

2024 *Membership Guide*



 **WASHINGTON AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
Connecting Businesses to Build a Better Community

2024 Chamber Board of Directors



Steve Strubberg
Chairman
Horn Architects



Tanya McCormack
First Vice Chair
Washington
Hearing Center



Luke Meyer
Exec. Board Member
Citizens Bank



Tricia Piontek
Exec. Board Member
The Magnet Group



Kevin Richardson
Exec. Board Member
Zick, Voss, Politte,
Richardson, & Brinker P.C.



Jay Nowak
Ex-Officio
Bank of
Washington



Josh Brinker
Board Member
Bank of
Franklin County



Becky Cox
Board Member
Four Rivers
Family YMCA



Nicole Desmond
Board Member
Deppe Farms



Brian Feltmann
Board Member
Modern Auto Co.



Don Grahl
Board Member
The Creek Grill
& Sports Bar



Dr. Jennifer Kephart
Board Member
School District of
Washington



Joe Maniaci
Board Member
Empac Group



Scott Mentz
Board Member
Mentz Foundations



Shelley Vollmer
Board Member
Wimpy's Sandwich Shop



Jason Gildehaus
Board Member
Past Fair Chairman



On behalf of our Board of Directors, I'd like to thank you for considering membership in our Chamber. Joining the Chamber is an investment, both in our community and in your business, and we believe we are all stronger together!

As we celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2023, we are proud and excited for the ways we have been able to support our members and the community for the past century! We hope this guide will help you understand our mission, programs, and benefits to members and the community. A few benefits that our members find most useful (and that deserve an extra mention) are:

- Access to the MEWA Insurance for small businesses
- Referrals via our website and online directory
- Networking events (don't miss the summer mixer - it's everyone's favorite!)
- E-mail updates, with opportunities to feature your business

We hope we can soon count you among our members. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to reach out to us. A staff directory is on the back cover of this guide, and any one of us would be happy to help you learn more. Thanks again!

Jennifer Giesike, Chamber President

OUR MISSION: The Chamber brings businesses together to provide leadership in supporting services and programs that enhance the economic and educational opportunities to improve the quality of life for all.

OUR VISION: Connecting businesses to build a better community.

*Strengthen
Business*



*Better the Local
Economic Climate*



*Enhance the
Quality of Life*



*Promote
Growth*



Board Room Rental
E-mail Updates & Resources
Education Series
Networking Events
MEWA Health Insurance Program
Young Professionals Development
Promotion Opportunities
- Website
- Blog
- Sponsorship

Partnerships
- City of Washington
- Downtown Washington, Inc.
Participation
- Economic Vitality Committee
- CORE Restructuring
- Washington Civic Industrial Corp.
- Washington Tourism Commission

Washington Town & Country Fair
Music at the Market
Student-Business Partnership
Pumpkin Palooza
Farmers' Market
Olde Fashioned Christmas

Partnerships
- City of Washington Economic Development
- 353 Redevelopment Corp.
Publications
- Insight / Year In Review
- Community Profile
Relocation Marketing
- Community website, washmo.org
- Young Professionals Video Series
- Targeted Marketing Campaign

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. ****New members from previous year and members celebrating 5th Membership Anniversary honored.**



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. New this year - the Winter Mixer is being converted to a Christmas Casino Night! ****Members celebrating 10- and 20-year Membership Anniversaries honored at Summer Mixer.**



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! ****Members celebrating 25-, 30-, and 40-year Membership Anniversaries, and Chairman's Circle (50-Year Anniversary) honored.**



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 the first Monday in



October. The program includes presentation of the Outstanding Young Professionals class.

Chamber Golf Tournament-

The co-ed tournament is held the Friday before Mother's Day. Teams will consist of 4 players - cost/player is \$100 and includes lunch, drinks, cart, golf, and dinner. Skins and mulligans available for purchase.



Education Series

Each event in our Education Series includes networking time over lunch for our

participants, in addition to the learning opportunity.



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

Held the weekend before Halloween, this 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 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.



Connect Washington

Connect Washington was developed by a committee of teachers, administrators, counselors, district leadership and partners at Downtown Washington, City of Washington, and the Chamber. The program seeks to engage SDOW students in meaningful career exploration opportunities that directly benefit local business and community partners.



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. Learn more at washmomarket.com



WASHINGTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

1 Referrals / Online Directory

We LOVE referring our members when people contact our office for information! Our system allows members to customize their listing by adding a logo and photos, as well as links to website and social accounts, and much more! Members can also post job openings, events, news releases, and coupons, and choose an unlimited number of categories to be listed under.

2 E-mail Updates

Stay "in-the-know" with Chamber and community info, plus business resources and member news in our streamlined "Weekly Update."

3 Insurance Discounts

With the MEWA (Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement) program from the Missouri Chamber Federation, smaller companies team up to share the risk, resulting in lower premiums for better benefits!

4 Networking Opportunities

If you are looking for a chance to mingle with other members, we have a number of options! From our FIVE large annual gatherings, to smaller educational sessions, you will love the events we offer.

5 Reputation Boost

Two-thirds of consumers believe that chamber members use good business practices, are reputable, care about their customers, and are involved in the community.

6 Promotion Opportunities

Advertising options include the Visitor Guide and Tourism Shuttle, plus, members can add the Visit WashMO Facebook page as an event co-host for added exposure! Group tours often visit our area and members are always recommended for dining and shopping. RAFFLE / INSIGHT / SOCIAL MEDIA

7 Education Opportunities

We partner with SCORE to offer inexpensive lunch training sessions with a variety of topics in marketing, business planning, human resources, networking, and more!

8 Ribbon Cuttings

Published in the local paper and on our social accounts, this is a can't miss opportunity!

9 Board Room Rental

Our board room was recently renovated and provides a perfect setting for meetings with clients or off-site training.

10 Blog Features

Members shine in our "Ask the Expert" and "Member Feature" posts on the Chamber Blog, and are previewed in the weekly e-mail.

2024 CHAMBER EVENTS

Save the Dates!

Tuesday, January 9	DISTRICT 109 DAY	Friday, June 21	CAJUN FESTIVAL
Thursday, January 11	BUSINESS BREAKFAST	Tuesday, June 25	EDUCATION SERIES
Tuesday, January 23	EDUCATION SERIES	Thursday, July 11	MUSIC AT THE MARKET
Friday, February 23	GOVERNMENT FORUM	Friday, August 16	OYP NOMINATIONS DUE
Tuesday, February 27	EDUCATION SERIES	Tuesday, August 27	EDUCATION SERIES
Saturday, March 9	FAKE PADDY'S DAY PUB CRAWL	Thursday, August 29	YP MIXER
Saturday, March 23	CHAMBER BANQUET	Thursday, September 12	MUSIC AT THE MARKET
Tuesday, March 26	EDUCATION SERIES	Tuesday, September 24	EDUCATION SERIES
Tuesday, April 23	EDUCATION SERIES	Monday, October 7	MEMBER LUNCHEON
Thursday, May 9	MUSIC AT THE MARKET	Thursday, October 10	MUSIC AT THE MARKET
Friday, May 10	GOLF TOURNEY	Tuesday, October 22	EDUCATION SERIES
Tuesday, May 28	EDUCATION SERIES	Saturday, October 26	PUMPKIN PALOOZA
Thursday, June 6	SUMMER MIXER	Sunday, December 1	OLDE FASHIONED CHRISTMAS
Thursday, June 13	MUSIC AT THE MARKET	Friday, December 13	CHRISTMAS CASINO



WASHINGTON AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*For more details, including registration
and sponsorship information, visit*

washmochamber.org

Chamber Website Overview

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.

365,764

Member Listings Shown from
Directory at
washmochamber.org

502

Avg. # Times/Year
Member Listing Shown in
Directory Search Results

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).

Have you considered hosting an event or training in the Chamber Boardroom?
Members can use it at no charge up to 4 times a year!



To reserve the space, just call the Chamber Office (636-239-2715).
Details at washmochamber.org/boardroom

Young Professionals

The Washington Area Chamber of Commerce proudly coordinates the Young Professionals group, comprised of individuals between the ages of 21 and 40.

*The goal of the group is to bring young professionals together today,
to be the community leaders of tomorrow.*

Committees include: Professional Development, Social Events, Outreach, Philanthropy, Health & Wellness, Family Fun, Job Openings, Fundraisers, WashMO Made.

Sign Up Now (it's Free!) at washmochamber.org/yp



Do you know an
Outstanding Young Professional?

You can nominate them for recognition in
the **OYP Class of 2024!**

Details and nomination form available at
washmochamber.org/awards.

Submissions due by August 16.



Small employer health insurance woes?
We have your back.

The Chamber Benefit Plan

 

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 _____



Washington Area Chamber of Commerce

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www.washmochamber.org

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Washington Visitor Center

301 West Front Street • Washington, MO 63090

visitor1@washmo.org • (636) 239-7575

www.visitwashmo.com

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

Tiffany Holzem, Lillian Kempf - Tourism Clerks at Visitor Center