breakfast.

Annual Banquet

The social event of the season, our banquet puts the spotlight on volunteerism in Washington. Tickets include drinks and a fantastic dinner. At the banquet, the *Missourian* presents their annual "Washingtonian" award, and the Main Stage line-up for the Town & Country Fair is revealed. The evening concludes with entertainment for all to enjoy. You won't want to miss it!

Membership Mixers

Two mixers are held annually – one in June and one in December. These casual networking events are always a favorite for members! The summer mixer includes dinner and drinks at the fairgrounds, while the winter mixer features drinks and appetizer stations at the City Park Auditorium.

Annual Member Luncheon

The annual Member Luncheon is a real time to shine for our Chamber members and their representatives. The event is held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in late September. The program includes presentation of the Outstanding Young Professionals and Member Recognition awards.

Young Professionals

The Young Professionals is a group devoted to getting young talent the mentors they need to get and keep them involved in the Chamber and the community. The Washington workforce is one of our area's greatest attributes, and we want that to continue. The Young Professionals are the next generation of great contributors to the Washington community. This group provides them the opportunity to meet and form the bonds necessary to keep Washington strong. A variety of events are planned, including Happy Hours, Professional Development Seminars, and two fundraisers (Pub Crawl in March, Pub & Putt in October) If you have employees that would like to be involved in the Young Professionals, please contact Brittany (breed@washmo.org, 636-239-2715 x100) to have them added to our e-mail list.



Community Events & Partnerships



Music at the Market

This joint event with the Parks Department features Live Music at the Farmers' Market, the second Thursday of the month - May, June, July, September, & October. The event is free to the public. Food & Drink available for purchase. Each month showcases a specialty beer and local winery. And don't forget... rain or shine, we've got you covered!



Washington Town & Country Fair

The third-largest fair in the state happens right here in Washington every year, attracting 80,000-100,000 people. The one-price fair features midway rides, motorsports events, concerts, family exhibits, livestock shows, and more! For information on advertising and sponsorship opportunities at the Fair, please contact Jennifer (jgiesike@washmo.org).



Pumpkin Palooza

Since 2012, the Chamber has partnered with Downtown Washington, Inc. to organize this fun, family-friendly event. Held the weekend before Halloween, the event features a giant pumpkin weigh-in, seed spittin' contest, and pumpkin roll, plus a costume contest and time for trick-or-treating at the downtown shops.



Olde Fashioned Christmas

This family-favorite event, held the Sunday after Thanksgiving, is the perfect way to welcome the Christmas season. Families can enjoy carriage rides, cookie decorating, Christmas crafts, and of course, a chance to visit Santa. Photo opportunities are also available with princesses and live reindeer. A firepit for roasting marshmallows is available, and there is plenty of hot cocoa and cider, plus mulled wine for the adults. The free event, co-sponsored by the Parks Department, is held at the Farmers' Market.



BRIDGE Student/Business Partnership

This joint project from the Chamber and the local school systems was started to put high school students into contact with local business and industry leaders.



Washington Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market, located at 317 West Main Street (next to the Chamber), is open Saturdays April - October, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. The beautifully renovated historic building with pavilion guarantees you'll be covered, rain or shine while shopping for produce, plants, jams & jellies, baked goods, and handmade items. The Sprouts Kids Club was launched in 2016, encouraging another generation of shoppers to spend part of their Saturday at the market.

Becoming a Member

You can submit an online application (available at washmochamber.org), or complete the application on the following page and mail or deliver it to the Chamber Office (323 W Main Street, Washington).

Annual Dues Amounts

Associate Level (Individual/Non-Profit)	\$110
Level 1 (1-10 employees)	\$195
Level 2 (11-50 employees)	\$305
Level 3 (51-100 employees)	\$415
Level 4 (101-200 employees)	\$550
Level 5 (> 200 employees)	\$880

Membership dues are pro-rated for the first year of membership.

Members have the option of paying annually in January, or making quarterly installment payments.

Bottom Line:

This is an investment in your business that you can't afford to pass up.



New Member / New Business Ribbon Cuttings

Our staff would be happy to set up a Ribbon Cutting or Membership Plaque Presentation Photo for you when you join the Chamber. We'll take care of contacting our Board of Directors and Ambassadors, plus officials from the City of Washington. We even line up the photographer from the Missourian. All you have to do is hold the big scissors and say cheese!



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Business/Organization/Individual Name: _____

Nature of Business / Mission of Organization: _____

Physical Address: _____
Street City State ZIP

Mailing Address: _____
(If Different) Street City State ZIP

Business Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Business E-mail: _____ Website: _____

Name of Primary Representative for your Business/Organization: _____

Primary Representative E-mail: _____

Please select your membership level and write the appropriate annual dues amount below:

- Associate Level** (Not For Profit/Retired Individual).....\$110
- Level 1** (1 to 10 employees)\$195
- Level 2** (11 to 50 employees)\$305
- Level 3** (51 to 100 employees)\$415
- Level 4** (101 to 150 employees)\$550
- Level 5** (151 or more employees)\$880

*Two part-time employees equal one full-time employee.

New members must pay in full for the remainder of the year in which they join. Joining in a month other than January will pro-rate your dues for the first year.

Amount included with application \$ _____

For future years, please bill me: Annually (January) _____ Quarterly _____

Signature _____ Date _____



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Washington Visitor Center

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visitor1@washmo.org • (636) 239-7575

www.visitwashmo.com

Emily Underdown - Director of Tourism (office located in Chamber Office)

Vivian Hoofmann - Tourism Clerk at Visitor Center