



29 Palms Chamber of Commerce

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Chamber of Commerce?

- The Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization of business people and civic leaders working together to enhance the economic and civic health of the community.
- The Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for businesses and the community that interacts with all levels of government: City, County, State, and Federal.
- The Chamber of Commerce is an information source to businesses and the community on issues, resources, data, and promotional ideas.
- The Chamber of Commerce is a business referral source to other businesses in our community.
- Finally, the Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary association of business people.

What does a Chamber of Commerce NOT do?

- The Chamber of Commerce is not a government agency.
- The Chamber of Commerce is not a branch of City Hall. However, the Chamber may, under contract, carry out community events and economic development programs on behalf of the City.
- The Chamber is not a political organization, a civic club, a professional society, a social service group, or a service organization.

How is the Chamber of Commerce funded?

- The Chamber is funded primarily through membership investment funds from new and renewing members.
- The Chamber is also funded through the net profits of the community events they organize.
- The Chamber is also funded by contract for the operation of the City's Visitor Center.

Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

- **What does the Chamber provide to members?**
 - The Chamber provides an open forum to express needs and concerns, and then develops consensus through discussion and finally determines direction and priority.
 - The Chamber provides individual leadership development through involvement with committees and the Board of Directors.
 - The Chamber can provide a legislative forum on local, state, and national issues effecting business and the community.
 - The Chamber provides the opportunity for business growth and development.
 - The Chamber provides assistance for members to market their business or organization through the weekly eNews, the monthly newsletter, and daily Facebook updates.
- **How does the Chamber work?**
 - The Chamber of Commerce has a Board of Directors elected upon by the full Chamber membership.
 - The Board of Directors meets every third Thursday of each month.
 - The Board of Directors develops an Annual Program of Work.
 - The Board of Directors insures that the Chamber's objectives are being met.
 - The Board of Directors hires an Executive Director that manages the day-to- day activities of the Chamber, provides administrative support to the Board, monitors and directs the Program of Work, and communicates with members and the community.
 - Board members serve as Chairs for program committees and recruit volunteers to participate in various programs and events.
 - Committees plan and implement programs and events adopted as part of the Program of Work

Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

- **What types of members does the Chamber have?**
 - There are multiple types of membership:
 - Business Members: legally established businesses, individuals, corporations, or partnerships. Membership dues are on a tiered system based on number of employees. These members have full voting rights and privileges, and are invited to serve as a Director.
 - Associate Members: there are four types of Associate Members. These members have full voting rights and privileges (except where notated), and are invited to serve as a Director.
 1. Non-Profit Organizations: Clubs, churches, associations, or societies not directly engaged in a business enterprise.
 2. Business Associate: Individuals who work as an employee or independent contractor for another business who may not be a member of the Chamber already.
 3. Individual Associates: Community members who are not engaged in business but desire to help better our community.
 4. Honorary Lifetime Members: These members are voted on by the Board of Directors and do not have voting rights or privileges within the Chamber of Commerce.