

Questions and answers about Chambers of Commerce

What is a Chamber of Commerce?

A voluntary organization representing all segments of the business community with the potential for directing the energies and efforts of its membership and volunteer committees toward the accomplishment of common goals.

What does the Chamber do?

Advance the interests business community and be the “home guard” for the free enterprise system. Endeavor to learn the businessperson’s point of view and present it when addressing legislative matters. Other local projects include community service events, visitor development, and other projects of community interest.

How does it work?

Volunteer committees that analyze problems, develop solutions and take action to achieve goals. A professional staff is employed to carry out the day to day business of the organization and to assist committees in completing their work.

How is it administered?

A Board of Directors, elected by the membership, determines the policies and direction of the Chamber and employs an Executive Director who is responsible for carrying out the Board of Directors policy and the day to day administrative functions.

How is it financed?

Since they are an voluntary organization, Chamber operational costs are apportioned among its members. All share a mutual desire to achieve a better community, thus making Chamber of Commerce membership dues a tangible investment in the present and future welfare of their community. Other sources of income are from, fundraising activities, marketing and advertising fees collected during production of local area maps, magazines and and other promotional activities.

Los Banos Chamber of Commerce
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Los Banos Chamber of Commerce



LOS BANOS
CHAMBER

Membership Invitation

Mission Statement

- *We encourage, promote and support business and industrial growth & retention.*
- *We provide a program of action that meets the needs and challenges of the community.*
- *We promote the quality of life that Los Banos offers.*

President Geneva Brett



Each year a volunteer president is elected by the Board of Directors. Geneva is the 2008-2009 President. Geneva has served on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for several years. The President presides at Board of Directors meetings, appoints all committee chairs and is a member of all those groups. Geneva is committed to the business community and our City. She has volunteered for a number challenging jobs for the chamber and has co-chaired the Henry Miller Wild West Weekend for two years. Geneva is a broker Associate with Century 21 - Ameripro in Los Banos and may be reached there by calling 827-3500.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Los Banos Chamber of Commerce are elected, by the members, to three year terms. They have the responsibility of overseeing all of the chamber functions. The Board employs an Executive Director who is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the chamber's business office and staff. The Board sets the policies that the President and Executive Director are expected to carry out. The board also authorizes the creation, structure and mission of the committees.



Committees



Los Banos Chamber of Commerce Special Events Committee purpose is to serve as the official greeters and representatives of the chamber and their mission and to enhance and promote the image of the Chamber and the City of Los Banos. The Committee's goal is to foster goodwill and cooperation amongst the membership and assist other chamber committees during events. The committee attends all ribbon cuttings and groundbreaking ceremonies and are the lead committee for chamber fundraising activities.

4th of July Fireworks Committee

A sub-committee of the Special Events Committee was formed in 1996 to bring back a fireworks show to the community beginning in 1997. The committee has now promoted eleven highly successful celebrations and is intent on seeing the event grow in the years to come. With the advent of legalized fireworks sales in the City, the funding for the show has increased and our fireworks show will grow larger and more spectacular. The event is held at the fair-grounds and features booths and games set-up by community groups, businesses and non-profit organizations.



Downtown Business Association

The Downtown Business Association (DBA) includes all chamber members located within the boundaries of Pacheco Blvd. on the south, H Street to the north and between 5th and 7th streets to the east and west. In addition, non-chamber members are allowed to join the DBA. but cannot be committee chairs nor vote for the officers. The group works in conjunction with the special events committee to put on promotional and business activities in the downtown area and is recognized as the authorized sanctioning organization for downtown events. The Chamber/ DBA is authorized to obtain permits for group sidewalk or street sales and provide the insurance for those events.

Business & Economic Development Committee

This work of this committee is considered by many to be the most important role the chamber undertakes. The committee's job is to seek out potential new businesses to our area. Several of the committee members also serve on the City's Economic Development Advisory Committee and this helps ensure that the group's efforts are coordinated with efforts by that committee. While the main goal is to attract new business and the resulting jobs, retaining existing business is also an important aspect of their endeavors.



Related Chamber of Commerce Activities



The Chamber also acts as a Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) to provide information about our natural resources and amenities of the City and area. The chamber has been the lead agency in this area for many years, providing answers to the questions that newcomers and visitors have when visiting or contemplating a visit to our town. The CVB function is a step toward formalizing some of the responsibility within our office and a means to draw the different interest groups together. We work with the City of Los Banos, County of Merced, Federal Fish and Wildlife Service & State Parks and Fish and Game to promote events and attractions that surround our City.

The chamber is also active in the Community Resource Council that brings together government agencies, community organizations, faith based groups and individuals to provide information on events and assist one another with their projects. Visit www.losbanosccrc.org

Los Banos Chamber of Commerce Activities

- *New Business Seminars*
- *Monthly Mixers*
- *Maps*
- *Ribbon Cuttings*
- *Area Guides*
- *Fundraising Activities*
- *Advertising Opportunities*
- *Member Referral Service*
- *Weekly Small Business Counseling Services*
- *SBA Information*

Los Banos Chamber of Commerce

Member Categories and Dues Policy

Membership Categories

The Los Banos Chamber of commerce offers a variety of ways to become involved with the Chamber of Commerce.

Associate Member Programs

Residential Associate Membership is designed for individuals who wish to stay informed of chamber activities and assist the chamber in community events. A residential associate may serve on chamber committees, attend mixers and receives the monthly newsletter and other information on chamber activities. A name & phone number listing is included in chamber member directories and on our web site. *Non-Profit Associates* enjoy the benefits listed above plus one free insert per membership year in our newsletter and a full listing on our web site.

Associate members may not vote in elections nor serve on the Board of Directors.

Business Member Programs

The chamber offers a variety of business categories and dues structures. In order to introduce new business to chamber membership we offer a start-up rate to new home based businesses or sole proprietors without employees. From there the annual dues are based on a fair share formula that uses the number of employees as its guide. Please refer to the accompanying application for membership rates based on the type of business.

All business members are eligible to election to the board, enjoy full voting rights and may serve on chamber committees. Also includes a complete listing under the appropriate category in member publications and on the web site.

Membership dues are billed annually on the member's anniversary month. Unpaid dues after ninety days from the anniversary date will result in termination of membership. The chamber accepts credit cards and terms may be available.



LOS BANOS
CHAMBER
of Commerce

Membership Benefits

Advertising & Marketing

Belonging to the Chamber of Commerce is more than just supporting the Chamber's efforts to represent and present the business community in the most favorable light. In fact, membership presents a remarkable and substantial marketing and advertising opportunity, most of which is included with your membership dues.

Membership in the Chamber is an Investment in your Business!

Join today and let us help you – help yourself!

Included with your membership dues:



SPECIAL CHAMBER SECTION IN THE CITY PHONE BOOK.

Members of record as of March 1st each year are listed in our special section in the community phone book. This section is used by consumers as their guide to honest and legitimate businesses. Members listed there are perceived by the public as being "recommended" rather than just being listed.



YOU ARE A PART OF OUR REFERRAL PROGRAM.

Every day the chamber receives phone calls, faxes and e-mail with requests for businesses and services in our town. Membership in the chamber guarantees your business will be referred when we handle these information calls. Now that the phone company's information service is computerized our call volume has gone up dramatically, people like to talk to people!



CHAMBER MEMBERS ARE LISTED ON THE WEBSITE.

Your chamber took the lead and put the City of Los Banos on the Internet in August of 1996. Our web site is visited by approximately 2,600 visitors each month. Every Chamber member is listed by general business category. The chamber offers the option to your business to have its own page at very reasonable prices.



BUSINESS DIRECTORY LISTS AND SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Members are automatically listed in any chamber directory we publish. By December of 2004 we'll be publishing a new area directory. The concept is to make up enough booklets to serve immediate needs, therefore the directory offered will never be out of date. The directory will also offer an optional advertising opportunity to our members



The Los Banos Chamber of Commerce...
“Where the action is”

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For chamber office use only

Added to member database
 Added to web database
 Added to Accounting/ Fax
 Plaque issued
 Obtained email/web info

Firm Name:		Application Date:	
Address:		Fax	
City, State, Zip:		Email:	
Contact Person:		Email 2	
Contact Person #2:		Web Page:	
Telephone:		Business Classification:	
Number of Employees:		Business Start up date:	
Sponsor: (if any)		Signature:	

Please provide a brief description of your business (Appears in online listing)

MEMBERSHIP DUES, FEES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Residential Associate or Nonprofit Associate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes subscription to Chamber News Update. Invitation to Chamber Mixers, Luncheons and other events at member prices. Includes listing in all Chamber Publications. 	\$35.00	Businesses and Government Agencies Fair Share Formula (Based on number of employees) 1—Sole proprietor—start-up, no business location 2 to 5 employees..... 6 to 15 employees..... 16 to 25 employees..... 26 to 50 employees..... Over 50 employees.....	\$ 80.00 \$ 95.00 \$150.00 \$175.00 \$200.00 \$300.00
Nonprofit Associate, w/listing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes subscription to Chamber News Update. Go to Chamber Mixers, Luncheons and other events at member prices. Includes listing in all Chamber Publications. Includes listing on Chamber's Los Banos Web site. Includes one (1) 8 1/2"x 11" insert in Chamber News Update annually. 	\$55.00	Special Membership Categories Automobile Dealers..... Real Estate Companies..... Real Estate Agents (employed by member Real Estate Co.) Utility Companies..... Financial (Banks, Savings & Loans.....	\$150.00 \$100.00 \$45.00 \$300.00 \$300.00

SPECIAL FEES

A ONE-TIME ACCOUNT SET-UP FEE IS CHARGED ALL NEW MEMBERS..... \$15.00

4TH OF JULY PATRIOTS CLUB MEMBERSHIP, ANNUAL DUES..... \$100.00

Dues amount due with application:

Base Dues from above:	
Account set-up fee:	15.00
Enhancements:	
Total:	