

Hillsborough

ORANGE COUNTY

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

OUR MISSION STATEMENT --As the primary voice for business organizations in our region, the Hillsborough/Orange County Chamber of Commerce exists to be of service to our members' business needs. In doing so, we promote economic growth and quality of life.

WHAT IS THE CHAMBER? -- A Chamber of Commerce is an action agency designed to meet community needs. **The Chamber of Commerce is the VOICE of the business community.** It is a voluntary organization of individuals and businesses who band together to advance the commercial, financial, industrial, and civic interests of a community. It is a civic clearinghouse; a public relations counselor; a legislative representative at the local, state, and national levels of government; an information bureau; and a research and promotions medium.

WHO RUNS THE CHAMBER? -- A Board of Directors elected by the Chamber's members runs the organization. The Board, serving without pay, sets the policies. The administrative head of the Chamber is the Executive Director.

WHAT IS THE CHAMBER'S PURPOSE? -- The variety of a Chamber's activities is virtually unlimited, depending on community needs and the desire and ability of the Chamber, its Board of Directors, and its membership, to meet those needs. Its programs determine its overall mission of community development.

HOW DOES THE CHAMBER ACCOMPLISH ITS PURPOSE? -- For the Hillsborough/Orange County Chamber of Commerce, committees are the backbone of the Chamber's body. They are the units that set forth and accomplish the organization's goals and objectives. The needs of the community and the policies of the Chamber determine the kinds and number of these committees. We encourage all members to participate in all our programs. The Chamber is one of those organizations where you truly get back what you put into it.

WHO PAYS FOR THE CHAMBER? -- A Chamber's expenses are apportioned among its members consisting of both firms and individuals. Chamber membership is an investment in the present and future of the individual's and the community's welfare. The Chamber's activities are **not** funded by any branch of government. The Hillsborough/Orange County Chamber of Commerce also holds a number of fund-raising events throughout the year to supplement membership support.

WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER? -- Any firm or individual sharing a common interest in community improvement is eligible for membership. Currently, our membership is composed of small businesses, large industry, nonprofit organizations, civic groups, and local churches.

HILLSBOROUGH/ORANGE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHAMBER BENEFITS

BUSINESS AND POLITICAL CONTACTS -- Through events, meetings, committee participation, and activities, members have direct access to elected officials and to other businesses for mutual benefit. Members can make their feelings on issues known to officials – the Chamber is the Voice of the business community.

BUSINESS REFERRALS -- The Chamber office annually receives hundreds of requests for names of local businesses, professionals, and services. Visitors and potential relocators to the area request information on local businesses and attractions. Chamber members are referred on a daily basis through phone calls, emails, and other promotional events.

CLINICS, SEMINARS, FORUMS, AND WORKSHOPS -- During the year, many professional programs tailored to the needs of members are presented, including seminars on marketing, advertising, human resources, etc. Luncheons are held the third Wednesday of each month and after hours events and other opportunities to network among members are scheduled throughout the year.

PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT COUNSELING -- Special counseling services help members solve business problems. These services are available through our contacts with the Small Business Administration, Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), US and North Carolina Department of Commerce, and the Small Business and Technology Development Center.

EVENT EXPOSURE -- Members receive exclusive promotion at all Chamber sponsored events. Promotional opportunities are available at Hog Day, the Candlelight Tour, and throughout the year at other events, including Hillsborough's Last Fridays, the Chamber's Golf Classic, Business After Hours events, and Lunch & Learn or Breakfast Boost opportunities.

INFORMATIVE NEWSLETTER/BROCHURES -- A monthly newsletter, electronically mailed to members and available on the Chamber's website at www.hillsboroughchamber.com, reports on Chamber members, Chamber activities, and items of interest to the business community. Members are encouraged to advertise in the newsletter; a fee is associated with such advertising. Brochures featuring special categories of businesses provide convenient access to service seekers.

DISCOUNTS -- Member to member discounts are available on internet service provision, telephone services, advertising, and supplies, among other discounts.

TAX WRITE-OFF -- Membership in the Chamber is tax deductible as membership in a Professional Business Group. We are a 501c(6) not-for-profit organization.

MEMBER PROMOTION -- All members receive free publicity in all our publications, including a listing in the Community Resource Guide/Business Directory, published annually and distributed to approximately 100,000 readers in and around Orange County. All new members also receive a free 3-month subscription to the News of Orange County, and a free 2 x 4 inch ad in the Chapel Hill News. Our directory of members is also found on our website (www.hillsboroughchamber.com) and your website or email address can be linked to the online directory.

CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN -- Legal certification documents required for importing or exporting products to certain countries are available to members only, at no charge.

HILLSBOROUGH/ORANGE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHAMBER DUES STRUCTURE

Membership dues are based on a formula that considers the number of employees or full-time equivalent positions within a business. Dues are assessed annually, in line with the calendar year, and thus are prorated from the date of membership.

Equivalent Number of Full-Time Employees	Dues Per Year
1 to 2	\$ 139.00
3 to 5	\$ 193.00
6 to 10	\$ 249.00
11 to 25	\$ 331.00
26 to 50	\$ 441.00
51 and up	\$ 827.00
Non-Profit Organization	\$ 166.00
Associate Members	\$ 50.00
Friends of the Chamber	\$ 50.00

Associate Members are employees of businesses that are already Chamber members or small business members who choose to relinquish their rights to vote on issues before the Chamber.

Friends of the Chamber are non-business people, often retirees, who join the Chamber. Associate and Friends of the Chamber are non-voting members.

Foundation Club and **Corporate Memberships** afford the member a number of additional benefits. For more information, please contact the Chamber's Executive Director

Foundation Club Member	\$3000.00
Corporate Membership	\$5000.00

**HILLSBOROUGH/ORANGE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Business Name: _____ Date: _____

Representative(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Website: _____ Email: _____

Characterize your business according to general type and indicate the specific goods provided or service rendered:

General Type	Goods/Services Provided
Manufacturing/Industrial	_____
General Services (insurance, real estate, appraisals, media)	_____
Retail	_____
Professional Services (lawyers, doctors, accountants)	_____
Financial Services (banks, financial planners)	_____
Trades, Other Services (for profit schools, construction)	_____
Restaurant	_____
Lodging (all accommodations, apartments, rest homes)	_____
Non-Profits	_____
Other	_____

Check your business structure:

Sole Proprietorship Partnership S Corporation C Corporation LLC Other
Number of full-time employees: _____ Number of part-time employees: _____ Seasonal: _____
Type of Membership: Non-Profit Associate Member Friend of the Chamber Full

Amount Paid: _____ Payment Type: Cash Check Credit Card
Account Number: _____ Expires: _____

How did you find out about the Hillsborough/Orange County Chamber?

Were you referred by a Current Chamber Member? No Yes _____

Return to: Hillsborough/Orange County Chamber of Commerce
102 North Churton Street, Hillsborough, NC 27278