

Habersham

CHAMBER of COMMERCE



OUR MISSION: Be vital to existing businesses, promote economic development, and enhance the quality of life in Habersham County.

OUR VISION:

Our vision is to be recognized as the advocate for business in Habersham County, promoting tourism, economic development and serving as the local support for a business friendly environment.

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

YOUR CHAMBER BY THE NUMBERS

19

Ribbon Cuttings



819

Visitor Relocation Guides Sent

12

Members of the Month

\$ 26,796 Chamber Fundraisers \$ Raised

- Golf Tournament • Bowling Tournament
- Freedom Run 5K • Habersham Heritage Festival



1,774



14% from 2017



281 followers

499



Members

84

New Members in the last 12 months

2,244

Constant Contact contacts
40% OPEN RATE

5,000

Website hits daily
habershamchamber.com



Networking Events 57

- Business After Hours
- Business Before Hours
- LEADS (Business Networking Group)
- S.O.A.R (Professional Women's Group)
- Networking Group





SMALL BUSINESS/MEMBER SUPPORT

- Participated in Annual Business Expo at HEMC– hosted by Small Business Association
- Hosted Coffee Klatch to celebrate small businesses during Small Business Week
- Partnered with EDC on Existing Industry Breakfast
- Hosted Pre– and Post– Legislative Breakfasts to allow community members to network with elected officials
- Initiated the SCORE program and trained certified mentors
- Small Business Meeting/Training *sponsored by Hotard & Hise*
- Supported and Promoted Member Businesses on Windstream Cable Television’s “Chamber Chat,” WCON’s “Chamber Spotlight” and *The Northeast Georgian’s* “Chamber Connection.”
- Promoted members through monthly Member-to-Member Ads and weekly e-newsletters.
- Promoted and supported businesses and industries through 19 ribbon cuttings, 3 Business Before Hours, 8 Business After Hours, and 12 Members of the Month
- Signed Strategic Alliance Memorandum with Small Business Association to support and promote rural agricultural entrepreneurship and business development
- Annual Sponsor of “Friend of Agriculture” Award at the Habersham Farm Bureau Farm-City Breakfast
- Started a Toastmasters Group; Initiated a Young Professionals Group; and supported members through a LEADS group and Professional Women (SOAR) meetings.
- Sponsored the Northeast Georgia Safety Association monthly meetings, led by Chamber advisor
- Initiated the Drugs Don’t Work program– free to Chamber members to assist local businesses in eliminating drug use on the work site.



ADMINISTRATIVE

- Launched a new Chamber website with updated profiles
- Initiated a new investment schedule
- Provided health insurance coverage for Chamber members

LEADERSHIP

- Sponsored Habersham County Day at the Capitol– 45 participants recognized in the Senate and House during February legislative session
- Hosted Youth Leadership Graduation Banquet
- Sponsored Chamber Junior Board with 24 students from Habersham Central High School and Tallulah Falls School
- Trained coordinators for Leadership Habersham
- Sponsored Piedmont College’s Community Support Night
- Initiated Chamber representation at all 7 municipal and County Commission regular meetings



TOURISM

- Participated in the planning and development of the GORGEous Mountain Parkway, a tourism trail in Northeast Georgia. Partnership with Banks & Rabun CVB’s and the Banks/Habersham/Rabun Joint Development Authority.
- Participated in Bike Ride Across Georgia (BRAG); hosted hospitality booth at Aquatic Center
- Served on the Habersham County Bicentennial Committee and marketed the event nationally
- Hosted the inaugural signature event– Habersham Heritage Festival– which extended the bicentennial celebration to the community through art, music, demonstrations and food.
- Marketed Habersham County in statewide and national publications, including a 9-page feature promoting Habersham in the May issue of *Georgia Trend Magazine*.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Worked with and supported activities of the Habersham Partnership for Growth
- Sponsored prizes, supported and promoted Small Business Saturday
- Served on the NGTC program advisory committee, ARC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies Committee, and HPG Executive and Workforce Development Committees
- Supported activities of the Economic Development Committee (EDC)



EDUCATION

- Served as judge for Bridge Builder Scholarship for high school senior
- Capstone evaluator at Trinity Classical School and Tallulah Falls School
- Presented awards at Honors Programs for Tallulah Falls School, HCHS and Mountain Ed. Charter School
- Sponsored STAR Student/Teacher recognitions at HCHS and Tallulah Falls School
- Served as a judge and sponsored GOAL Awards for finalists at North Georgia Technical College



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