

South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Semi-Annual Update

Date of Presentation: Feb. 19, 2025

Activities Update for: Aug. 2024 - Jan. 2025

Reporting : Jak Massey, Outreach Director

Joined by: Ronda Hills, Chamber President



SEMI-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP STATS

February 1, 2022 – 105 Active Members

August 1, 2022 – 114 Active Members

February 1, 2023 – 127 Active Members

February 1, 2024 – 125 Active Members

February 1, 2025 – 149 Active Members



GROWING OUR MEMBERSHIP!!

NETWORKING EVENTS

Monthly Coffee & Commerce and Happy Hour Events continue to be well attended, it is common for our Happy Hour events to have about 45-50 in attendance. And our Coffee & Commerce well over 30. Our events are often booked out months, currently our Coffee & Commerce Events are completely booked for the year and starting to confirm hosts for 2026 and our next available Happy Hour date is September.

RIBBON CUTTING CELEBRATIONS

We are always excited to share in the success of our Members and our Ribbon Cutting events allow us the opportunity to take part in this and show our support. I take this time to remind the City Council (as I do with our new Members) that Ribbon Cuttings are not just for new businesses opening their doors for the first time. In the past 3 ½ years that I have been with the Chamber we have celebrated businesses expanding new location in a neighboring city, expansions & remodeled facilities, milestones & anniversaries, national accreditations and sole proprietor businesses welcoming a new associate. In the past several months, we've had both ends of the spectrum as far as successful long-time business ownership vs. new management making creative changes. A Ribbon Cutting Celebration for a strong member of our business community who constantly *Richardson's Furniture and Mattress Gallery's* 65th Anniversary. Following up with the new owner of *Wiggle Butz Dog Bakery & Boutique* celebrating her first year of management - incorporating new services and welcoming new partnerships with local animal rescue organizations. This "established" business has gained new recognition this past year with the new owner listening to customer feedback and seeing the needs within our community.

And our most recent Cutting, on 2/7/25, over 25 members, parents and local citizens celebrated the new addition at *SnoopeeLand Child Development Center* (in St. Helens). After 12 months of planning and construction, they officially opened their beautiful new entrance that now welcomes parents and children as they come into the Center. Sharing some fun and new experiences for me:

1. A very large dog in charge of very large scissors
2. A parent/consumer testimonial included in Member presentation (something I have been encouraging over the past year)



CHAMBER TEAM OF 2 PUT ON HOLD

In an effort to grow the Chamber team, last April the Board of Directors introduced a new position, our Director of Communications was brought on as another part-time employee to take over social media & newsletter publications, manage our monthly Chamber events, and initiate additional fundraising events to support the Chambers' work. After 8 months, our team of 2 returned to single employee status (with one of the reasons being financial limitations, a challenge that the Chamber continues to face and overcome.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND LEDGISLATIVE UPDATES

October was a busy month with two major events taking place:

Hosting our Costumes & Cocktails Fundraiser and Candidate Forum for the City of St. Helens Mayor election.

With many events being held for the first time, our Costumes & Cocktails Fundraiser was a learning experience and offered some good takeaways for attempting again this year. We will be working to increase community participation as well as create a successful fundraising event that also advocates for our business community.

Our Candidate Forum was held at the St. Helens Library Auditorium. Originally only opened to Chamber Members, as this was considered to be a membership benefit. However, due to the growing interest of local citizens, the Board of Directors did offer an open invitation to all in the days leading up to the event. Moving forward, I think I can speak for the Board that an event like this should be open to the voting public. The Q&A was very informative and offered those who were still undecided to make a more confident decision come the election. The event was posted live on our FB page and was well viewed.



PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- The Chamber supports the efforts of Keep it Local Columbia County and SBDC whenever possible. In this past 6 months there have been several “Munch & Learn” events at the Chamber, the Chamber was represented at the Small Business Saturday Bazaar in the new John Gum Building, and attended the Brews & Bites event in Dec. The SBDC Business Community Connection Project interviews and feedback collected were shared this past fall, the goal was to improve communications between government and businesses.
- I would like to see the Chamber be more involved with GRO and St. Helens Main Street Alliance and would be open to the City Councils advice as to how to expand on such partnerships.

BLACK FRIDAY SALE KICKS OFF NEW MEMBERSHIP PLANS

Our Black Friday Sale (held the 7 days following Thanksgiving), always gives the Chamber a much-needed boost just before year end and this year was no different. We once again exceeded the previous year’s membership sales with over 50 new and renewal memberships. And our 2024 Black Friday Sale also initiated new Membership plans, adjusting our rates and introducing 3 new membership levels (Non-Profit, Basic/Sole-Proprietor and Diamond). We are excited to offer our new top tier membership level and were due for a change as our rates as both have been a topic of discussion for some time (and we have maintained the same rates for over 6 years). But in combination of increasing our rates, we have also added benefits to our top level membership plans. [\(HARD COPIES OF NEW MEMBERSHIP PLANS WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE COUNCIL\)](#)

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

It’s that time of year again!! We are currently working over-time to plan our Annual Celebration of Excellence Awards Banquet. This year’s event will be held on Saturday, March 29th at the Columbia County Fairgrounds and will be highlighting some new changes to SHARE THE LOVE and create new opportunities to honor more businesses with respect to both with award recipients and partnerships with new vendors.

PLEASE JOIN IN THE FUN

We look forward to the awards presentation and encourage participation in the processes that make this moment so special. We’ve provided a flyer listing our award nominees and voting details. We kindly ask that you submit your votes before the deadline (2/17/25). In addition to reminding Members of the City Council and City Staff to attend our networking events and Ribbon Cuttings, we respectfully ask for your support by attending our Annual Banquet, as we have also provided the Table Sponsor Levels and promotional details. I’d be pleased to hold a table for you today!



The largest business networking event of the year!

Celebration of Excellence Awards Banquet

Saturday, March 29, 2025
Columbia County Fairgrounds

Tickets & Tables available for sell this week!

The sky's the limit!!



Small Business of the Year



Medium Business of the Year



Large Business of the Year



New Business of the Year



Entrepreneur of the Year



Non-Profit of the Year



First Citizen of the Year



"Diane Dillard Memorial" Silver Citizen of the Year

MEMBERS: DEADLINE TO VOTE IS 2/17/25

Place your votes on-line at:

www.ccchamber.org/events

(Scroll down just below our events calendar to see the VOTE NOW link)

2025 Celebration of Excellence Awards Banquet

Columbia County Fairgrounds

3|29|25

PURCHASE YOUR TICKET OR RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY!

"CHAMPION" \$1,000

- ◆ Recognized as a **Champion** Sponsor with a large logo on promotional materials, such as printed advertisements, electronic communications, PowerPoint slide at event and on event program.
- ◆ Recognized on social media as **Champion** Sponsor with pre-event Chamber video interview.
- ◆ Verbal recognition at the event.
- ◆ Reserved table of 8 with your business name & logo acknowledged on the table
- ◆ Post event THANK YOU message in our Monthly newsletter and posted in social media.

"LEADER" \$750

- ◆ Recognized as a **Leader** Sponsor with a medium logo on printed materials, electronic communications, PowerPoint slide at event and on event program.
- ◆ Verbal recognition at the event.
- ◆ Reserved table of 8 with your business name & logo acknowledged on the table
- ◆ Post event THANK YOU message in our Monthly newsletter and posted in social media.

"PARTNER" \$500

- ◆ Listed as a **Partner** sponsor on printed materials, electronic communications, PowerPoint slide at event and on event program.
- ◆ Verbal recognition at the event.
- ◆ Reserved table of 8 with your business name & logo acknowledged on the table

"ASSOCIATE" \$300

- ◆ Listed as an **Associate** sponsor on printed materials, electronic communications, PowerPoint slide at event and on event program.
- ◆ Verbal recognition at the event.
- ◆ Reserved table of 4 with your business name & logo acknowledged on the table

"ENTREPRENEUR" \$50 (Single Ticket)

- ◆ Dinner & No-Host Bar
- ◆ Participate in all the guest activities

Table Sponsorship
option for a table of 4

To reserve your ticket or table,
please email your request to the Chamber.

Attention Gold & Platinum Level Members who have renewed
under the new 2025 Membership plans:

You will receive a discount for your table per membership
benefits now offering tickets to the Annual Banquet.

Contact the Chamber

Email: mgr@sccchamber.org

OR

Call (503) 397-0695