



Bedford County Chamber of Commerce

Leading Businesses. Leading Communities.™

203 South Juliana Street

Bedford, PA 15522

Phone: 814.623.2233

Fax: 814.623.6089

info@bedfordcountychamber.org

www.bedfordcountychamber.com

Chamber Fast-Facts

Source: The Shapiro Group

Atlanta, GA

National Research Study, 2012

7 out of 10 consumers believe that a business being actively involved in the Chamber demonstrates that it uses good business practices.

If consumers know that a small business is a member of the Chamber, the company enjoys:

— 44% increase in its consumer favorability rating.

— 51% increase in consumer awareness.

— 63% increase in likelihood that consumers will patronize the business in the future.

Consumers are 63% more likely to buy from a business that is a Chamber member.

Consumers are 68% more likely to think positively of a business' reputation if they are a member of the Chamber.

Consumers are 73% more likely to be highly aware of a business if they are a member of the Chamber.

Bedford County Accomplishments

Advocacy, Education & Economic/Community Development

- * Recognized as Chamber of the Year by the PA Assoc. of Chamber Professionals
- * Spearheaded the construction of the Silver Lining Drive-In at the Bedford County Fairgrounds during the Covid-19 Pandemic, providing safe and socially distant activities for local families and a community asset available for business & other use.
- * Holds the County's largest student career fair (600+ students from all of the county's school districts and 100+ business leaders - during Business Showcase in Sept.)
- * Provides a Government Affairs Speaker Series allowing the business community and public to connect and interact with government officials concerning issues important to the Bedford County region and beyond.
- * Hosts Candidate Forums leading up to Primary and General Elections; held the first-ever tribute to the Honor Guards of Bedford County; Hosts valuable Government Affairs programs throughout the year, connecting businesses with legislators.
- * Among the first Chambers in PA to offer Active Shooter & Intruder Training for business; continues to offer this training every few years
- * Launched an annual Women in Business Conference in 2014; added Summer & Winter programs in 2019; Expanded to weekly Power Hour programming in 2020.
- * Has provided more than 200 business development and training events since 2014, including a groundbreaking partnership with Allegany College of Maryland.
- * Sponsored the homecoming of Olympian Natalie Dell O'Brien for inspirational school visits after 2012 London Games; and again in 2015 for Showcase.
- * Has been providing educational initiatives through the Bedford County Chamber Foundation for two decades, with programs focused on servant leadership and community improvement, literacy, career exploration & workforce development.
- * Launched the leadership-themed John Anderson Distinguished Speaker Series.
- * Tripled the business honorees and attendance at the Annual Dinner & Awards Program, providing the signature celebration of excellence for local business.
- * Doubled the business participation and more than tripled community attendance for the Home, Garden & Lifestyle Show, the largest springtime consumer event in Bedford Co.; includes partnership with Fairgrounds/Racetrack to promote season.

Member & Community Engagement

- * Publishes an annual *Membership Directory & Community Profile Guide*, providing information to businesses, new residents, visitors and the community about the many assets of the Bedford County region; online version also available worldwide.
- * Produces *The Vibe*, an online segment showcasing local businesses & communities; posted Facebook, Youtube and the Chamber website three times per week.
- * Provides more than 60 Business Celebrations annually, including Ribbon Cuttings, Anniversary Celebrations, Groundbreakings, Key Exchanges, etc.
- * Creates hundreds of member networking opportunities each year, including Business After Hours mixers, First Thursday Networking Breakfasts, and signature events.
- * Showcases agriculture in the county with a series of educational events including Downtown on the Farm, Bridges & Barns Tours, Ag Career Fair, etc.

Learn more about these and other Chamber Membership offerings online:

www.BedfordCountyChamber.com

Member Benefits

EXPOSURE

Print Directory, Map
 The Vibe Video Segment
 Website & Social Media
 Direct Mail & Email
 Referrals
 Events & Sponsorships
 Business Celebrations
 Bedford Gazette Chamber Page
 News Release Service
 Relocation Information

ISSUES & EDUCATION

Government Affairs Events
 Seminars & Workshops
 Leadership Bedford County
 Youth Leadership Bedford Co.
 Community Reading Day
 BASICS Steps to Success
 Career Fairs & Field Days
 Agri-Business Education
 Entrepreneur Education
 Women in Business

NETWORKING

Business After Hours
 Networking Breakfasts
 Annual Dinner & Awards
 Trade Shows
 Direct Sales Task Force
 Young Professionals Group
 Committee Opportunities

SAVINGS & SERVICES:

Chamber Choice Programs
 (Insurance, HR support, etc.)
 Chamber Advantage Card
 Energy Savings
 Marketing Specials
 Penn National Insurance
 (Dividend Program)

Committee Opportunities

The Bedford County Chamber of Commerce relies on our many committees to help plan & execute our events & programs. Committee involvement benefits not only our Chamber, but also our members, who have the opportunity to work with their peers in small groups, cultivating valuable business connections, all while making an important contribution to the many offerings of Chamber and our community.

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Awards (gathering info about Award Nominees)  
 Meets periodically July through September in Chamber office

Special Events (Planning major events like Annual Dinner, Women in Business Series, Foundation Fundraisers, Breakfast with Santa, etc.) meets 2nd Tues., 8:30, venue varies

Home, Garden & Lifestyle Show (plans springtime home improvement trade show)  
 Meets monthly October through April: 2nd Mondays, 3pm in Chamber office

Business Community Showcase (plans Business-to-Business Trade Show & Career Fair)  
 Meets periodically May through September event (times vary)

Government Affairs (Plans Government events, discusses issues)  
 1st Tuesdays—10am in Chamber office or Via Zoom

Chamber Ambassadors (participates in ceremonies, adopts new members)  
 Meets 2nd Fridays at noon for Dutch-treat lunches (venue varies)

Direct Sales Task Force (for home-based businesses)  
 Meets bi-monthly, dates/times vary

Golf Committee (plans annual Chamber golf tournament)  
 Meets Jan. through July over lunch at Down River Golf Club

Agri-Business (plans agri-business education events in school & the community)  
 (Meetings times/venues vary with the seasons to accommodate farms)

Bike Bedford County (plans Chamber bike ride and related events)  
 Lunch meetings as needed to plan Aug. event

Young Professionals (20's/30's/40-something's networking/education events)  
 (Dates and venues vary, generally 5-7pm)

PA Lumberjack Competition & Outdoor Show and Olde Bedford Beer Festival Committee  
 (Dates vary - meets at the Golden Eagle Inn & Olde Bedford Brewing Co.)

Leadership Bedford County Advisory Committee  
 Meets last Fridays, 8am in Chamber office

Youth Leadership Bedford County Advisory Committee  
 Meets 3rd Mondays, 8am at BCTC (during school year)

BASICS (Businesses & Schools Investing in Cooperative Solutions)  
 Meets 3rd Tuesdays, 8:15am in Chamber office (during school year)

Other committees, task forces, etc. are formed as needed.

**Contact the Chamber for Additional Information on Current Opportunities.**