

## CHAMBER 411

People often ask me, "What is a Chamber of Commerce?"

There's a saying in the chamber industry which states "if you've seen one chamber, you've seen...one chamber." While each chamber is unique and each entity has a different approach with a unique mission, there are generally a few core principles that a chamber encapsulates. Most chambers are centered around supporting business and promoting economic and community development.

While I *cannot* tell you what *all* chambers do, I certainly *can* tell you what *your chamber* does! Our primary focus is to aggressively promote the interests of the business community. We do that through providing educational opportunities to our members, supplying publicity options, creating networking outlets and supporting economic development efforts.

[Click here to view a list of things \*your chamber\* did in 2008 and what our goals are for 2009.](#)

In closing, there are a few more common misconceptions that I'd like to address. First off, while we work closely with the Ohio Chamber and US Chamber, the Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce is an entirely separate entity. While we work intimately with our state, regional & national chambers of commerce affiliates, we are a separate organization.

Finally, people often think that the Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce receives city/county/state/federal funds. This is *not* the case. To illustrate this point, I have included a graph which shows the chamber's basic income breakdown. As you can see, we are dependent upon the support of our chamber investors as well as our fund raisers to maintain the high-quality programming provided by the Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce.

I hope this answers a few of your questions! If you have additional questions, please contact me at the chamber office 419.238.4390. I am always eager to discuss the chamber and how we can help your business succeed!

