



Hilton Head Island  
& Bluffton  
Chamber of Commerce

# Membership Guide







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# About the Chamber

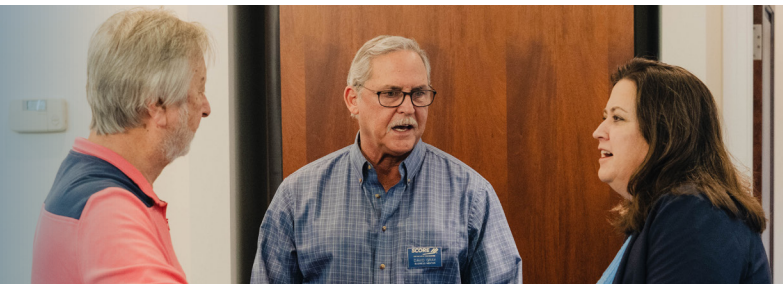
## *Our Mission*

Stimulate the regional economy while enhancing the quality of life for all.



## *Our Vision*

To ensure the Hilton Head Island region is a welcoming community, focused on embracing nature, culture, and economic vibrancy for residents and visitors.



## *Our Values*

The Hilton Head Island & Bluffton Chamber of Commerce is a professional, results-driven and innovative organization for our partners and our community by being ethical, accountable, pragmatic, visionary, and compassionate.





# *Our Guiding Principles*

Since 1957, we have connected, educated, advocated, and facilitated research to give businesses the tools, voice, and insights they need to grow so the entire community can thrive.

- Serve as a voice and advocate for the business community.
- Maintain the highest ethical standards in all we do.
- Work to preserve and enhance the prudent growth, quality of life and character of our region.
- Develop collaborative partnerships only in areas where the partnership can accomplish that which our organization cannot do alone.
- Develop and implement programs and services that benefit the economic well-being and common interests of our members.
- Initiate programs for which there is funding and staffing resources.
- Make decisions based on long-term perspective.

## *Our Accreditation*

- Named Chamber of the Year by the Carolina Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in 2024.
- 5-Star accredited Chamber of Commerce by the U.S. Chamber (in the top 1.6% of chambers nationwide).
- 3-Time National Chamber of the Year from the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.
- The Visitor & Convention Bureau is accredited by Destinations International, one of less than 200 in the world.





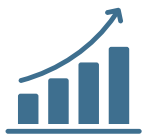
# Why Join?

Being a member of the Hilton Head Island & Bluffton Chamber of Commerce offers numerous benefits:



## CONNECT

Building strong relationships is essential to growing a successful business. That's why we hosts over 100 events each year and give over 1.5 million referrals via the internet and calls – giving you opportunities to meet potential clients, customers, partners, and mentors. You can expand your network, stay in the loop on local happenings, and become a recognized name in the community.



## GROW

We offer strategic visibility through sponsorships, marketing programs, and high-traffic digital platforms, so you can get your business in front of the right people and drive real results.



## SAVE

Every dollar counts when you're running a business. That's why we've negotiated exclusive member discounts on things like health insurance, marketing, and services. You can keep your overhead low while still investing in your growth. If you are a tourism-facing business, your membership includes one to our Visitor's Convention Bureau, putting you at tourism's "front door" on Hilton Head Island and Bluffton.



## LEARN

Staying sharp and informed is key to staying competitive. That's why we offer seminars, roundtables, and leadership programs on everything from AI to workforce trends; you can make smarter decisions and lead with confidence with our insights and seminars.



## ADVOCATE

Policy decisions can directly impact your bottom line. That's why the Chamber works on your behalf at the local, state, and federal levels to champion legislation that supports your business. You can focus on your day-to-day operations while knowing someone is protecting your long-term interests.



# Membership Benefits

	Classic	Enhanced	Premium
"Faces of Small Business" video feature on Chamber's social media and Monday Briefing (first year benefit). Additional video can be produced for a fee.			×
A Q&A to spotlight your business in our Chamber website (second year benefit).			×
One complimentary ticket to Sparkles & Spirits, Business Golf Classic, or State of the Region.			×
Placement of tourism-related marketing materials at the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport & Hilton Head Island Airport.			×
Annual ads in the Monday Briefing and/or Lowcountry Lowdown emails.			×
Enhanced chamber/VCB website directory listing includes 200 word description.			×
Placement of marketing materials in chamber Hilton Head Island & Bluffton offices.		×	×
Listing in the member directory on Chamber/or VCB websites.	×	×	×
Category listings in the online member directory.	1	3	Unlimited
Hosted Ribbon Cutting to celebrate ground breakings, openings, and anniversaries.	×	×	×
Owner/CEO complimentary admission to Executive Connection CEO networking events.	×	×	×
Staff admission to exclusive chamber member events.	×	×	×
Staff eligible to participate in flagship Leadership program.	×	×	×
Post job openings and internship opportunities to LowcountryJobsNow.org.	×	×	×
Listing & hotlink as a new member in Monday Briefing email & social media.	×	×	×
Spotlight listing the Anniversaries, Members Making News, and Who's Who sections on the Chamber website & Monday Briefing.	×	×	×
Complimentary use of Chamber's Junior Boardroom.	×	×	×
Decal for your storefront & digital logo for your website.	×	×	×
Membership postal mailing list (per year).	1	1	2
Recommendations & referrals from our information specialists and Chamber/VCB websites.	×	×	×
Receive exclusive Chamber communications of news, events and more.	×	×	×
Participation in Chamber committees: Bluffton Regional Business Council; Business Education Partnership Coalition; Business Workforce Coalition; Public Policy Committee.	×	×	×
Advocacy on your behalf at local, state, and federal levels.	×	×	×
Complimentary membership to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.	×	×	×





# Events & Programs

## *Signature Events*

The Chamber hosts several high-profile events annually, offering members opportunities for networking, visibility, and community engagement:

### **Chamber Ball**

An elegant evening celebrating community achievements and honoring outstanding contributions.



### **State of the Region**

Provides insights into local and national issues affecting the Lowcountry, featuring presentations from key leaders.



### **Sparkles & Spirits**

A festive holiday event featuring a silent auction, perfect for end-of-year networking and celebration.

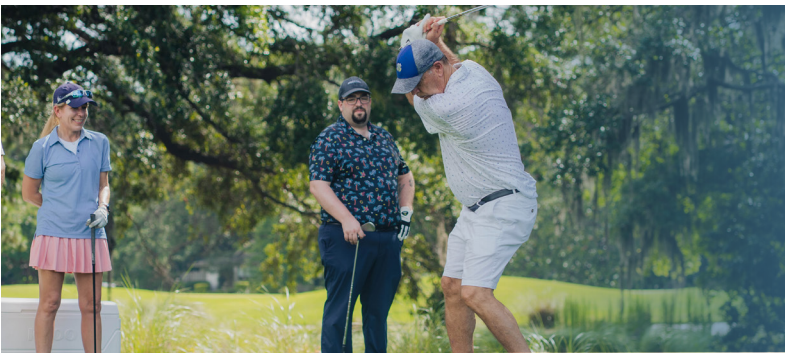


### **Plaid Par-Tee**

Kicks off the RBC Heritage with a celebration of food, drinks, and community spirit.







## **Business Golf Classic**

Combines business and leisure, allowing professionals to connect on the golf course.



## **Chamber Restaurant Week**

Showcases local culinary talent, encouraging residents and visitors to dine locally.



## **Small Business Week**

Highlights the contributions of small businesses with events and recognitions throughout the week.



## **Chamber Wellness Week**

Focuses on health and wellness initiatives, promoting healthy lifestyles within the community.





# Events & Programs

## *Reoccurring Events*

These recurring events provide consistent opportunities for member engagement:

### **Conversation + Cocktails**

After-hours networking event featuring appetizers and complimentary beverages while allowing members to connect.



### **Power Hour Tele-Town Hall**

Monthly virtual sessions offering unfiltered information on pressing community topics directly from the source.



### **Chamber Young Professionals**

Engages emerging leaders through networking and professional development opportunities.



### **Executive Connection**

Exclusive events for senior executives and CEOs to discuss strategic initiatives and build relationships.







Conversation & Cocktails: Hampton Hall



Chamber Young Professionals: Burnt Church Distillery



Executive Connection: Long Cove



Executive Connection: Holiday Inn Express



Conversation & Cocktails: Nectar Hilton Head Island



Chamber Young Professionals: Hawaii Fluid Art



Chamber Young Professionals: Stretch Lab



Conversation & Cocktails: Tiki Hut



Executive Connection: J Banks





# Communications

Learning about what's happening in the business community and locally is one of the top benefits that members value. Here's how you'll stay in the know:

## *Monday* BRIEFING

## Three Things To Know



## *Lowcountry Lowdown*

What's happening in our community this week

### Monday Briefing

A letter from our CEO, plus happenings at the chamber as well as business tips.

### Three Things to Know

An update of what you need to know locally, regionally, and nationally to do business.

### Lowcountry Lowdown

A comprehensive update of all the events, activities, and festivals happening on Hilton Head Island and in Bluffton.





## Special Event Updates

We'll send you updates and registration information on all chamber events.

## Faces of Small Business Video Series

For our premium members, we'll produce a video that tells the story of your business and share it via email and social media. The series won a national award for "Best in Show" for Communications Excellence from the Association of Chamber of Commerce Professionals.

## Chamber Channel Podcast

We sit down with thought leaders for a conversation on what's happening in their world and how it affects yours.

## @hhibchamber Social Media

We'll keep you updates on what's happening and what our members are doing with our over 38,000 followers on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Threads, and X.

*Coligny was one of the first members of the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has stayed on top of a lot of the things that are happening, y'all brought all these influencers in the past that have really given the world an opportunity to see all the beauty.*

*- JR & Leslie Richardson, Owners, Coligny Plaza*





# Councils & Committees

Engage with the Chamber's various councils and committees to influence initiatives and policies:



## **Bluffton Regional Business Council**

*Brings Bluffton-area business leaders together to tackle shared priorities, influence local policy, and support sustainable regional development.*

## **Business Education Partnership**

*Connects educators and employers to align classroom learning with workforce needs through mentorships, career talks, and collaborative initiatives.*

## **Business Workforce Coalition**

*Addresses the region's pressing economic challenges including workforce, housing, transportation and childcare.*

## **Transportation Task Force**

*Investigates alternative transportation solutions to reduce traffic congestion and improve mobility for workers across the region.*

## **Technology & Innovation Committee**

*Considers emerging technologies—like artificial intelligence, automation, cybersecurity, and digital transformation—and their impact on local businesses.*

## **Military & Business Alliance**

*Supports the transition of veterans, military spouses, and service members into the local workforce through jobs, entrepreneurship, and community partnerships.*

## **Public Policy Committee**

*Monitors and advocates on policy matters at the local, county, state, and federal levels to protect and strengthen the business environment.*

## **Environmental Affairs Committee**

*Focuses on environmental stewardship, recycling, responsible development, and preserving the region's natural resources for future generations.*



# 2025 Legislative Priorities

## **CHILDCARE**

Advocate for policies that enhance access to affordable, high-quality childcare, empowering families and fostering community growth.

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## **CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Collaborate to preserve, celebrate, and promote the cultural richness and economic vitality of our historic Gullah-Geechee neighborhoods and businesses.

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## **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Support programs that provide enriched learning opportunities for children from birth to age five, laying a strong foundation for lifelong achievement.

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## **ENVIRONMENT**

Champion responsible development practices that protect natural resources, prioritize environmental sustainability, and expand recycling initiatives.

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## **GOVERNANCE**

Encourage dialogue and cooperation to foster informed civic participation and effectively address common challenges.

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## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

Advocate for strategic investments in broadband expansion, tap water, water reuse systems, sewer connectivity, and stormwater management.

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## **SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY**

Strengthen small businesses by championing fair policies on taxation and regulation, fostering a supportive environment for growth.

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## **TRANSPORTATION**

Support airport funding and innovative transportation solutions aimed at reducing traffic congestion and improving accessibility for the workforce and quality of life for residents.

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## **WORKFORCE**

Promote an expanded workforce including internships, apprenticeships, veteran transitions, retiree engagement, and opportunities for individuals of all abilities.

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## **WORKFORCE HOUSING**

Facilitate partnerships between the public and private sectors to increase the availability of affordable housing for the region's workforce.





# Development Programs



## **Leadership Hilton Head Island-Bluffton**

A premier 10-month program that immerses participants in the region's culture, economy, and governance. Through hands-on experiences and connections with community leaders, participants gain a deeper understanding of the Lowcountry while building skills that culminate in a capstone community project. It's the region's best pathway for professionals looking to grow their leadership impact.

## **Junior Leadership**

Tailored for rising high school school juniors, this program cultivates leadership potential early by engaging students in service projects, mentorship, and direct interaction with local leaders. Participants walk away with stronger confidence, real-world skills, and deeper connection to their community.

## **SCORE Partnership**

Through the Chamber's partnership with SCORE, entrepreneurs and business owners gain access to free confidential mentoring from seasoned executives. Whether you're launching a new venture or scaling an existing business, SCORE provides the expertise and guidance to help you succeed.

*This chamber is amazing, I mean what it does for the local businesses, it was a no-brainer for me when I started this business*

*- Julie Martin, Owner, Retire Ready Hilton Head*









# Membership Investment Information

Company Name

Main Representative Name

Title

Main Representative Email

Company Phone

Company Fax

Cell Phone

Billing Name (If different than above)

Title

Email

Direct Phone

Additional Contact Name

Title

Email

Additional Contact Name

Title

Email

Is your business currently licensed?

Yes, With The Town(s)/County Of:

No

Physical Address

Suite/Apt.

City/State/Zip

Mailing Address (If different than Physical Address)

Suite/Apt.

City/State/Zip

Company Website

Company Social Handles

Type of Business/Industry

Membership Tier

Classic

Enhanced

Premium

Signature

Please Rank Your Top 3 Reasons For Joining the Chamber

\_\_\_ Exposure for my business

\_\_\_ Research and information access

\_\_\_ Networking and educational opportunities

\_\_\_ Enhances my ability to get involved in the community

\_\_\_ Chamber's government advocacy on my behalf

\_\_\_ Chamber's tourism marketing

\_\_\_ Added credibility that comes with belonging

\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Sponsorship Opportunities

#### FOR CHAMBER USE ONLY

Membership Representative

Total Amount Due

Renewal Month

Check Number/Cash

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

Security Code

Investments are payable in advance. Your membership investment will automatically renew each year at the month noted above, unless resignation is submitted in writing to your membership representative. Your Chamber investment dues may be tax deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense, but not as a charitable contribution. By submitting your email address, you give the chamber permission to subscribe you to its email newsletters. We thank you for your support!





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