

# THE OCEAN COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



## MONEY SAVINGS PROGRAMS

1. **Westerly Sun Advertising Discount** - Chamber members receive a 22% discount off display ads in The Westerly Sun. This applies to those companies not already engaged in a contract with the Sun.
2. **Health and Dental Insurance Coverage** - Gain access to a variety of plans including Blue Cross/Blue Shield of RI, Tufts, United Chambers Plan, United Health Care, John Alden, Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield of CT, and more. Rates are very competitive.

## REVENUE GENERATING PROGRAMS

1. **Gift Certificate Program** – Each year over \$250,000 is generated for members through this program.
2. **Referrals** - Every day, Chamber staff provide referrals to tourists and residents.
3. **Chamber As A Vendor** - The Chamber utilizes only members for monthly catered lunches, monthly business breakfast meetings, printing services, signage, photo developing, heating oil, lawn care, etc.

## MARKETING

1. **Brochure/Menu Display** - Members can display literature at the busy Chamber office and Tourist Info Center on Route 1.
2. **Free Listings** - Member businesses are listed in the annual Membership Directory (15,000 circulation) and in the Go Westerly travel magazine (60,000 circulation).
3. **Billboard** - Only Chamber members have the opportunity to advertise on the billboard at 61 Main Street, Westerly. (See Marketing Opportunities)
4. **Newsletter** - New members are featured in the monthly newsletter. Member news and business issues are highlighted each month. Must be received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.
5. **Web Site Advertising** – See Marketing Opportunities

## NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

1. **Business After Hours** - Held monthly, these evening events take place at rotating member locations. They include food, beer/wine, raffle prizes and a perfect setting for making contacts and passing out business cards. New members receive two free passes to Business After Hours.
2. **Business Breakfast Meeting** - Held bi-annually, these feature a guest speaker addressing issues of concern to local businesses. New members receive one free pass to a Business Breakfast Meeting.

3. **Member Briefing** - New members can meet other members and Chamber staff for a morning get-to-know-you meeting.
4. **Ladies Lunches** – Held bi-monthly, these events showcase member restaurants and feature a guest speaker from a non-profit organization. This is a great way for ladies to broaden their circle of contacts.
5. **Brown Bag Lunches** – Held periodically and coincide with a workshop on topics interesting to the business community. Members bring their own lunch while listening to a guest speaker.
6. **Committee Involvement** - More than ten committees work on special events and fundraising. These teams of volunteers develop special bonds and expand their business contacts while working together.

### BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES

1. **Seminars** - The Chamber sponsors a variety of education seminars on topics of interest to businesses.
2. **Government Affairs** - On the local and state level. The Chamber monitors legislation that affects the business community and actively advocates for a pro-business position.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Chamber coordinates many wonderful events in the community that are free and open to the public.

Virtu Outdoor Art Festival in Wilcox Park	Downtown Holiday Stroll (co-sponsored w/DBA)
Big Screen Movies on the Beach	Candidate's Night
Pawcatuck River Duck Race	Student Government Day
Easter Egg Hunt in Wilcox Park	River Glow
Santa's Arrival	

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES & SERVICES

1. **Plaques** - Members receive a handsome plaque.
2. **Mailing Labels** - Available for purchase.
3. **Maps** - Two free street maps per year.
4. **Chamber Conference Room** - Use up to 15 hours per year at no charge, reservations required.

### THE MISSION OF THE OCEAN COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The mission of the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce is to foster cooperation between business, government, and the community at large, to promote a positive environment that contributes to the economic vitality of the region, to promote growth and tourism, and enhance the overall quality of life.