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e hope that we may soon be able to count you among the membership of the Washington Area Chamber of Commerce. We are sure that you are aware of most of the business that the Chamber conducts. For your information, however, we have put together a listing of functions/programs sponsored by the Washington Area Chamber of Commerce. If you have any questions, please give a member of the staff a call at 636-239-2715 and they will be happy to answer your questions.

CHAMBER SPONSORED FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS

WEBSITE:

All Chamber members are listed on the Chamber's website www.washmo.org, under their category heading and in an alphabetical listing. The URL www.washmo.org takes you to the Splash Page where you may choose Chamber of Commerce, Visitor Information, Economic Development, City of Washington, Downtown Washington, Inc., Washington Fair, or Historical Society. When you go to the Chamber of Commerce link, you will see the Membership Directory button on the left. The Membership Directory button takes you to a list of categories. Your business may fall under one or more of these categories, and may be listed accordingly. We want your business to be found! From this page you will also see a link at the top that will give you a list of the Chamber members in alphabetical order. Members may have a link to their website from each of their postings on the Chamber site. As a member your information will be automatically added to the site. To change this information please contact Mary Beth Rettke, ext. 101 or email mbrettke@washmo.org. An events calendar, available from both the Chamber and the Visitor Information sites lists community events, as well as, special events sponsored by Chamber businesses. For more information contact Mary Beth Rettke, ext. 101 or email tourism@washmo.org. All Chamber members in tourism-related businesses may also contact Mary Beth to get a listing on the Visitor Information site.

HOME SHOW:

The Annual Home Show is held in late February or early March. Dates for the 2012 show are March 2-4. The show averages approximately 35 vendors in 46 booths. Daily demonstrations are given by some of the participants. Youth-oriented entertainment keeps the kids happy while parents peruse the exhibits. The Chamber of Commerce gives out eight \$100 gift certificates that the winners may redeem at any of the participating businesses. Admission and parking for the event are free to the public. Chamber members wanting to participate are given a discounted price for booth exhibit space. For more information, call Mary Beth Rettke, ext. 101 or Lynn Diermann, ext. 100.

BANQUET:

The Chamber Banquet is held annually in March of the year. Get a table together of your friends and co-workers (10 people per table) and call with your reservations in early (as soon as you get the invitation in the mail). Your business also has the opportunity to be a program sponsor for the evening. Sponsorship cost is \$100. We like to think of this as Washington's social event of the year with one low price for the dinner, dance, and open bar. Those attending will hear a sample of the upcoming fair entertainment, have the

opportunity to bid for prime advertisement spots in the fair book, and be present as a local individual or group becomes the recipient of the coveted Washingtonian Award (presented by the Washington Missourian.) Time: 6 p.m. to 12 midnight, Place: Knights of Columbus Hall, Price: \$50.00 per person, Dress: Semiformal. Any questions, call Amanda Griesheimer, ext. 106.

FARMERS' MARKET:

This is a market for local people to sell their homegrown produce or handcrafted items. The Market starts Mid-April and runs until the end of December. The market is located in the facility at 317 West Main Street, next to the Chamber of Commerce office. The market hours are Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and Wednesday afternoons 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Any questions, Call Amanda Griesheimer, ext. 106 or email agriesheimer@washmo.org.

MUSIC AT THE MARKET:

The second Thursday, May through September, 5-8 PM we will have live music at the market featuring entertainers from eastern Missouri. Admission is free. Food and drinks are available. For information on the event or sponsorship, Call Mark Wessels, ext. 103 or email mwessels@washmo.org.

MIXERS:

Two membership mixers are held each summer. The Retail/Professional Mixer and the Industrial Mixer are both held in June. Cost for each event is \$20.00 per person, which includes a steak dinner and cocktails. Time: 6 to 9:30 p.m., Place: Fair Pavilion in the City Park, Dress: casual. You will get an invitation in the mail for either mixer; determined by the category under which your business falls. Attending either of these events is a fun and inexpensive way to network with other Chamber members. For event sponsorship or questions, Call Tammy Adragna, ext. 105 or email tyoung@washmo.org.

BUSINESS MEETING:

The Business Meeting is scheduled annually for the first Thursday in November and includes a full breakfast, Chamber, Fair, and Economic Development reports, and a Keynote Speaker or entertainment. Place: Elks Hall. Cost: \$12.00 per person. Time: 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. Dress: Business (You will get an invitation in the mail.) Your business also has the opportunity to be a program sponsor for the event. Sponsorship cost is \$50. For more information, call Lynn Diermann, ext. 100 or email ldiermann@washmo.org.

WASHINGTON AREA BROCHURES AND ADVERTISING:

The Tourism Department of the Chamber of Commerce produces the annual Historic Washington brochure, which gives information on local lodging, dining, shopping, and general visitor attractions and services. Over 30,000 copies of this brochure are printed and circulated throughout this area and the mid-west. A printable version of this brochure is also on the Visitor website www.washmo.org.

Another publication produced through Chamber efforts is the *Wine Country* brochure, which features wineries within an hour drive of Washington, and some suggested day trips to the area. Restaurants that serve wine and area lodging are also included in this brochure.

Through the Chamber's tourism efforts, there are numerous Missouri highway signs that encourage drivers to visit Washington. Billboards promoting our area can also be seen on Hwy. 47 just south of Washington, and on I-44 at St. James. For more information contact Mary Beth Rettke, ext. 101 or email tourism@washmo.org.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS:

The Chamber sends out invitations (and pays for postage) for a member to showcase their business to the rest of the Chamber membership. The host business must have been a member of the Chamber for at least one full year. The Chamber will design the invitation, print it in-house, and e-mail, fax, or mail (post) to our members. For new members who wish to host a Business After Hours, Chamber will design invitation, and send it out, but member must pay any postage costs. Any additional invitations sent to those other than Chamber members will also be at the member's expense. Attending these events give members an excellent opportunity to network with other members. Dress: Business. You will receive invitations, and will need to RSVP to the host business on your own. Call Lynn Diermann, ext. 100, to set up a Business After Hours for your company.

CHECK ALERT:

Members of the Chamber are invited to join the Check Alert Program. Whenever the Chamber receives information on the passing of bad checks, closed accounts, stolen money, or stolen checks, in the Washington area, an alert is started to inform our members to keep a watchful eye. The Chamber sends out a faxed notice to everyone who has requested to be in this program. This program is geared primarily for retail establishments who deal with the public on a daily basis. To become a part of the program, call Lynn Diermann, ext. 100.

WASHINGTON TOWN & COUNTRY FAIR:

The Chamber sponsored Washington Town and Country Fair is the third largest fair in the state. This fair is organized by 23 dedicated, volunteer Fair Board members. Daily operations are run by the Chamber-based Fair Coordinator and Fair Assistants. The Chamber President/CEO holds the position of Fair Manager. An event of this magnitude can only continue through the efforts of hundreds of local volunteers. The Fair begins the first Wednesday in August and runs for 5 days. Sponsorships are always welcome. Call Jennifer Giesike, ext. 104, if you are interested in sponsoring an event at the Fair or if you have any questions concerning the Fair. The 2011 Fair dates are August 3-7.

RIBBON CUTTINGS:

Ribbon cuttings can be set up through the Chamber for members' businesses, whether it is for a new business, new location or new ownership. This brings the business into the spotlight with coverage in local newspaper. A picture of the event is also placed in the Chamber's quarterly newsletter. Call Lynn Diermann if you wish to have a ribbon cutting, ext. 100.

SPOTLIGHT SPEAKER SERIES:

This event is held the second Wednesday every other month at 7:30 a.m. Most topics are chosen to appeal to the majority of our members, with the occasional individualized presentation. Topics have included self-help, human resource issues, business recycling and ecological issues, sales and marketing, and many additional topics. Cost for members is \$10.00, which includes a continental breakfast. Cost for non-member attendees is \$15.

You will receive a monthly e-mail or fax with further information. For questions or reservations, call Amanda Griesheimer, ext. 106, or email agriesheimer@washmo.org.

BOARD ROOM:

The Chamber of Commerce board room is available for members' use. The room holds 20-25 people with tables, and approximately 40 set in classroom-style (seats only.) A 60" plasma screen is in place for viewing your DVD. Your laptop may be hooked into the system to show PowerPoint presentations on the screen, or a pull-down screen is also available if you prefer to bring your own projection system.

The room is free to members for use during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or at a cost of \$20 per hour before or after hours. A \$50 security deposit is required, but will be refunded after inspection of the facility. Call Tammy Adragna, ext. 105 or email tyoung@washmo.org for more information on room rental or availability.

CHAMBER CHATTER:

In lieu of a quarterly newsletter, we are sending a weekly update of Chamber happenings with announcements, ribbon cuttings, etc., by email. A quarterly update will be sent by mail to those without email capabilities. Information used for Chamber Chatter, other than Chamber related, must be general information, or events for non-profit entities. We cannot list individual promotions or sales. For more information, call Lynn Diermann, ext. 100 or email ldiermann@washmo.org.

WASHINGTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF:

636-239-2715

Mark Wessels, President/CEO	Extension 103
Tammy Adragna, Bookkeeper	Extension 105
Jennifer Giesike, Fair Coordinator	Extension 104
Amanda Griesheimer, Fair/Chamber Assist.	Extension 106
Lynn Diermann, Chamber/Fair Assist.	Extension 100

WASHINGTON TOURISM STAFF:

Mary Beth Rettke, Tourism Director	636-239-2715, Ext. 101
Nancy Wood, Clerk	636-239-7575
Tessie Steffens, Clerk	636-239-7575
Toll-free line	888-7-WASHMO

WASHINGTON LICENSE OFFICE STAFF:

636-239-7881

Deborah Knight, Manager
Nicki Shockley, Assistant Manager
Charlie Dolles, License Technician
Jamie Bowen, License Technician
LuAnn Cooper, License Technician