

GREATER IRMO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
THE LIGHTHOUSE

MARCH 2019



Message from the President

If you can't tell by the crazy weather fluctuations it is almost spring in South Carolina! As we wrap up the winter months, I hope you'll join us and venture out to more chamber events.

As always you are invited to join us at our Monthly Chamber Luncheon, held on Wednesday, March 13th at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. This month, we welcome Jen Thompson, Executive Director of Lighthouse for Life, an organization whose mission is to raise awareness about the realities of human trafficking and help victims. Ms. Thompson is returning to Irmo for an informative update on the fight against human trafficking in South Carolina.

In addition to our Chamber luncheon be sure to take the opportunity to attend our Tuesday Coffee Talks. Held every Tuesday morning at the Greater Irmo Chamber of Commerce, this a great networking event and an opportunity to build business relationships with other members.

We at the Chamber would also like to take the opportunity to thank our presenting sponsor Shaw Industries and the attendees of our Gala. This amazing night could not have been possible without your generous support and contributions. I am forever reminded about this remarkable community we all call home.

If you would like more information about any Chamber event or how you could get involved, please call or come by our office. We would be happy to meet you and tell you more about all the work the Chamber is doing in Irmo and how we can help better connect your business in Irmo.

Thank you,
Kerry Powers, President and CEO

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CONNECT WITH US

Stay up-to-date with all the wonderful things that the Greater Irmo Chamber of Commerce is up to by visiting our website or following us on social media.

#FunChamber



GreaterIrmoChamber.com



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UPCOMING EVENTS

>> COFFEE TALK TUESDAY

Please join us for our weekly Coffee Talks
 Tuesday, March 12, 19 and 26, 2019 • 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
 Greater Irmo Chamber of Commerce
 Have a cup of coffee, conversation and build business relationships with other Irmo Chamber members. **FREE** with your business card! Sponsored by Bart's Crazy Good Coffee.

>> CHAMBER LUNCHEON

Wednesday, March 13, 2019 • 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
 6952 St. Andrews Rd., Columbia, SC 29212
 This month, we will welcome Jen Thompson, Executive Director of **Lighthouse for Life** back to Irmo for an update on the fight against human trafficking in South Carolina. Special thanks to our partners at **Modern Exterminating** for sponsoring this event! **Thank you** Firehouse Subs for catering!

SAVE THE DATE!



OUR MEMBERSHIP

DIAMOND MEMBERS

LEXINGTON MEDICAL CENTER

THE NEW IRMO NEWS

EMERALD MEMBERS

CARRABBA'S ITALIAN GRILL

First Citizens Bank

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- 94.3 The Dude
- 93.1 The Lake
- Accel Outdoor
- Carolina Pest Control
- ColaDaily.com
- Darrel & Alyson Greene
- Edward Jones - David Wallace
- FedEx Office-Columbia
- FedEx Office-Dutch Fork Irmo Walmart
- FedEx Office-Lexington Walmart
- Midlands Media Group
- Rosebuds Photography
- Verizon Wireless (TCC)-Irmo
- Verizon Wireless (TCC)-Lexington
- Verizon Wireless (TCC)-Newberry
- WellSoul Spa + Salon

MARKETING MEMBERS

- 93.1 The Lake (WZMJ)
- 94.3 The Dude (WWNQ)
- Accel Outdoor
- Allstate Insurance: The Owens Agency, LLC
- Allstate: The Salmon Agency
- American Floral, LLP
- Art of Dentistry-Dr. Gregory J. Wych
- Big Eyed Bird Creative, LLC
- Cassell Brothers Heating & Cooling
- ColaDaily.com
- Cut Throat Marketing
- DoubleTree by Hilton
- Frank's Car Wash
- Fully Promoted
- Grace Outdoor
- Great Southern Homes
- Loveless and Yarborough Real Estate
- LTC Heath Solutions
- McGuinn Homes
- Medi Home Pharmacy
- Midlands Media Group
- Prisma Health
- Providence Health
- Southland Log Homes
- Studio 3P
- Temples Halloran Funeral And Cremation Services
- The UPS Store at Kennerly Crossing
- Woodforest National Bank

PLATINUM MEMBERS

- Atlantic at Parkridge
- Baker Collision Express
- Brookdale Senior Living Solutions
- Caughtman Harman Funeral Home
- GrandSouth Bank
- Lutheran Homes of South Carolina
- South Carolina Blue Retail Center
- Staples

GOLD MEMBERS

- AAA Car Care-Irmo
- AAA Carolina-Travel
- AAA Insurance-Irmo
- Affordable Insurance Group
- AllSouth Federal Credit Union
- AllSouth Federal Credit Union-Irmo
- Allstate: The Beaty Agency
- Aloft - Harbison
- Ameris Bank
- Anchor Lanes
- AT&T
- Babcock Center Foundation
- Ballentine Collision Repair, Inc.
- Barnes Business Solutions
- Beverly C. Winstead CPA, PA
- BeWell Home Services
- Bites & Sights (Free Times)
- Carolina Pest Control
- Century Glass
- Children's Dental Group of South Carolina
- Columbia Arts Academy
- Columbia Metropolitan Airport
- Comfort Services, Inc.
- Consultants in Gastroenterology
- Corporative Conference Center
- CresCom Bank
- CresCom Bank-Knox Abbot
- Dillard Financial Solutions Inc.
- District 5 of Lexington and Richland Counties
- Dunbar Funeral Home
- Dunbar Funeral Home
- Eagle One Tow & Transport
- Edward Jones Investments-David Wallace
- ERA Wilder Realty of Chapin
- ERA Wilder Realty of Irmo
- Experience Columbia SC
- Eyes on the Lake, LLC
- FATZ Southern Kitchen
- FedEx Office-Dutch Fork/Irmo Walmart
- FedEx Office-Lexington Walmart
- First Community Bank
- FIT413 Health Club
- Free Times
- Free Times Family
- Generations Senior Care of Irmo
- Gibson and Associates Inc
- Gilbert Brothers, Inc.
- Good Eats 2 Go
- Harbison Community Association
- Harbison Medical Associates
- Harbison Theatre at Midlands Technical College
- HarborChase of Columbia
- HDR | ICA Engineering
- HealthWorks of Palmetto Health
- Holiday Inn Express and Suites
- Hyatt Place
- Irmo Drug
- Irmo Insurance Agency
- Irmo Medical Associates
- Irmo Music Academy
- J King Real Estate
- Javis Tax Service
- Keller Williams Realty-Corrina Hooker
- Kings & Queens Barber and Beauty
- KMS Masonry
- Lake Murray Floor Covering
- Lake Murray Marina & Yacht Club
- Legalshield
- Lexington Family Practice - Irmo
- Lexington Medical Center Community Outreach
- Lexington Medical Center-Irmo
- Lexington Orthopaedics
- Lexington School of Music
- Lexington Sleep Solutions
- Lexington Women's Care - Irmo
- Liberty Taproom on the Lake
- Liberty Tax Service
- Liberty Tax Service (St. Andrew's)
- Lowe's of Irmo
- Lutheran Hospice
- Mary Kay-Sondi Carstetter
- Medi Home Care
- Medi Home Infusion
- Meetze Plumbing Company, Inc.
- Mickey's Auto Repair
- Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative
- Midlands Technical College
- Millcore Computing
- Minnie's Auto Repair
- Minute Man Movers, LLC
- MOLLY MAID of the Midlands and Columbia
- Movement Mortgage
- Movement Mortgage
- Movement Mortgage
- Mungo Homes
- NW Family YMCA of Columbia
- Palmetto Citizens Federal Credit Union
- Palmetto Citizens Federal Credit Union
- Palmetto Health Foundation
- Palmetto Health-Three Rivers Medical Associates
- Pendleton Street Business Advisors
- Pef Supplies Plus
- Peterson & Plante Internal Medicine Associates
- Principal Financial Group
- Prudential - J.D. Hacker
- PUBLIX Supermarket #17
- PUBLIX Supermarket #656
- PUBLIX Supermarket #883
- Regal Columbiana Grande Stadium 14
- Residence Inn by Marriott
- Riverbluff of Lexington Apartments
- Roper Staffing
- Rowe Rooter Plumbing Inc
- Royal Z Lanes
- SAFE Federal Credit Union
- SAFE Federal Credit Union
- Saluda River Club
- Sam's Club #6203
- SCORE
- Security Federal Bank
- Servpro of The Dutch Fork
- Shaw Industries, Inc.
- Signs N Logos Inc
- South Carolina State Credit Union
- South State Bank
- Southeastern Chapter-National Safety Council
- Southeastern Insurance Consultants, LLC
- Special Olympics South Carolina
- Spine Pain Center
- Stanick Sheet Metal & Roofing, Inc.
- State Farm Agency - Amy Masincupp
- State Farm Insurance - Terri Brock Agency, Inc.
- Sweetgrass Home Staging, LLC
- TD Bank
- Terminix Service, Inc.
- The Club at Carolina Stadium Apartments
- The Heritage at Lowman
- The Legends at Lake Murray Apartment Homes
- The Residence at Marina Bay
- Three Rivers Medical Associates
- Total Comfort Solutions
- Town of Irmo
- Tri County Home Health
- Troubleshooter A/C Refrigeration
- Universal School of Karate
- Verizon Wireless (TCC)-Irmo
- Verizon Wireless (TCC)-Lexington
- Verizon Wireless (TCC)-Newberry
- Wells Fargo
- Wells Fargo-Columbia
- Wells Fargo-Harbison
- White Rock Boxing Gym

BOARD MEMBER OF THE MONTH

A Q&A with Cynthia Giles

Owner, Cut Throat Marketing

What do you look forward to most being a Board Member for the Greater Irmo Chamber of Commerce?

The most anticipated part of being a Board member is what I will be able to learn and the new skills I will gain working with this talented group of people. As a young, small business owner, I am very fortunate that I have been given this opportunity and look forward to gaining new mentors and friends along the way.

Why do you believe businesses and individuals should get involved with The Chamber?

The GICC is a resource for individuals, families and businesses alike. If you are ever in need of advice or have a question, you can look to the staff, the Diplomats, the Board and all of the members for help on what might be currently standing in your way. Joining the Chamber is not joining a networking group where you must send referrals. It is a community resource for everyone in Irmo. The Chamber can link you with locally owned, community approved businesses for anything you may need.

Business owners will get out of the Chamber what they put in to it. Being a community driven, member based, non-profit they are always looking for more volunteers and resources to put on those fun events. If you can donate time, goods or money you will see it returned in PR and referrals.

What is your favorite GICC event?

The Coffee Talks on Tuesday mornings at 8 am are my favorite GICC event. First, coffee is one of my most favorite things in the world and Bart's Crazy Good coffee is indeed crazy good! Last, I really enjoy the ability to network and meet new people without it being mandatory every week. For the entry fee of my business card, I get a free cup of hot coffee and get to hear from local business owners.

What do you like most about Irmo?

THE VIEW! Irmo is one of the most beautiful places to live, all year round. The sunsets are one of my favorites, whether it be over the trees at Harbison State Forest or at Lake Murray, the sunset is simply put, the best! I grew up in southern California and we didn't have many trees, nothing was ever as green as it is here. Even after living here for 3 years I still drive around and say, "It's so pretty here."

What are your goals for the Chamber as a Board Member?

My goals for the Chamber include to reach as many people as possible and really highlight why we are known as the #FunChamber. It has been expressed by leadership, that one big goal is to increase participation by the community in our fun events, not just business members. To really do that, we need to be even more engaged online and plan events that draw a crowd. With that said, another goal I have would be to utilize my professional skills and the feedback of all Board members to get a more personalized online presence. This includes a brand-new website that is easy to navigate, mobile friendly, and has a blog, making it easier to share the Chamber's events and news. So, make sure you like our Facebook page, Twitter and Instagram accounts to stay up on everything!

How did you first get involved with The Chamber?

We needed promotional materials for a networking event and had just over a week to get the order because the company we originally tried to use called and said they couldn't do the order anymore?! Bethany Hiller told me to call Chuck Wade with Fully Promoted. Chuck was able to fill our order, with days to spare I might add, but he also invited me to a Chamber event and introduced me to the people I would consider an extended family now. Long story short, Chamber member referred me to another Chamber member who then asked me to join the Chamber. Best business decision I have ever made!



THE GREATER IRMO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

It's more than just networking...
come see why we are the #FunChamber!

Gala

2019 AWARD WINNERS!



Kerry Powers-President, Tom Ledbetter-Midlands Technical College (2019 Ambassador of the Year), John Coleman-Chairman, Kenneth Robinson, Board Member

- Ambassador of the Year
Tom Ledbetter, Midlands Technical College
- Diplomat of the Year
Nancy Nelson Embler, Coldwell Banker
- Order of the Okra
Regina Brown, Prisma Health
- Lifetime Achievement Award
Dr. Judy Johnson, Babcock Center
- Non-Profit of the Year
United Way of the Midlands
- New Business of the Year
Experimac, Mike Fields-Owner
- Small Business of the Year
UPS Store at Kennerly Crossing,
David Jones-Owner, Matt Svenson-Manager
- Large Business of the Year
Kay Plumbing, Konrad and Justyna
Orzechowski-Owners

OUR 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- John Coleman, Chairman**, Mungo Homes
- Shelley Woodward, Chair-Elect**, Inland Home Mortgage
- Jeremiah Davis, Immediate Past Chair**, Morgan Stanley
- Theresa Falcone, Secretary**, Lexington Medical Center-Irmo
- Emilie Keene, Treasurer**, Palmetto Health Baptist Parkridge
- Dale Sexton**, Shaw Industries
- Mary Ciesielski**, Security Federal Bank
- Mason Holley**, Southland Log Homes
- Todd Buehrig**, SC National Safety Council
- Dana Cassell**, Cassell Brothers Heating & Cooling
- Caroline Westbrooks**, First Citizens Bank-Irmo
- Kenneth Robinson**, Woodforest National Bank
- Nancy Nelson Embler**, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
- Cynthia Giles**, Cut Throat Marketing
- Alex Salmon**, Allstate: The Salmon Agency
- Phil Yarborough**, Loveless & Yarborough
- Councilwoman Beth Carrigg**, Lexington County Council
- Dr. Christina Melton**, Lexington Richland District 5
- Tom Ledbetter**, Midlands Technical College
- Mark Smyers**, Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission
- Chuck Larson**, President Emeritus
- Kerry Powers**, President/CEO

OUR STAFF

Kerry Powers, President and CEO
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GREATER IRMO
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Growing a Stronger Business Community

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THE NEW
IRMO NEWS