

# SMALL BUSINESS BENEFITS



## Small Business Council

Small Businesses (1-10 employees) account for more than 64% of the Chamber's membership. For more than 75 years, the Alamance County Area Chamber of Commerce has been committed to helping our small businesses develop, thrive and achieve their desired level of success. The Small Business Council serves as a forum for our smaller businesses to grow and expand. Volunteers on this Council meet the last Thursday of every month at 12:00 p.m. in the Chamber Boardroom. The focus of the group is to provide programs and services supporting growth and development of entrepreneurial and small businesses. The Chamber also works in coordination with Alamance Community College to provide another avenue for small business owners.

## Referral Groups

Two referral groups provide business-to-business and business-to consumer referrals. These groups are successful in generating new business for fellow group members. B2B is the business-to-business group that meets the first and third Tuesday of every month from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. at the Chamber. CNRG is the business-to-consumer group that meets the first and third Wednesday of every month from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. at the Chamber. You are welcome to be a guest at a referral group meeting to discover the benefits B2B or CNRG can bring to your company.

## SCORE

SCORE "Counselors to America's Small Business" is a nonprofit association dedicated to entrepreneur education and the formation, growth and success of small businesses nationwide. SCORE volunteers provide free, confidential face-to-face counseling to local entrepreneurs. Counseling and workshops are offered in the Chamber Board Room. You can set up a SCORE appointment through the Chamber office by calling 228-1338. Counselors meet with potential entrepreneurs for hour-long appointments each Monday afternoon.

## Business Development Series

The Business Development Series is held at the Chamber from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on a quarterly basis. All seminars are open to members for a small fee. Lunch is included.

## Retail Committee

Retail Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of every other month and is made up of local retail members including national chains and independently-run businesses. The committee provides the latest news on retail development in the area as well as increases local buying power. The Retail Committee is looking for new members for the 2007 Calendar Year. Next meeting is March 13th at 9:00 am at the Chamber of Commerce/Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) offices. For details, please call the CVB at 570-1444. To RSVP, email [robert@visitnc.com](mailto:robert@visitnc.com)



**Alamance County Area Chamber of Commerce**

615 S. Lexington Avenue ▲ P.O. Box 450 ▲ Burlington, NC 27216

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## **Business Before Hours**

Business Before Hours is a new monthly networking event established to reach early risers. More formalized than Business After Hours, this event includes a full breakfast, Chamber announcements, networking with peers and personal business commercials. More than 40 fellow Chamber members use this event to market their business. Business Before Hours is held the 2nd Friday of every month and rotates between Mimis Café and The Cutting Board.

## **Business After Hours**

This popular monthly event can draw up to 175 Chamber members. Its purpose is to provide a networking opportunity for members and provide a means to showcase the company's products, services and facilities. While networking, attendees enjoy hors d'oeuvres, drinks and fun activities.

## **Working Women's Wednesday**

The Working Women's Wednesdays (WWW) series includes dynamic speakers addressing today's issues. Enjoy lunch and learn new ways to manage personal and professional life and how women have become successful in their field. The WWW monthly luncheon series is designed by the Women's Resource Center and Women into Networking (WIN).

## **Membership Mailing Packet**

The member mailing packet is distributed to more than 1,000 key community contacts each month. The packet is an excellent way to communicate with fellow Chamber members. For a small fee, your company flyers, menus, postcards, brochures and more can be submitted and included in the packet as an advertising tool.

## **Chamber Connection**

Advertise news and announcements about your company free in the Members in the News section of the *Chamber Connection*. Submit your announcements by emailing Emily Adkins at [emilyadkins@alamancechamber.com](mailto:emilyadkins@alamancechamber.com). The Chamber Connection is a quarterly publication that communicates news about the Chamber and community.

## **Ribbon Cuttings**

Hold a ribbon cutting at your company to celebrate a grand opening, renovations, ground breaking or new location. The Chamber will organize the event and promote the celebration through the website and e-newsletter. A city and county official, along with Chamber board members and area business representatives will participate in your special event.



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