

**TOP TEN REASONS TO JOIN THE
MONROE COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

1. The networking and new business contacts gained will help your business grow.
2. You are making a statement that you are committed to the future of Monroe County.
3. You are able to participate in the decisions that will affect your community's future.
4. Promotion of your business with our assistance with grand openings, business after hours, receptions, business referrals, a mailing list for sales promotions, your business' link on our webpage, and brochure displays in Chamber offices, and opportunities for exclusive event sponsorships, recognition, & publicity.
5. Learning opportunities, business topic luncheons, and educational seminars to help you and your employees be better informed.
6. You are supporting a better quality of life for all our citizens by helping Monroe County retain the existing job base and attract new jobs.
7. Chamber member only referrals that increase your bottom line.
8. Publicity, name recognition, and networking opportunities, so customers know who you are
9. Be the first to know, concerning the local economy, community events, and industry and business announcements.
10. You are supporting the local economic development organization devoted to creating and maintaining a strong local economy.

**MONROE COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MISSION STATEMENT**

The Monroe County Chamber of Commerce was created to utilize the cooperative efforts of the public and private sectors in order to improve the economic welfare and to create a higher quality of life for the residents of Monroe County and surrounding areas.

**MONROE COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

BUSINESS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: () _____

CONTACT: _____

E-MAIL: _____

WEBSITE _____

COMMENTS: _____

\$ _____ ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
INVESTMENT

<u>Licensed Professionals</u>	\$150 Base Rate	
	\$100 X ea. Professional Associate	
<u>Financial Institutions</u>	\$30 per Million dollars Deposits (Minimum \$500 Investment)	
<u>Family Farms & Non-profit Organizations</u>	\$100	
<u>Individual</u>	\$50	
<u>Manufacturing/Processing</u>	\$250	1-49 employees
<u>Distribution</u>	\$500	50-249 employees
	\$1000	250-1000
		(+1.00 per employee over 1000)
<u>General Business</u>	\$100	1-5 employees
	\$150	6-10 employees
	\$250	11-24 employees
	\$500	25-100 employees
		(+5.00 per employee over 100)

Out of County Business
General, Retail, Professional \$150
Manufacturing/Warehousing \$250



MONROE COUNTY
 MISSISSIPPI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Aberdeen Office
 124 West Commerce Street
 Aberdeen, MS 39730
 662/369-6488 - 662/369-6489 fax

Amory Office
 1619 Hwy 25 N
 Amory, MS 38821
 662/256-7194 - 662/256-9671 fax

E-mail: chamber@gomonroe.org
Website: www.gomonroe.org

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS & SERVICES OFFERED BY THE MONROE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Tax deductible - Your membership investment into the Chamber of Commerce is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a "business expense" and is totally deductible

Business After Hours - As a member you can host a "Business After Hours" reception at your place of business. The Chamber will mail out invitations to the entire Chamber membership. This is a great opportunity to showcase your business and it provides an excellent networking opportunity.

Seminars/Workshops - Business seminars and workshops are offered that address issues to enhance the operation of your business. Most seminars and workshops are offered FREE to Chamber members, or for a nominal fee for instructor fees.

Monday Moments Newsletter - All members receive the Chamber's bimonthly email newsletter that keeps you abreast of community and Chamber events and happenings, as well as all the latest economic development news for the county.

FREE Business Counseling & Consulting Services - Do you occasionally need help and/or advice on your business operations? We can help! The Monroe County Chamber of Commerce's Executive Director, Tony Green spent 7 years as a small business owner and has over 16 years experience as a commercial banker. He can meet with you to discuss any issues you may have, with the exceptions of accounting, tax and legal matters. He is knowledgeable in the areas of selling a business, buying a business, recording keeping, financing, marketing, creating a business plan, what your banker needs, getting the most of your advertising dollars, and developing cash flow projections and a financial statement analysis. Also, the Chamber's partnership with Mississippi State University's Small Business Development Center is available to help you get your new business off to its best possible start.

Special Event Promotion - If you are planning any type of special event for your business such as a business open house, employee retirement reception, business anniversary date, business after hours, etc., the Chamber staff will be very happy to provide you with a mailing label list of all Chamber members.

Grand Openings & Ribbon Cuttings - If you are a new business or you have a new product line or location, the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors will conduct a grand opening or ribbon cutting for you. Ambassadors are volunteers from different businesses in the area who serve as the public relations arm of the Chamber of Commerce.

Business Referrals - The Chamber of Commerce office receives many, many calls requesting recommendations for businesses or services in our area - ***we recommend our Chamber members!***

Membership Directory Listing - When you join the Chamber of Commerce, you are automatically listed in our Membership Directory. Newcomers to the community, industrial prospects and other Chamber members utilize this directory when looking for reputable companies to conduct business with.

Brochure Display - Your Chamber maintains a brochure rack at each Chamber office location. You are always welcome to bring a supply of your brochures and business cards that we will keep on display for you.

Chamber Luncheons - Chamber luncheons are offered on community interest topics including: Business Topics, Legislative Updates, City and County, Government, and Education issues, and a variety of community interest topics. Join us for these very informative updates, ask questions and stay abreast of what's happening in your community.

Exclusive Sponsorships, Recognition, & Publicity - If you provide a service or a product for a specific Chamber event or function you will receive inclusion in event publicity and verbal recognition for doing so. Opportunities include governmental and state receptions, annual meetings, quarterly luncheons, and business after hours, etc.

Community Image Publication - Your Chamber of Commerce endorses the full color publication that is published by the Monroe Journal & Journal Publishing that highlights organizations, and addresses livability and quality of life issues in our community. It is distributed free of charge, through most of our retail store locations. This publication provides an excellent advertising opportunity. As a Chamber of Commerce member, you are encouraged to advertise in this publication. It creates visibility for your business, enhances your credibility and establishes your business identity.

FREE Mailing Labels - For marketing your business to all Chamber members.

Internet Visibility - Our website receives over 10,000 visitors, annually. The Chamber's Membership Directory is published on our website. If you have a website for your business, we offer a free hyperlink to your business website.

Membership Plaques - As a Chamber member, you are given a membership plaque to display in your business. This shows your customers that you are involved and supportive of your community and that you are a Chamber of Commerce member in good standing.

Information Source - We maintain information lists and a very detailed listing of websites that should contain just about any type of information that you might be looking for. Examples include community demographics, area phone directories, a list of organizations, contact information for all levels of government officials, local and state maps, major employer industrial directories, statistical information, FEMA flood maps, and census information. If we don't have the information that you are looking for we can tell you where to find it, the organization name and/or internet address.

Business Development Resource - We maintain information and can research information on local available industrial sites and buildings, business locations, demographics, traffic counts, labor statistics, and wage & benefits statistics.

Advocate for Business - Representation of the business community in partnership with government officials to promote economic development. The Chamber serves as an advisor to local government entities on numerous community issues and projects; and sponsors networking meetings such as the Council of Governments, with city, county, state officials, businesses, economic development partners, and industry leaders.

Relocation Packages - Your Chamber of Commerce endorses the relocation and visitor packages that are sent out by the Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau and the Amory Main St. organizations. These packages usually include cultural attractions, community information, school listings and much more. These are mailed upon request or picked up by newcomers, as well as visitors to the area.

Networking Opportunities - Your Chamber affords you many opportunities of interaction in the community that will help you build your customer base by developing friendships and relationships that could last a lifetime.

