The Top Ten Ways to Recognize Your Chamber of Commerce

We get asked quite a bit what makes a chamber “real” and what is a chamber of commerce? While it seems like an odd question it made us think. So we decided to opt with a Top 10 list for what your chamber is and ways to recognize what we should be.

1. We are a registered 501©6 organization. What does that mean? We are a not-for-profit. Not a non-profit or a charity. By Internal Revenue Service (IRS) standards a Chamber of Commerce must be a 501©6.
2. We have been in business 44 years as of May 2020, and we have a wealth of experience. The people of Liberty County started in 1976 by coming together to form the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce.
3. Our name means something. Not just in Liberty County, but throughout the state of Georgia. We are a recognized leader asked to serve on various panels, speak at events, serve on boards and committees with real impacts that are established and acclaimed.
4. We are the premier leadership development organization in Liberty County. We help develop community leaders through character development programming, mentorship, professional development training, civic awareness and engagement opportunities. We will graduate our 16th class of Leadership Liberty in June 2020 and our 14th class of Young Adult Liberty Leaders in April 2020.
5. We do what we say we’re going to do, when we say we’re going to do. We get it done. Everyday. Because we listen to our members and the public about what they want to see, what they will support, and we ask for help. We know some tasks are too big for us, it takes a village sometimes to make it work, and teamwork makes our dream work!
6. We are not political. We do not endorse or host political candidates. We don’t care about your politics, we just want a successful, cohesive community that works together for the common good and that is for every person regardless of party affiliation. A Chamber is a-political.
7. We are the unified pro-business voice working alongside local, state and federal government officials to ensure a business-friendly and supportive climate for new business and entrepreneurial growth and expansion. A local government needs help getting a program off the ground? We’re there for the work, to offer a hand, to offer our backs and to help be the glue that keeps it all together. We show up and show out every time.
8. We are inclusive, celebrating diversity and welcoming new ideas and innovation. Having done the math recently, 52% of our membership is owned/operated by a minority. Our board composition is 73% minority (which includes both women and a diverse racial mix, as well as a number of Veterans). We embrace the differences in our community. We know that no matter the age, sex, race and experience level of folks that everyone has something to offer. It’s our job to find out what that is and get you plugged in the right place.
9. We win awards. Our processes, our past history and the future we are planning are all things that others seek to emulate. And we’re happy to share. Again it’s all about teamwork.
10. We are a Georgia Certified Chamber of Commerce. With over 150 Chambers of Commerce in the State of Georgia, only ***ten*** chambers were recognized as Georgia Certified Chambers during the Opening Luncheon of the 2019 GACCE Volunteer Leader Conference held at the Great Wolf Lodge in LaGrange, GA in November 2019. We received this prestigious honor that distinguishes the high quality, expertise and strong leadership displayed by accredited chambers.

We’ve been saying for the last two years that we are your 6C Chamber. We are catalysts, conveners, champions, collaborators, cheerleaders and connectors. Well we’ve made it our goal for 2020 to be deliberate in our intentions both in spirit and spoken word. So moving into 2020 we are adding the word CONTRIBUTORS. We are your 7C Chamber. We are catalysts, conveners, champions, collaborators, cheerleaders, connectors and contributors.

What does contributor mean to us? To us it means that we give or supply something. We don’t take, we don’t create confusion, we don’t harbor strife, we’re not the origin of dissent. We contribute our efforts, our time, our money and our members to making Liberty County the very best and most positive place it can be. And that means we contribute to cohesion and unity.