

WHAT IS THE NORTH LAS VEGAS CHAMBER?

In general terms, what is a chamber of commerce?

A chamber of commerce is a member based business organization. Typically, chambers exist to promote the interests of business on municipal, state, regional national, and even international levels. Generally, chambers of commerce serve the following purposes:

Creating a strong local economy

Promoting the community

Providing networking opportunities

Speaking with government on behalf of business

Political & business advocacy

The first chambers of commerce were founded in 1599 in continental Europe. In the United States, the first chamber was created in New York City in 1768 to encourage commerce, support industry, adjust disputes relative to trade and navigation, and produce such laws and regulations as may be found necessary for the benefit of trade in general.

So what is the North Las Vegas Chamber?

The North Las Vegas Chamber is a business organization funded by membership dues and programs; it is not a government entity and does not receive government funding. The Chamber is comprised of approximately 900 business members from throughout the valley with 50% having physical Las Vegas and Henderson addresses. Why do these companies belong to the North Las Vegas Chamber? It is because they want to tap into the vibrant, growing city that boasts almost 250,000 members and home to a growing number of businesses.

What is it that we do?

Everything that we do is centered around our core competencies or purpose. Programs are developed that help our business members navigate through the everyday challenges of running their businesses. Workshops and seminars that focus on everything from marketing and advertising to human resource issues are held throughout the year. With every event and committee meeting, there is a valuable opportunity to network with other business people. This not only gives you the ability to promote your business; it provides the opportunity for you to learn from others or to become a mentor to an up and comer. There are discounts on a number of products and services as well as a high quality health insurance program available to members only as well as free services such as notary and certificate of origin services.

Political/Business Advocacy

While many members join for the networking and discounts, a role of the Chamber is to represent business with government. This is accomplished on a local level by working with the city staff and council to ensure that processes and regulations don't inhibit the ability of business to locate and grow in North Las Vegas. We continually focus on zoning issues to guarantee that there is sufficient industrial and commercial land to grow our business community.

On a state level, through the government affairs committee and the chamber's lobbying team, we work with legislators on those issues that impact the business community. While the North Las Vegas Chamber does not directly endorse candidates, we do issue a "List of Approved Business Friendly Candidates". A candidate on this list has answered favorably those questions directed to them either in questionnaire form or via interview process. On a federal level, we traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with our Nevada congressional representatives to discuss issues important to our membership.

Professional & Personal Development

The Chamber introduced two signature programs in 2008; the Women's Leadership Conference and Leadership North Las Vegas. The Women's Leadership Conference showcased three dynamic local businesswomen (Honoree Corpron, Jan Jones, & Marilyn Winn) along with keynote speaker Debra Benton. With a widely diverse audience of women...and one man, the group heard invaluable advice on how to project professionalism along with noteworthy personal stories of succeeding in a male dominated world.

The Leadership North Las Vegas program kicked off last weekend at the Hotel on Mt. Charleston with an incredible group of twenty-two business professionals from various industries and a wide range of ages and levels of expertise. While the class will further learn about North Las Vegas in the subsequent seven months, they will also continue to hone their leadership skills. Upon graduation, North Las Vegas and the entire Valley will have a new source of committed volunteers to serve on boards, councils, and other efforts as they work to make our community a better place to live.

So the next time you wonder what the North Las Vegas Chamber does.....no we can't get your pothole fixed, but we can point you to the person who can.

