

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer and make an impact in your community today!

Advisory Councils

■ Budget & Finance

Assists the Chamber by analyzing and suggesting ways the organization should implement its financial reporting and management practice.

■ Business Development

Assists the Chamber by analyzing and suggesting ways the organization can implement and coordinate its business development programming and initiatives.

■ Community Development

Assists the Chamber by analyzing and suggesting ways the organization can implement and coordinate its community development programming and initiatives.

■ Chamber Foundation

Directs and supports the efforts of the Chamber Foundation's programming, specifically providing community-based resources that improve the southwest Michigan area's quality of life and strengthens area's employee base.

■ Leadership Kalamazoo

Advises and oversees the Leadership Kalamazoo Program.

■ Membership Events

Assists the Chamber by analyzing and suggesting ways the organization can implement and coordinate its special events and membership recruitment and retention efforts.

Advocacy Councils

■ Environmental

Focuses on local, state and federal environmental legislation and its impact on the business community.

■ Public Policy

Considers legislation that affect the business community and recommends positions to the Chamber's Board of Directors.

■ Taxation

Directs and supports the Chamber's efforts to analyze and recommend positions to the Chamber's Board of Directors on local, state and federal tax issues.

■ Transportation

Develop an evolving list of road improvement priorities and helps coordinate the business community's involvement in seeking federal and state monies for projects. It also examines other transportation issues involving non-motorized trailways, rail and air transportation.

■ Portage Advisory

Recommends positions on business issues and legislation that affect the City of Portage to the Chamber's Board of Directors.

For more information or to get involved in one or more of these councils, call (269) 381-4000.



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Partners in
**Leading Businesses.
Leading Communities.™**

The Chamber has nearly 2,000 member firms throughout the southwest Michigan area.

The Chamber is a small business association - 90 percent of the Chamber's membership employ 25 or fewer people.

The Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce has helped businesses grow and succeed. As a business association and volunteer organization, the Chamber is supported by several hundred volunteers from nearly 2,000 firms employing 70,000 employees. The Chamber acts as a catalyst, bringing together business, government, and citizens - all for the common good of the community.

For more information on joining the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce or on any of the Chamber's programs, please call (269) 381-4000, or visit our Web site at www.kazoochamber.com.

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**Leading Businesses.
Leading Communities.™**



Make an investment in your community

Invest in the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce

■ **What is the mission of the Chamber?**

To help members grow and prosper through leadership, programs and services focused on competitiveness, community improvement, and regional cooperation.

■ **Why should I join the Chamber?**

The Chamber connects members to important community issues and provides unique opportunities for individuals and businesses to make a difference.

■ **How is my investment used?**

The Chamber provides leadership opportunities, volunteer programs and business-building initiatives that focus on the critical priorities of our community. The Chamber will hold itself accountable to making sure that your investment is used to improve the overall business climate of southwest Michigan.

■ **How will my Chamber membership help my business succeed?**

Your membership with the Chamber will help your business in three important ways:

- Referral and networking opportunities that help you find new customers
- Providing you with a voice to government to fight restrictions and legislations that can cost your business more
- Savings from member discount programs

The Chamber and its members are committed to enhancing the local business climate and maintaining a high quality of life in the community. Chamber members are able to accomplish together what no one business could do alone.

Above all, your membership in the Chamber is valued. The Chamber strives to assist and serve you, your business, and the southwest Michigan region through activities and programs that involve leading businesses and leading communities.



The Chamber Helps My Business Succeed

The Chamber enhances and leverages the talents and resources of its members to improve economic opportunities for all through business activity and commerce.

Members-Only Benefits & Events

Below are among the many benefits Chamber members receive:

- New members receive visits from Chamber Ambassadors who seek out the needs of members, ask for their input on Chamber services and help to make them feel welcomed
- Periodic mailings and bulletins on issues of importance to business
- A monthly subscription to Chamber's business publication, Enterprise Online
- Chamber's extensive database and its online business directory are available to members
- Conference rooms available for members to reserve for community or Chamber-related projects.

Other benefits include savings and advantages on workers compensation program, health care program, discounted telephone service, discounted office supplies program and so much more!

Networking is the number one reason many businesses join the Chamber.

The Chamber has several annual events throughout the year including the Business and Technology Expo. Before and After Hours are held two to three times a month, averaging 100 attendees each.



The Chamber Serves as My Voice to Government

Business owners consistently mention government regulations as one of the primary hurdles they must overcome. The Chamber is an advocate for its broad and diverse member businesses, creating a climate of growth and success that benefits all.

Southwest Michigan Alliance (SMA)

The SMA is a new regional alliance of business and community leaders throughout the region that work collaboratively toward achieving regional goals that benefit all. The SMA is intended to be the unified voice of the southwest Michigan area to federal and state government officials in order to bring our tax dollars back to the region and to support our regional agenda.

Legislative Roll Call & Political Action Committee

Each month, area legislators meet at the Chamber to discuss state and regional issues with interested Chamber members. The area's entire state legislative delegation is represented at each of these meetings, as are the Mayors of Kalamazoo and Portage, the County Board of Commissioners and our U.S. Congressmen. The Chamber's Web site also includes Vote for Southwest Michigan Business section, which updates members on current state and federal legislation that impact business. Additionally, the Chamber's Political Action Committee endorses candidates and produces a legislative priority list.



The Chamber Helps Me Serve as a Community Leader

The Chamber helps build stronger communities by staying focused and involved in top business, civic and community priorities. Chamber programs and volunteering opportunities connect members to important community needs.

Leadership Kalamazoo

This program provides an opportunity for individuals interested in taking community leadership roles. The program's goal is to provide the southwest Michigan area with an on-going source of motivated leaders, from diverse backgrounds, educated about the community and its issues. Program participants develop an understanding of the concerns of others in the community and a broadened perspective on community issues while attaining 21st century leadership skills.

Business and Quality of Life Agenda

The Chamber is actively engaged in local, state and federal policy decisions that support business, fund transportation infrastructure for community development, and promote policies that support economic growth. Specifically, the Chamber will advocate for our region's fair share of state and federal funding for higher education institutions, cultural and tourism attractions, infrastructure and transportation needs, environmental clean up, and biosciences research and development. Locally, the Chamber initiates efforts on economic development and business retention, poverty reduction, diversity advancement, urban redevelopment, and promoting tourism and visitor activities in the region.



The Chamber Helps Me Drive Results for My Community

The Chamber provides unique opportunities for individuals and businesses to make a difference by connecting them to important community issues. The Chamber builds strong businesses and communities by connecting you to those who influence the local economy and quality of life. Your business will get the tools and resources you need to grow and make a positive impact.

Kalamazoo Area Young Professionals

The Chamber seeks to promote the Kalamazoo area as an attractive region for young professionals to live, learn and grow together. The Kalamazoo Area Young Professionals is a peer networking program that introduces its members to Kalamazoo's exciting opportunities while building leaders that continually shape the community. Through summits, training and forums sponsored by local businesses, the program seeks to develop young professionals, and help them grow personally, mentally, physically and spiritually to become all that they can be.

