

September 2010



Why Should You Join the Rhinelanders Area Chamber of Commerce?

I am frequently asked what the Chamber does for our Members and the community. It's a great question that deserves an honest answer. Originally formed as a business association, the Chamber focused on recruiting and furthering existing businesses within our community. As we grew and formally incorporated as the Rhinelanders Area Chamber of Commerce, we expanded to add tourism to our repertoire.

We are a unique chamber in that we serve a unique community. We have a diverse industrial base of businesses. We are the retail and service hub of Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. There really isn't another community quite like Rhinelanders!

The Chamber's Board of Directors and staff have a distinct mission statement: to advance the general welfare and prosperity of the greater Rhinelanders area so that its citizens in all areas of its business community shall prosper. All necessary means of promotion shall be provided and particular attention and emphasis shall be given to the economic, civic, commercial, cultural, industrial and educational interests of the area.

In July, the Board met to clearly define how we serve our Members and the community. We identified three priorities that the Chamber Board and staff will focus on for the next year: financial stability, relevant and successful events, and Membership recruitment.

To be strong for our Members and the community, we must be financially secure. We continue to find ways to reduce our expenses and increase our revenue, thereby reducing the burden on our Members. We have maintained financially successful events that benefit our Members and the community including our Hodag Home Show, the Art Fair on the Courthouse Lawn, and the Hodag Musky Challenge (HMC) Fishing Tournament. We have introduced new events including the Hodag Birthday Bash (August), Hodag's Hops & Vines microbrew and wine tasting festival (November) and RhineCon computer gaming convention (February 2011). We have a strong, balanced focus on tourism promotion that continues to draw thousands to our area.

We need to continue our mission! We offer our Members a variety of benefits including:

- Business Promotion and Exposure - We meet and greet tens of thousands of visitors to our office each year. We average over 5,000 visitors to our website on a monthly basis.
- Exclusive opportunity to accept Chamber Bucks gift certificates - We are promoting shopping locally. We are increasing our Chamber Bucks program exposure, thereby increasing your business' visibility to local residents.
- Our tourism promotional efforts reach far and wide - We are partnering with regional chambers to promote Rhinelanders to visitors throughout the Midwest.

The Rhinelanders Area Chamber of Commerce wants to work for you!

Please take a moment to review the enclosed information. You will find that your Membership dues will be your best promotional investment. The Rhinelanders Area Chamber of Commerce is your community business organization, and we want to work for, and with, you!

Join us today to see the return on investment that your business won't find with other promotional opportunities!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Swisher".

Kim Swisher, Executive Director

Direct Line: (715) 365-7465

Email: director@rhinelanderschamber.com

Business Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Fax: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Website Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

Primary Business Representative: _____

Additional Representatives: (please include address, phone number and email address if different from above): _____

Membership Category:

Choice 1 _____ Choice 2 _____ Choice 3 _____

Please briefly describe your business: _____

Number of Full-Time/Part-Time Employees: _____ Annual Dues: _____

RACC bills annually on your anniversary date (One Time) Administrative Fee: \$25.00

Building Investment (may be paid over three (3) years) Building Investment : _____

Payment must accompany application in order to be processed **TOTAL:** _____

Who or what was influential in your decision to join the Chamber?

Comments: _____

I would like to learn more about sponsoring an event. **I would like to learn more about volunteering at an event.**

Signature _____ Date _____

<i>For Office Use Only:</i>	Annual Membership Investment _____	DB / QB / CLING _____	
Three year Building Assessment:	Year 1 _____	Year 2 _____	Year 3 _____
Membership Join Date:	_____		

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

COST

Business / Organization:

\$200

Includes retail, recreational, amusements, transportation, airports, manufacturing, contracting, government entities, non-profit entities with more than five (5) employees.

Non-profit or community organizations with less than five (5) employees.

\$100

Lodging Member:

\$200

Plus \$3.00 per bedroom; \$.50 per campsite; \$2.50 per full-time employee.

Home-Based Business:

\$100

Do not own, rent or lease off-site space; do not employ more than the individual owner and/or spouse.

Associate Member:

\$25

Do not represent a business or organization; students; no voting privileges.

BUILDING INVESTMENT

Effective June 2004, and restated June 2008, a three-year Building Investment and Future Projects Fee will be collected from every Member of the Rhineland Area Chamber of Commerce. The current fee schedule is shown below. The Building Investment may be paid in yearly installments over three years or as one lump sum.

Annual Membership Dues

\$100
\$200 - \$250
\$251 - \$375
\$376 - \$450
\$451 - \$650
\$651 - \$1,500
\$1,501 +

Building Investment

\$75 per year for three years
\$150 per year for three years
\$200 per year for three years
\$250 per year for three years
\$300 per year for three years
\$400 per year for three years
\$500 per year for three years

Building Investment Fees are used for the maintenance and upkeep of the Visitor Center.

In 2009, the office welcomed over 24,000 individuals, proving we are the destination for visitor and business information for the Rhineland Area. Your support allows us to continue our important mission of promoting Member businesses.

2010 Membership Investment Worksheet

Calculate your annual Membership Investment
 Add the one time Administrative Fee
 Add the first year (or full payment of three year) Building Investment Fee

Annual Membership Investment:	
Number of Full Time Employees multiplied by \$2.50	
Number of Business Associates multiplied by \$60.00	
Campgrounds: Number of Campsites multiplied by \$.50	
Lodging: Number of Bedrooms multiplied by \$3.00	
Total Annual Membership Investment:	
New Member Administrative Fee (<i>One Time Cost</i>):	\$25.00
Building Investment (<i>Three Year Investment or May Be Paid in One Payment</i>):	
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP INVESTMENT:	

***Thank You for Your Support of the
 Rhineland Area Chamber of Commerce***