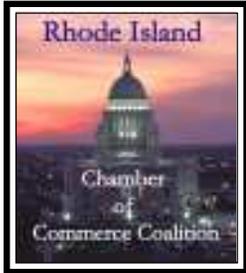


**East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce
Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce Coalition**

The Unified Voice of Business

Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce Coalition is one of the largest business advocacy organizations in Rhode Island.



The East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce became a partner in the Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce Coalition in January 2007. The Chamber of Commerce Coalition is an expansion of a lobbying partnership begun in 1996.

The Coalition was formed as many Rhode Island chambers of commerce recognized that Rhode Island needed an advocate at the State House to speak for the interests of business. While laws impact both large and small companies, most business owners and managers do not have time to attend committee hearings and offer testimony on proposed legislation. By having their chambers of commerce act as their voice, company officials can easily have a say in the business of government. By unifying chambers throughout the state, the voice of business becomes louder and stronger.

Growing in strength and numbers since 1996, The Coalition represents nine chambers of commerce and more than 7,500 businesses. Through its online activity, www.RhodeIslandBusinessVotes.com, chamber members are kept well-informed of pending legislation that may affect their businesses. They are also able to easily and quickly contact their legislators via this Web site.

The Government Affairs Committee establishes the Coalition's annual legislative agenda and it is ratified by the respective chambers of commerce members one month prior to the start of a new legislative session.

Chamber History

The East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce was founded and incorporated in 1897 as the East Providence Businessmen's Association. It was created for the purpose of social, literary and educational relations among its members. The Chamber is a 501(c)6 non-profit, membership-based organization.

In 1956, the name was changed to East Providence Chamber of Commerce. In 2005, the board of directors voted and officially changed the name once more to East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce to better reflect the communities that the Chamber now serves.

In 2007, the Chamber celebrated its 110th anniversary and also became a partner of the Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce Coalition. "The Coalition" is comprised of nine Rhode Island Chambers of Commerce and represents more than 7,500 businesses.

The East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes that the business community is continually expanding into a global community. We strive to assist all of our members involved in the local, national and world-wide markets. However, we have not lost sight of the companies whose businesses are predominately in our local area. The Chamber recognizes and continues its mission to be a proactive advocate for businesses locally, in addition to our expanding state-wide efforts on behalf of our members.



Mission Statement

The East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business for our community. We support economic growth, development and prosperity through our advocacy, public relations and member services

Adopted by the board of directors on April 21, 2016

**MEMBERSHIP
Information & Application**



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**Proudly serving the communities of
East Providence & Barrington, Rhode Island
and Seekonk & Rehoboth, Massachusetts**

What is a Chamber of Commerce?

A chamber of commerce is a voluntary partnership of business people working together to build a healthy economy and improving the quality of life in the community in which they work and/or live.

Chambers of commerce are run by their members. The board of directors is elected by the membership and their role is to determine the policies and goals of their chamber. The board chair presides over board meetings and the chamber's executive director/president oversees and coordinates the day-to-day operations and activities of the chamber office.

In order to accomplish the goals set by the board of directors, a chamber of commerce serves as:

- economic developer & planner
- business spokesperson
- government relations specialist
- public relations practitioner
- tourist information center
- economic counselor & teacher
- human resources advisor
- local phone directory operator

Each of these roles are accomplished through the active participation of the chamber's members, volunteers and staff.

Chamber committees serve a vital role in the success of a chamber. Committee focus varies from one chamber to another. They depend upon the area in which the chamber resides; as well as the chamber's goals as determined by the board (membership.)

Chamber membership provides numerous opportunities for businesspeople to develop contacts and promote their products and services. Individuals determine how active they want to be with their membership. Employees of member businesses are welcome to serve on East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce committees and attend events.

Annual membership dues are essential to supporting the multitude of services provided by the chamber. The revenue from membership dues enables the chamber staff to carry out the goals of the membership.

Chamber events and other activities are used to provide additional means of promoting and supporting the work of a chamber of commerce. They also provide visibility for member companies through their sponsorships of these events.

Benefits of Membership

Location, Location, Location - EPACC members are from our area. They have a vested interest in our community. They are your clients and your competitors. Our board of directors is comprised of businesspeople who work and/or live here. The East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to serving and promoting our local businesses.

Networking Opportunities - Events coordinated and promoted by the chamber with a focus on introducing members to one another and encouraging companies to do business together. Lunchtime & evening events held monthly, plus annual events.

Membership Directory - Company listing in Chamber's on-line business directory; w/ free link to your company's Web site.

Communication - Weekly e-mails about issues affecting businesses, and notices about EPACC events & members' events and activities via e-newsletter *Wutz Noo Wednesday*.

Referrals - We only refer our members. The EPACC office frequently receives phone and e-mail inquiries from the public and chamber members for products and services in our area.

Advocacy for the Business Community - In addition to our local business advocacy, the East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce is involved with state and regional agencies that deal with issues & ideas that relate to and affect our members.

Representation on Seekonk Economic Development Committee serving as a voice for Seekonk businesses.

Representation at the RI State Level - State-level lobbying efforts on behalf of our members through our partnership in the Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce Coalition.

Member2Member Discounts- Product and service discounts offered to and from members through the EPACC *Member2Member Discount Program*.

Free Subscriptions - A free subscription to *Under The Dome*. A timely publication keeping members informed about the progress of legislative bills that affect businesses.

Health and Dental Insurance - Access to qualified consultants who assist our members, at no charge, with selecting the best health care plans for themselves and their employees based on their needs and budget.



facebook.com/eastprovidenceareachamber



twitter.com/epareachamber

Ribbon Cuttings and Press Releases

Assistance with ribbon-cuttings and Grand Opening ceremonies for new and existing member businesses. We can prepare press releases for members at no cost, and will forward them to the appropriate media contacts.

Marketing and Publicity Opportunities

Free publicity for your business. Announce job openings, promotions, new hires, awards and non-profit events your company and employees are supporting or have received. We are here to share good news about our members!

Chamber Display Rack & Business Cards

Your company materials (business card/brochure) displayed in the Chamber office at no charge.

Build your Contacts. Build your Business!

Add MORE value to your membership through active participation.

Networking Opportunites

- Monthly Business After Hours: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Business During Hours: Our Noontime networking luncheon
- Annual Meeting & Dinner, Touch-A-Truck, Golf Outing & more.

Community Participation - A frequent opportunity for direct contact and involvement with other chamber members while serving on an EPACC committee or volunteering your time and/or services at events & other chamber activities.

Advertising Opportunities

•Receive more exposure for your company by offering a discount in our Member-2-Member Discount Program.

•Advertise your company directly to chamber members and the general public with an ad through the chamber's email and social media. Low cost advertising with high visibility.

•Sponsorship opportunities promoting your business at chamber events and programs throughout the year.

Seminars and Conferences - The Chamber hosts and promotes professional development programs that are timely, beneficial and affordable for our members.

Benefits and services are continually being added. Visit our Web site for details.