



NETWORKING GROUP FAQs

What are the benefits of joining a Networking Group?

Chamber networking groups provide opportunities for its members to connect with other businesses and business leaders within the community. The purpose of the networking groups is to build relationships, share best business practices, and generate referrals. The emphasis is placed on building professional relationships with your fellow members and creating a solid network of referrals and resources for operating your business.

Are there Networking Group Dues?

No, this is a FREE benefit for our members in good standing.

How do I know which Networking Group to visit?

All networking groups are listed on the Chamber's website with location and times. Chamber members and potential members can visit each networking group two times before determining which group they would like to join. Before visiting it is best to email the networking group chair letting them know you are interested in visiting and they will confirm the meeting location for the date you plan to visit. Networking groups will occasionally schedule site tours of their members so it is best to confirm the meeting location with the networking group chairs before visiting.

How can I garner the full potential of the Networking Group membership?

The networking group members that realize the biggest return in the networking group program are those that are actively engaging with their fellow networking group members beyond the one hour weekly meeting. For example, it is important to meet with your networking group members outside of the regularly scheduled meetings to learn more about how members can assist in referring potential customers, learning more about each other's business and what a quality referral is for each other.

What determines my business category?

Generally, your business category is the same as the category you are listed under on the membership directory. If the category is too broad the networking group chair and Chamber staff will consult with you to determine if a subcategory is applicable.

Can I represent more than one business category since my business offers a multitude of services?

Since there is so much cross over between business services we ask each networking group member to limit themselves to one business category in their designated networking group. For example: If are employed by a bank and you offer mortgage services, banking services and credit card processing, you will be asked to represent only one of those categories in the networking group depending on which category you prefer and is still available.

What if there is not an opening for my business category in any of the Networking Groups?

Each networking group does have a waiting list and they will notify you as soon as there is an opening for your business category.

How do I become an official member of a Networking Group?

- You must be a Chamber member to participate in the networking group program
- Visit the networking group and complete the guest sheet
- Receive the networking group application and guidelines
- Return the signed networking group application agreeing to the guidelines

How many meetings can I miss?

The networking group guidelines state that if a member fails to attend four consecutive weeks or attends less than 50% during a three month period, their seat will be considered open. Members must be at the meeting for at least 30 minutes before leaving to be considered in attendance.

What if I have to miss a meeting? Can I send a substitute?

You are encouraged to send a substitute to represent your business in your absence. The substitute must be an employee of the business the member is representing. The substitute must be prepared to give an introduction about the business and only promote the business that is the member of the Chamber.

What if the person who is representing my company in the Networking Group is no longer with my company?

The company is the networking group member, so a replacement representative should be sent immediately to maintain attendance requirements.

What if I decide I am unable to maintain the attendance requirements after joining a Networking Group?

It is best to officially resign from a networking group as opposed to defaulting based on lack of attendance. This allows you the opportunity to rejoin the networking group again in the future.

Can I switch Networking Groups?

Members are allowed to switch networking groups upon approval from the Chairs of both groups.

How are the Networking Groups Governed?

The networking group program operates under a set of guidelines. The VP of Networking is voted on by Chamber members to assist Chamber staff, govern the networking groups, act as support and assist with training and development of the networking group program.