



## BENEFITS OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

- **Business Referral Service-** The Chamber of Commerce is often the first point of contact for information for both visitors and persons relocating to the county.
  - **Membership Directory-** Listed on our website and in our Resource Directory publication.
  - **Resource Directory-** This is a booklet we publish and hand out to local points of contact. This booklet only lists member's services.
  - **Office Referrals-** Callers and visitors are referred to members for their needs.
- **Chamber 101-** Join the Chamber Ambassadors for lunch and learn how the Chamber is involved in the surrounding communities and events. You will also learn what you can do to make a difference while being involved with the Chamber. This session is open to new, potential, and current members.
- **Newsletter-** Our newsletter is published weekly reaching unlimited folks through our website. Our events, upcoming programs, and chamber happenings are just a few things in our newsletter.
- **Resource Area in the Chamber's Visitor Center-** Chamber members are able to display their promotional items in the office lobby which is open 8am-4pm Monday thru Friday throughout the year.
- **Monitor Legislative Affairs-** It is the responsibility of chamber staff and board members to keep you informed of legislation which could impact the economic stability of Wetzel County and surrounding areas. The Chamber of Commerce receives frequent inquiries from local government, politicians, and organizations on the business community's perspective on specific issues. Chamber members are provided with the means to make their local voice heard on a higher level.
- **Education Opportunities-** The Chamber of Commerce offers training and education opportunities through various channels throughout the year. Let the Chamber of Commerce educate you on the trends and changes taking place in West Virginia. The Chamber's partnership with the Small Business Development Center allows us to offer up to date small business information. If you have a particular area of interest or expertise, please do not hesitate to share this information or your needs with the Chamber of Commerce.
  - **Lunch and Learn Series and Evening Education Series-** These programs allow the Chamber to provide free training to Chamber members and their employees as well as the general public for free.
  - **Courses through Collaboration-** The chamber receives notification of many educational opportunities from local, state, and national resources.

- **Job Fair Partnership-** The Chamber has participated in the Department of Health and Human Resources, American Job Center, New Martinsville Job Service, and Community Resources, Inc job fair once a year in the past and plans to continue as it becomes available. The job fair is designed to attract the many job seekers in the area. Many residents in the community are looking outside the state for employment. This job fair will give you, the employer, the opportunity to interview and discuss current or future job openings with competent and qualified job seekers, face to face.
- **Member to Member discounts-** Members in good standing can take advantage of discounts offered by other business members. By working together we can make doing business in Wetzel County and the surrounding areas more profitable for everyone.
- **Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies-**
  - The Chamber will coordinate with the local newspaper to hold a ribbon cutting and have a picture with caption placed in local newspaper
  - Ribbon cutting ceremonies can also be arranged for relocations of existing businesses, changes of ownership, offered to any business that is starting a new product line or service, or other significant business milestones.
- **Business After Hours-** If you want to co-host just ask the Executive Director for other businesses that may be interested in working with you.
  - Business After Hours is hosted by a Chamber Member each month.
  - Attendees are encouraged to bring business cards for exchange.
  - Hors d'oeuvres, compliments of the host, are served throughout the evening.
  - The Business After Hours has been proven to be an invaluable membership recruitment tool. It is ideal for mixing with fellow business persons in an informal and relaxed setting.
  - Door prizes are always appreciated and a good way to promote your business.
  - Ask about our special drawings (Big Bucks Program).
  - To sign up to host (or co-host) BAH, call 304-455-3825. If you do not have a storefront, the Chamber will help you find a location for the event.
- **Refer A Friend:** If you are a Chamber Member, you can get 10% discounted from your next membership dues! To qualify bring a friend to one (1) Business After Hours event— once they join the Chamber you receive 10% off your next membership dues. One referral discount allowed per member per calendar year.
- **Chamber Community Cash-** Purchased at the Chamber Office, Chamber Community cash can be spent at any of our 30+ participating members' businesses.
  - If you would like to accept Chamber Community Cash at your business, please let us know. Chamber community Cash can be redeemed at the Chamber office. The chamber retains 5% of the face value of the Chamber Community Cash which is used toward the pay it Forward Grant Opportunity.
- **Sponsorships-** Let the communities learn more about your company's presence by sponsoring an event! We will use your name and logo to promote you and your support. Sponsorship opportunities are available for all community event and general sponsorship.

- **Community Events**
  - **Christmas Activities Day** - First Saturday in December prior to the parade
  - **Annual Christmas Parade**- First Saturday in December in New Martinsville, WV
  - **Shortline Ramp Fest**- Held in April in Pine Grove, WV
  - **Community Awards Dinner**- Held in May in New Martinsville, WV
  
- **Business Events**
  - **Annual Business Meeting**- Each year the Chamber of Commerce takes time to reflect on the past year’s work and to celebrate its successes. This event will be held in January each year when new board members are voted onto the board, and committees display their year of work and begin planning for the new year. This event also brings us motivational speakers or honors one of our own who has made the county proud.
  - **Entrepreneur Pitch**- This program gives new business an opportunity to be awarded grant funding based on a “pitch” they give to our judges and the public audience. Grant funding provided by EQT. The WCCC partner with West Liberty University for this event.
  - **State of the County Breakfast**- The State of the County Address is an annual breakfast highlighting key opportunities, challenges and initiatives facing Wetzel County and the surrounding areas.
  
- **Other resources available to you**...As a member of the Chamber of Commerce you are able to receive:
  - Listing in the Chamber’s Business Directory
  - Free or discounted admission to numerous training programs and seminars
  
- **Economic Development Services Available**- The Chamber works with businesses looking to expand their services, relocation of business, and with entrepreneurs looking to start a business. If you need assistance with your business, contact the Chamber office today.
  
- **Chamber Benefit Plan** - The Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce has become an endorsing organization for the Chamber Association Benefit Plan which may offer lower Health Plan premiums. If your business or organization is a member of the Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce you are eligible to apply for the Health Plan insurance through a local agency (listed below) to enroll your employees for health care at a **group** rate.
  - You can have as few as two full time employees and still be eligible for enrollment.
  - The “Chamber Association Benefit Plan” Group monthly premiums normally cost less than premiums for one business signing up a few employees.
  - You **MUST** be a chamber member to be eligible for the group rate, so make sure your annual chamber membership dues are paid in a timely manner.

If interested in finding out if this group rate would be an advantage for your employees, call:  
City Wide Insurance 304-455- 2000 (Tom Gilbert); Wetzel Valley Agencies at 304-455-4600 (Trevor Friday)