

# WHY JOIN THE CHAMBER?

**VISIBILITY**  
STAND OUT and  
get noticed as  
an active  
member of your  
community

**NETWORK**  
Your reputation  
matters! Chamber  
membership is  
respected by the  
community.

**GROWTH**  
Be a life-long learner.  
The Chamber  
provides  
professional  
development  
opportunities



**MEMBERS  
GET  
MORE!**

**OPPORTUNITY**  
Chamber  
Members are  
the first to learn  
about important  
opportunities in  
the community

**ADVOCACY**  
Let us advocate  
on your behalf.  
Gain a say in what  
happens in our  
community

**CREDIBILITY**  
Networking is  
powerful. It is not  
just who you  
know, it's who  
others know



visit our website  
[habershamchamber.com](http://habershamchamber.com)



## EMAIL UPDATES

We'll keep you in the loop with email updates for events, meetings, and other important community information.

## GET INVOLVED

Promote your business and support your community by sponsoring or participating in our annual events and programs.

## NETWORKING

It's not just WHO you know, it's also who others know! The Chamber offers multiple events where members can meet and exchange ideas, develop business relationships and increase their professional network.

## RIBBON CUTTINGS

Whether you are opening a new business, celebrating new ownership or expanding, let the Chamber help introduce your business to the community.

## CREDIBILITY

Chamber membership brings credibility to your business and increases positive perception among consumers. Your membership includes a window decal and digital logo to let your customers know you affiliation with our Chamber!

## HAVE A VOICE

The Habersham Chamber of Commerce represents YOU! We advocate for you success of local businesses and issues that affect you.

# MEMBER BENEFITS

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Get a competitive edge over non-members with exclusive training opportunities on a variety of hot topics.

## MEMBER TO MEMBER

We'll keep you in the loop with email updates for events, meetings, and other important community information.

## ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Expand your reach and grow your business by getting your message out through our weekly newsletter email blasts, web, social media and other advertising tools. Who doesn't love free advertising?

## AMBASSADOR MEMBERSHIP

Increase your community exposure while also representing the Chamber at events and ribbon cuttings.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY LISTING

Your business gets listed in the Chamber's business directory online. Thousands of people find the members they want to do business with each year with these tools. Plus, you can do an expanded listing with photos.

## BUSINESS BEFORE AND AFTER HOURS

Opportunities to play host to the Chamber's signature monthly networking event. Set in a fun and relaxed atmosphere, it's the perfect way to showcase your business and information about the products or services you offer.



# P R O G R A M S

## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Networking event for all members hosted monthly by a Chamber business. Event provides the opportunity for the hosting company to promote and publicize their products or services, and gives the attendees the opportunity to network with each other to increase/improve their visibility and marketability.

## BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS

Networking event for all members hosted as requested by a Chamber business. Event provides the opportunity for the hosting company to promote and publicize their products or services, and gives the attendees the opportunity to learn more about the local businesses. Additionally, attendees have the opportunity to network with each other to increase/improve their visibility and marketability. These events start at 8:00 a.m. and are over by 9:00 a.m. and provide flexibility in time offerings for Chamber members who cannot attend after hours. By hosting early morning and late afternoon events, Chamber members should be able to attend one or the other.

## ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The Chamber hosts a membership-wide annual meeting once a year. The program showcases the year's activities, accomplishments, growth, or challenges, and awards are presented for outstanding achievement in a variety of categories. This is a meal event with a speaker. The changing of the gavel takes place, and the Board of Directors for the current and next year are introduced.

## S.O.A.R. PROFESSIONAL WOMENS ORGANIZATION

Held quarterly, the Professional Women's Organization, S.O.A.R., provides a networking opportunity for women business owners, executive management, professional women such as doctors, lawyers, etc., and elected officials. This is also a support group for women who share similar challenges and issues at the same level of business operation and is intended to promote economic development. Each meeting features an educational program intended to help develop leadership skills.

## LEADERSHIP HABERSHAM

A Chamber-sponsored group that has monthly meetings/activities from August through May. Each meeting has a specific topic, speakers, trips, activities, and engagements that help the participants learn about the internal workings and interactions of the county. Many "behind-the-scenes" activities are planned that would not be available except in the context of this program. Each class usually has 25 participants, and many of the former participants are now in business or elected leadership positions throughout the county.

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP HABERSHAM

The Habersham County Chamber of Commerce offers select high school juniors and seniors at Habersham area high schools an opportunity to serve as a member of the Youth Leadership Habersham alongside the adult Leadership Habersham class for four of the nine sessions. Youth Leadership Habersham members will also have an opportunity to apply for a Chamber scholarship at the conclusion of the academic year, and seniors will receive an honor cord for attending all the sessions.

## HABERSHAM YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The Young Professionals Group (YPG) is a group within the Habersham Chamber of Commerce that is dedicated to the promotion and development of young professionals between the ages of 20 and 40-"ish" in the work place.

## NETWORKING GROUPS

Several Chamber groups are available for networking and promoting business. There is no charge to attend; but participants pay for food ordered when the group meets at a restaurant.

- Habersham Power Hour: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays each month; 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Location varies
- Non-Profit Networking Group: Bi-monthly meeting from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. at the Torch Worship Center, Demorest
- Northeast Georgia Safety Association: Every second Wednesday from 12 Noon - 1:30 p.m. at North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, Clarkesville

## GRAND OPENINGS AND RIBBON CUTTINGS

Held for new or expanding businesses to help introduce or promote the business. The community is invited. A picture with an article is published in the local newspaper and on social media which helps to further promote the company.



# P R O G R A M S

## STAR STUDENT/TEACHER RECOGNITION

The Chamber, along with the local Rotary Club, sponsors the county's Star Student/Star Teacher for both public and private schools in the county. The honorees are presented and given certificates with monetary awards at the Rotary Luncheon.

## GOAL AWARD

The Chamber, along with the local Rotary Club, sponsors the local technical college's GOAL (Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership). The Chamber is involved in judging and selecting the county winner to compete at the state level. The four finalists and the winner are presented and given certificates with monetary awards at a Rotary luncheon.

## FARM-CITY WEEK BREAKFAST

Annual event that recognizes agriculture as a major industry of this county. The Chamber co-sponsors and presents a Chamber award to someone who has greatly supported agriculture. This is done in conjunction with the Habersham County Farm Bureau and several awards are presented.

## MEMBER-OF-THE-MONTH AWARD

Each month the Board votes on a member to be recognized with a special presentation and yard sign. The sign stays with that member for one month and then is moved to the next month's selection. Board members, office staff, Chamber members, and the public attend these presentations. A picture of each presentation is printed in the local newspaper on the Chamber Connection page. The company recognized is invited to be a guest on the Chamber's local radio show to talk about the company. Specific selection criteria lead the Board in its selection.

## SOCIAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHTS

The Chamber uses its social media platforms to highlight member businesses and organizations. Monthly promotions are held and members are encouraged to submit pictures and content for the social media posts. The Chamber hosts three different platforms: Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest. Please take advantage of this FREE perk to get your business recognized!

## WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS

The Chamber, in conjunction with the Small Business Development Center at UGA, and various expert business members host various seminars, webinars and training opportunities throughout the year for networking and business growth and consulting. We want to be sure all members have the continuing education and training necessary to succeed.

## LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

The Chamber hosts pre- and -post legislative sessions: one held prior to the state legislative session begins and the other as soon as the state legislature adjourns. These are open forum-type meetings. The political presenters usually summarize their activities at that year's session and have a Q&A period. It is a great opportunity for Chamber members to voice their challenges and concerns to our elected officials to carry to the State level.

## POLITICAL FORUM

During each year with state and/or national elections, the Chamber hosts a Political Forum at a local venue. This is a non-partisan event that provides each participant an opportunity to present his/her platform. Additionally, it gives an opportunity for candidates and the public to meet.

## AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Chamber of Commerce is privileged to host a dedicated corps of member volunteers representing and assisting staff at ribbon cuttings, grand openings, and events. Chamber Ambassadors are members of an elite "club" that entitles them to extra networking opportunities as well as more exposure for their individual businesses. The cost to join the Ambassador Program is only a one-time fee of \$45 which helps cover the cost of name badges and a branded shirt. Ambassador meetings are held monthly where lunch is served and "Ambassador of the Month" is awarded. "Ambassador of the Year" is awarded at our Annual Gala.

## RADIO PROGRAMS

The Chamber hosts "Taking Care of Business" a weekly radio program on WCHM 94.3FM. Each show has two member-guest who can come on to promote their business, organization, or event.



# PRODUCTS

## WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Provides information to all members on Chamber and community events, legislative advisories, and relevant information. Each week's newsletter is available on the Chamber's home page.

## DINING GUIDE

Lists all the Chamber member restaurants in the county (includes seven municipalities) with a physical address, phone number and food specialties. Available in the Chamber office to visitors, included in relocation or visitor-information packets, and available on the website.

## CIVIC ORGANIZATION GUIDE

List of civic organizations plus agencies and programs that provide help with address and contact information. These are available in the office and included in the relocation or visitor-information packets.

## ANNUAL REPORT

Summarizes each year's activities and accomplishments. Given to all present at the annual meeting, distributed at civic organizations, available in the office, and available on the Chamber website.

## MEMBER PACKETS

The packets include the annual report, community information, member applications and the dues schedule.

## COUNTY MAP

Large, glossy, map and street guide of Habersham County and its seven municipalities developed by Village Profile (ads were sold). The only map of this type available in the county.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

A Chamber membership Business Directory is available on the Chamber's website. The Directory includes the member's business name, address, telephone number, a link to the company's website, and the option of a public coupon. This has become one of the most search engine in the community. Printed lists are available.

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

The Chamber's Business Directory or Membership List available to members. A label printing of this list is available for a small fee.

## LODGING LIST

Printed information of the Chamber member lodges, hotel, motels, cabins, etc. available in the area. Available in the office.

## MEMBER-TO-MEMBER ADS

Free to members once a month. Members send in ads or promotions. These are all compiled and sent back out to all members to help with marketing for our members. Each month's ads are available on the Chamber's home page.

## CHURCH GUIDE

Free to members once a month. Members send in ads or promotions. These are all compiled and sent back out to all members to help with marketing for our members. Each month's ads are available on the Chamber's home page.

## LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Provides direction, guidelines, and information to the community on issues and concerns for which the Chamber leads community efforts as a positive voice. Available in the office, distributed at grassroots meetings, and available on website.

## RELOCATION PACKETS

Includes information about the county and the seven municipalities, guides for newcomers, and welcome material.

## COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

Printed information available in the Chamber office, put in Relocation Packets, and available for other uses as requested.

## CHAMBER CONNECTION

Full page spread published once a month in the local newspaper. The page includes Chamber news and events for the previous month. Pictures/articles such as ribbon cuttings and Member of the Month help promote the businesses.

## COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Magazine that provides information about the community businesses, attractions, events, services, and culture. The magazine was developed by a publishing company, and the costs were covered by ads sold by the company.

## MEMBERSHIP LABEL LIST

Printing of the Chamber's membership in the label form. Available to member for a small fee.

## SCHOOLS

Printed information of public and private schools with address, telephone number, and contact information. Available in the Chamber office.