

# 2014-15 member benefits and information

# BLUFFTON AREA

# CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*We are happy to provide this list of benefits you receive as a member of the Bluffton chamber. After reviewing this material, we believe you will agree that your chamber membership is well worth the cost. We continue to seek new benefits for members and are always interested in your ideas. This packet also contains a membership form and list of members as of Aug. 1, 2014.*

## Core Bluffton chamber benefits

**1 - Social media one-on-one consultations.** Members may schedule a free consultation on social media with the a Bluffton University chamber intern. The intern will meet with you individually or with small groups from your business or organization. Based upon our own research, this benefit's value is from \$50 to \$200 per hour.

**2 - Free monthly breakfast.** Our breakfast meetings, from September to June, include a complete free breakfast, served by a Bluffton chamber business (restaurant or caterer). Our breakfasts average between 60 to 70 persons attending. It's a great place to meet other chamber members and discuss business. How much would you pay for a breakfast in a restaurant? If you attend nine breakfasts at a \$7.50 value, this benefit is worth \$67.50.

**3 - Free booth in the spring arts and crafts show.** All chamber members have an opportunity to have a free 15- by 10-foot booth in the May downtown arts and crafts festival. In return, the chamber creates an event to attract hundreds of persons to Bluffton. This is your free opportunity to promote your business - have a drawing for prizes, offer give-a-ways, sign up customers. This is a \$40 to \$50 value. (\$40 charge before May 1; \$50 for after May 1.)

**4 - Free workshops on topics of special interest.** In cooperation with Bluffton Center for Entrepreneurs, the chamber offers several free workshops each year. These follow the monthly chamber breakfasts. Recent workshop topics have included:

- **Quickbooks** - presented by a Quickbooks certificated instructor
- **Taxes for small businesses** - presented by a CPA
- **Social media overview** - presented by social media professionals
- **Intellectual property (patents, trademarks, licensing)** - presented by a patent attorney.

You would easily pay between \$50 and \$100 or more to attend any of these workshops outside Bluffton.

**5 - Group advertising opportunities.** The chamber offers several group advertising opportunities during the year. For example, the chamber reserves pages in the Lima-Allen County Visitor's Guide. This benefit provides an advertising opportunity at a considerable discount. Other opportunities are offered during the year.

**6 - Bluffton University business showcase.** Each September the chamber invites members to provide a noon lunch display of their products to all students at Bluffton University. Over 600 students participate. Chamber members receive a \$15 savings on the cost of a table at the showcase.

**7 - Blaze of Lights.** The chamber spends several thousands of dollars to promote Bluffton between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We plan the best small-town parade in northwestern Ohio, bring Santa Claus to town, place media ads in area radio stations and newspapers inviting people to Bluffton and provide free maps showing locations of Christmas light displays in our community. Over 500 maps were given away free this year. Chamber members have an opportunity to be listed in ads, posters, maps and other publicity.

**8 - QR codes.** The chamber provides free QR codes and QR window labels to all members.

### **9 - More free benefits**

- All chamber members are listed on the membership page of [www.explorebluffton.com](http://www.explorebluffton.com). Your listing is linked to your website. The chamber's website experiences up to 400 visits per month. The site is updated weekly.

- We encourage chamber members to "like" our facebook. The site provides timely information about the chamber.

- Chamber members receive up-to-the-minute high wind, tornado, heavy rain, ice and winter weather warnings via e-mail.

- Thanks to cooperation with Bluffton police, chamber members receive e-mail tips on scams, cons and shop-lifting warnings.

- You may participate in the chamber's gift certificate program. Gift certificates encourage purchases in Bluffton chamber businesses.

- Chamber members receive a free e-mail newsletter. It provides business updates, calendar listings, and goes to an audience of over 400 persons.

- Chamber members are part of an organization of nearly 190 members – the highest in several years. We continue to add new members throughout the year. We have not increased our membership dues since 1998.

- Members have access to the official Excel file of all members, which includes addresses, emails and phone numbers. *(This list is only available to chamber members.)*

### **10 - Northern Ohio Are of Chambers of Commerce (NOACC)**

In addition to local benefits, the Bluffton chamber is a member of NOACC, which offers a large assortment of benefit. Those benefits are found on its website: [www.noacc.org](http://www.noacc.org).

#### **Among those benefits include:**

Accounts Receivables and Collection Management: AmerAssist AR Solution

Health Insurance: Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield

Life & Disability Insurance: Anthem Life

Workers' Compensation Group Rating Programs: Benefits 1 Group

Managed Care Organization (MCO): University Hospitals CompCare

Credit Card Processing: Heartland Payment Systems

Wellness Program: Wellness Council of Northern Ohio

Office Supplies and Service: Independence Business Supply

Payroll Processing: Heartland Payment Systems

Shipping and Freight Services: FedEx

Transportation Savings: CT Logistics

Web and Email Marketing: GHI Internet Services

Extra Value Programs: visit NOACC website for update

# Breakfast sponsorship opportunity

Businesses have an opportunity to sponsor a chamber breakfast for \$250. That sponsorship enables the business to provide a 5-minute presentation, pass out literature to persons attending and invite as many members from the sponsoring business as you wish.

## In 2014-15 chamber breakfasts take place:

|          |          |         |
|----------|----------|---------|
| Sept. 12 | Jan. 9   | May 8   |
| Oct. 10  | Feb. 13  | June 12 |
| Nov. 7   | March 13 |         |
| Dec. 12  | April 10 |         |

## How you may help us

### Your special events

The chamber wants to promote your event in 2014-15. Please send the chamber dates and names of your organization's special events planned this year. We will post them on our website, in our newsletter, on facebook and will continue to remind members of these activities. Please don't assume we know all the event going on this year! It's up to you to inform us.

**Send information to: [blufftonchamber@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonchamber@gmail.com)**

### Promotions, anniversaries, retirements

Please notify the chamber if your business or organization has promotions to announce, new officers elected, business anniversary celebrations or retirements of key employees. We can help publicize these events.

### Ribbon cuttings

We love ribbon cuttings. We can attend or help plan any ribbon cuttings or special events in your business.

### Breakfast speakers and workshop topics

Our monthly breakfast meetings are held the second Friday of each month from September to June in the third floor of the Bluffton town hall, 154 N. Main St. Breakfast serving starts at 7 a.m. and our meeting take place from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Our speakers come from several sources:

- Our own members who share about their businesses
- Local and regional officials

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### Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce Board:

Larry Hoffman, *president*, Tammy Whitlow, *secretary*, Aphaphanh Nussbaum, Sally Siferd, Adam Stedke, Derek Dukes, Mark Alliman, Bob Inniger, Doug Luginbill, Phil Zimmerly. **Also:** Jamie Mehaffie, *village liason*, Vickie Myers, *university intern*, Fred Steiner, *CEO*

**Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce**, PO Box 142, Bluffton, OH 45817  
[blufftonchamber@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonchamber@gmail.com) • Phone: 419-369-2985 • [www.explorebluffton.com](http://www.explorebluffton.com)

# Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce members as of Aug. 1, 2014

A to Z Meats  
AdvoCare  
Alison King Designs  
Ameriprise Financial  
Anderson Tractor Supply  
Apollo Career Center  
Augsburger Tax Services  
Basinger Plumbing and Heating  
Beer, Deb  
Begg, Jay  
Beyond Budgeting  
Bluffton Aeration Service  
Bluffton American Legion  
Bluffton Arby's  
Bluffton Center for Entrepreneurship  
Bluffton Child Development Center  
Bluffton Community Pre-School, Inc.  
Bluffton Elementary PTO  
Bluffton Exempted Village Schools  
Bluffton Family Practice  
Bluffton Family Recreation  
Bluffton Farmer's Market  
Bluffton Findlay KOA  
Bluffton Flying Service  
Bluffton Foot and Ankle  
Bluffton Golf Club  
Bluffton Hospital  
Bluffton Icon  
Bluffton Karate  
Bluffton Lions  
Bluffton Marathon  
Bluffton News  
Bluffton Post Office  
Bluffton Public Library  
Bluffton Senior Citizens Center  
Bluffton Stone Company  
Bluffton Town Hall Concert Series  
Bluffton University  
Bluffton Veterinary Hospital  
& Pet Care Center  
Boehr Print  
Boehr Site Seeker  
Book Reviews  
Celebration of Health  
Cellular Central, Inc.  
Chase  
Chiles-Laman Funeral Home  
Citizens National Bank  
Clemens Development Systems  
Comfort Inn  
Comm3 Creative  
Common Grounds Coffeehouse  
Community Markets  
Country Kettle Corn  
County Electric  
Curling Iron  
Damsel in Defense  
Dancers Elite Studio of Dance Art  
Devine Interventions  
Diamond Manufacturing of Bluffton  
Diller Flooring & Interiors  
Don Snyder Excavating, Inc.  
Dr. Matthew Jordan, DDS  
Drive Time Driving Instruction  
DTR Industries  
Ebenezer Mennonite Church  
Edward Jones  
Et Cetera Shop  
Everett Tax Service  
Fairway Inn  
Faith Investment Services  
Family Eye Care  
Family True Value Hardware  
Findlay-Hancock County Chamber  
First National Bank  
Fortman Insurance Services  
Fultz Sign Co.  
Glidescope Aviation  
Greg's Pharmacy  
Groves Bears and Antiques  
Hair Emporium  
Headings, Ron  
Hilty Memorial Home  
International College of Int. Medicine  
J. B. Computer Services  
J. Bankert Bookkeeping  
Jeanne's Kitchen  
Jerry Lewis McDonald's Restaurants  
John Wagner Agency,  
Nationwide Insurance  
Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan  
Park District  
Jordan-Diller Insurance  
Joy Stemen, Massage  
Ken Lugibihl Auto & Truck Sales  
Keneco Distributors  
Kiene Recreation  
Kirtland's Auto Sales  
Krysti's Music Studio  
Larson Barbecue  
Lee Construction  
lia sophia  
Lugibihl Ice Cream  
Lugibihl Spray Service  
Luke's Bar & Grill  
M&R Plumbing and Heating  
Masterpiece Signs  
McDaniel's Trophies  
Mennonite Home Communities of  
Ohio  
Mennonite Mutual Aid Society  
Montrose Square Apartments  
Mustard Seed Café  
n2 Publishing  
Northwest Installations  
Northwest Ohio OB/GYN  
Northwest Physical Therapy  
Omega Mechanical Design  
Orange Township trustees  
Pampered Chef  
Panache  
Pandora Family Physicians  
Pandora Flooring and Supply  
Patriot Concrete  
Phil Cole Real Estate & Auction Co.  
Polished by Joan  
Post Printing Co  
Profit in Ag, LLC  
PromoHits! Ltd.  
PS Editorial Services  
Quality Construction  
R.D. Neff & Associates  
Reichenbach & Steiner, CPA  
Richland Manor  
Riley Creek Pharmacy  
Riley View Community Apartments  
Rock, Rev. Donald  
Rodabaugh Law Office  
Rodabaugh Services  
Ruth Everett, LMT  
Sam Diller Law Offices  
Santa Gainey  
Satin Touch Specialty Service  
Scentsy Consultant  
SHANNON Service Club  
Shannon Theatre  
Shirley's Gourmet Popcorn Co.  
Sielschott, Walsh, Keifer & Regula CPA  
Signature Homestyles  
Small House Bluffton  
Smith's Realty Professionals  
Sodexo University Dining Services  
Southgate Lanes  
Spallinger Combine Parts  
Spectrum Salon  
Sports Warehouse  
State Farm Insurance  
Steiner & Granger Insurance  
Stoney's Barbershop  
Stratton Auto Sales  
Stratton Consulting Services  
Stratton Greenhouses  
Superior Energy Solutions  
Swiss Community Historical Society  
Sycamore Lake Wine Co.  
Tastefully Simple  
Ten Thousand Villages  
The Centre at Bluffton  
The Community Foundation  
The Dough Hook  
The Food Store  
The Granary Gift Barn  
The King's Venture  
The Lima News  
The Powell Company  
The Union Bank Company  
Time Staffing, Inc.  
Timeless Treasures Books & Gifts  
Tommy Tire Sales  
Tommy's Trailer Sales  
Tower Automotive  
Town & Country Flowers  
Triplett Memorial Foundation  
Triplett, Greg  
Tu Pueblo Mexican Restaurant  
Vetter Lumber  
Village of Bluffton  
Webb Insurance Agency  
Western and Southern Life  
WFIN/WKXA Radio



## 2014-25 Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce membership form

**Company name:**

**Contact person:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**Website:**

**E-mail:**

(Please provide names and e-mail addresses of as many employees or organization members on the back of this form. They will receive our chamber newsletters.)

**Make checks payable to:**

**Bluffton Area Chamber of Commerce, PO 142, Bluffton, OH 45817**

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual membership                                 | \$50  |
| <i>(Anyone person interested in our community may become a chamber member)</i> |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sole proprietor or club/organization                  | \$50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business with 1 to 10 employees                       | \$80  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business with 11 to 20 employees                      | \$120 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business with 21 or more employees                    | \$235 |

**Additional option:**

- Voluntary support of 2015 chamber fireworks fund \$\_\_\_\_\_

*Used for media advertising and marketing of Bluffton's 2015 fireworks, tentatively set for the last Saturday in June.*

- Your Bluffton chamber membership covers a 12-month period from the date you become a new member.
- Your Bluffton chamber membership may be tax deductible as a business expense, but not as a charitable expense.