



COLUMBUS LOWNDES
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Your business. Our focus.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS/SPONSORSHIP MENU

These programs and events are great ways to get involved with the Columbus Lowndes Chamber of Commerce (CLCC) and the many businesses and professionals that form the organization. You can choose to sponsor programs and events as a commitment to your community, or you can simply choose to attend these events. Whichever you decide, being involved in your community is beneficial.

MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS (BAH)

Business After Hours is a local, and now regional, networking event held the second Thursday of the month from 5-7 p.m. This sponsorship presents businesses an opportunity to showcase their business to Chamber members and promote networking in Lowndes County and the GTR. The event presents an excellent opportunity to entertain your fellow Chamber members and exchange ideas and business cards.

HOSTING A BUSINESS AFTER HOURS: \$500

- Local Business After Hours Sponsorship:
 - Hosted at Business's location or preferred venue
 - Includes "Sponsored By" recognition in all advertising
 - Beverages provided by co-sponsors

- Regional Business After Hours Sponsorship:
 - Located at a regional location accessible to Lowndes, Clay, and Oktibbeha Counties
 - "Sponsored By" recognition in all advertising
 - Beverages and food provided by co-sponsor

**Only one Regional Business After Hours that the CLCC hosts occurs in January, therefore sponsorship is limited.*

BUSINESS OVER BREAKFAST

Similar to BAH, Business Over Breakfast is a local networking event held monthly at 7:30 a.m. This sponsorship presents businesses an opportunity to showcase their business to Chamber members and promotes networking in Lowndes County whilst enjoying a light breakfast. This event is open to any Chamber member who wishes to participate.

HOSTING A BUSINESS OVER BREAKFAST: \$300

- Business Over Breakfast Sponsorship:
 - Similar to Business After Hours, morning networking event
 - Hosted at Business's location or preferred venue
 - Includes "Sponsored By" recognition in all advertising
 - Business provides breakfast refreshments, i.e. coffee

SOUNDS OF SUMMER

Sounds of Summer is an outdoor concert series the Chamber co-hosts with Main Street Columbus. Every other Thursday in June and July, this free concert brings quality entertainment to the Columbus Soccer Complex and is open to the public. The Columbus Soccer Complex is the perfect place to bring your lawn chair and listen to music performed by local musicians, visit with friends and neighbors, and enjoy food and beverages while overlooking the river.

SPONSORING SOUNDS OF SUMMER: \$300

- "Sponsorship By" recognition in all promotional materials and advertising
 - WCBI midday news and live at five
 - Commercial Dispatch
 - E-mail blasts
 - Facebook, Instagram and X postings
 - Posters displayed throughout downtown and various places in town

LUNCHEONS

The leadership and the membership of the Columbus Lowndes Chamber of Commerce gather to celebrate accomplishments and provide a road map for upcoming goals. This event recognizes sponsors and volunteers who donate to the continued improvement of Lowndes County.

Yearly Chamber Luncheons include:

- **Annual Luncheon & Economic Update:** An opportunity for all Chamber Members to connect and learn what the Chamber of Commerce has accomplished for the year. LINK CEO, Joe Max Higgins, will be addressing Chamber Members and providing an update on economic development.
- **Legislative Luncheon:** All six representatives of Lowndes County address the Chamber Membership with a review of the year's session as well as a question-and-answer period from the audience.
- **Mississippi Economic Council:** Our State Chamber of Commerce presents to our local membership updates from the state level.

SPONSORING A LUNCHEON: \$500

- "Sponsored By" recognition in all promotional materials and advertising
- Company name and logo in event program
- Reserved seating

RIBBON CUTTINGS

The Chamber membership hosts a grand opening with a ceremonial ribbon cutting event. Refreshments are optional. Great marketing for your business. Can be hosted for existing members new locations/remodeling, or new members joining the chamber.

RIBBON CUTTING: INCLUDED IN MEMBERSHIP

- Over 1,500 email addresses are notified of business and invited to event
- Company name and logo on social media and email blasts
- Photo of the ribbon cutting included in Commercial Dispatch

COLUMBUS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (CYP)

The Columbus Young Professionals is a group of individuals, ages 21 and older, who work for businesses within Lowndes County. They balance networking and business alongside of their commitment to civic duty to their community. The mission of the Columbus Young Professionals is to engage young leaders in serving the Columbus community, expanding their professional network, and empowering them through professional development.

BECOMING A MEMBER: \$75

- When you become a member, you will begin to get involved and aid in the planning of CYP's social events and volunteer opportunities within the community.
- You and a guest will receive an exclusive invitation to four networking events each year.
- Monthly Mixers and/or Lunch Connections

EDUCATION

EDUCATORS ARE ESSENTIAL

The CLCC, Education Committee of the CLCC, MUW and community sponsors team up to recognize and thank every k-12 educator in Lowndes County. Attendees are welcomed by the Education Committee and community members and are treated to door prizes, cash money, and discounts from local businesses at the start of their new school year. Our goal is to truly make the educators see how thankful the community is for their hard work and dedication to the children in our community.

SPONSORING EDUCATORS ARE ESSENTIAL: \$500

EDUCATION AWARDS PROGRAM

The Chamber's Education Committee recognizes the best and brightest students and educators in Lowndes County at its annual Education Awards Program in the spring of each year. Corporate scholarships, Outstanding Senior awards, Highest Grade Point Average awards, and Teachers of the Year are presented.

Students apply for scholarships by filling out a detailed application that highlights their educational achievements, community service, and financial needs. They are also required to submit two letters of recommendation and an essay describing the importance of continuing their education after high school. Top teachers from each school level (elementary, middle, and high school) are also chosen to apply for the overall Teacher of the Year from each level to be awarded. Their application includes two letters of recommendation, a resume, and an essay on their philosophy of teaching. All applications are then reviewed, and the recipients are selected, and an awards luncheon is held to recognize these students and teachers.

SPONSORING THE EDUCATION AWARDS PROGRAM: \$500

- Sponsoring the Education Awards Program means that you will help fund the program's additional expenses.
- Recognition for your business will be in the awards program and promotional coverage of the awards.
- One member from your business will get preferred seating and a complimentary ticket to the program.

BECOMING A CORPORATE SCHOLARSHIP DONOR: \$500

- The Chamber partners with local businesses annually to award scholarships to deserving high school seniors. Applications for awards are reviewed by the CLCC Education Committee, based on need and parameters set by the committee. Students are presented certificates at the CLCC Education Awards Program and funds are submitted to the university of their choice.
- Recognition for your business will be in the awards program and promotional coverage of the awards.
- One member from your business will get preferred seating and a complimentary ticket to the program.

MILITARY



MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (MAC)

The committee sponsors various events and projects in support of the Columbus military community, predominantly Columbus Air Force Base. In the past, these projects have included CAFB Dorm Dinners, anniversary celebrations, the CAFB Air Force Ball, Airmen Leadership Schools, air shows featuring the Thunderbirds and the Go Fourth Celebration. This committee aids in submitting Columbus, Mississippi to the national Altus Annual Community Support Award. This award recognizes the community which provides the finest support to an Air Education and Training Command unit. Columbus won the inaugural award in 2010. The MAC helps coordinate Pilot Partner Welcomes where approximately every three weeks a new class of pilots are partnered with local businesses who support them throughout the year. This committee also helps coordinate Pilot For a Day where seriously ill children receive a flight

suit, a tour of the base, and an airplane and aircraft simulator ride. Children and their families are also treated with a VIP lunch at CAFB.

SPONSORING MAC EVENTS: \$500

PILOT PARTNER WELCOME (PPW)

Approximately every three weeks, the MAC, along with community partners, welcome a new class of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (SUPT) students to the community with an evening event. The SUPT students are partnered with local businesses who provide support and resources throughout the student's year at CAFB in order to create a bond between the students and local community. This should encourage increased participation in both the CAFB and local community activities.

- Pilot Partners follow their class through introduction, track select, graduation and beyond.
- Covers the cost of the Pilot's wings upon graduation
- Pays for food the night of the Pilot Partner Welcome
- Acknowledgement in Silver Wings base newspaper as a Class Partner
- Signed and framed class photo received upon graduation.

SPONSORING A PPW: CO-SPONSORSHIP \$375 OR FULL SPONSORSHIP \$750

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

LOWNDES YOUNG LEADERS (LYL)



The Mission of Lowndes Young Leaders is to identify future leaders of Columbus and Lowndes County and provide personal, cultural, social, and leadership development that will enhance their ability to serve as effective leaders. This is a ten-month leadership program for high school sophomores that live in and attend high school or are homeschooled in Lowndes County. The program is designed to develop an energetic and diverse group of informed and qualified young leaders who will become our business and community leaders of tomorrow. The program currently allows students to explore varying aspects of business and economic development, law and criminal justice, health care, quality of life, and government. Activities are designed to develop skills in teamwork and collaboration, problem solving, communication, organization and planning, ethics, networking, personal development and leadership skills. Participants gain an increased awareness of how leadership affects all aspects of life.

Please visit our website at www.clchamber.org or contact our office at 662.328.4491 if you have any questions about these programs and events.