

# Membership Information

## *Isle Area Chamber of Commerce*



**Isle, MN**  
**The Gateway to Lake Mille Lacs**

**Isle Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**PO Box 324**  
**Isle, MN 56342**  
**(320) 318-1098**

**[www.islechamberofcommerce.org](http://www.islechamberofcommerce.org)**



Dear Prospective Member,

Investing in the Isle Area Chamber of Commerce and our community is a smart decision. Join us and other like-minded businesses and individuals who are committed to working together to improve our community for the future. The Isle Area Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to strengthening our local economy, promoting the community, and advocating for business interests.

By becoming a member, you are investing in the future of our area. We are constantly building for the future and addressing the needs of our entire community, with a specific focus on the business community. Here are just a few examples of what we do:

- Strengthen the local economy: The Isle Area Chamber of Commerce collaborates with other cities, towns, and organizations to create a stronger local economy that benefits all businesses in our community.
- Promote the community: We enhance the quality of life in the Isle area through events like Isle Days and Isle Fun Run, business education partnerships, and support for local business promotions.
- Provide networking opportunities: We bring businesses together to help them succeed and grow. We also connect businesses with resources and mentors to support their continued success.
- Advocate for business interests: We speak out on local, regional, state, and national issues that impact our community. We also host informational and debate forums for candidates running for office, so the public can hear their ideas and how they plan to impact our community.

The Isle Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to representing business interests and being the voice of our area. We collaborate with other Chambers and area organizations to make our voice heard at the state and federal government levels. When necessary, we take stands on issues that affect business, such as mandated healthcare and worker's compensation reform.

We are dedicated to serving our community and helping businesses grow. We invite you to become a member and join us in making our community a great place to do business.

To your success,

Isle Area Chamber of Commerce



## Return on Investment (What YOU Get)

The Isle Area Chamber of Commerce is a vibrant community of local businesses and organizations dedicated to promoting and supporting the Isle area. As a member of our community, you'll have access to a wide range of services and resources designed to help your business succeed, including:

- ✓ **Marketing Opportunities:** Our special events and networking opportunities provide a great platform for you to promote your business and connect with potential customers.
- ✓ **Business Seminars and Round Table Discussions:** Our professional-led seminars and round table discussions give you the opportunity to learn new skills and stay up-to-date on the latest trends in your industry.
- ✓ **Business Listing in Our Online Membership Directory:** As a member of the Chamber, you'll be listed in our online directory, making it easy for potential customers to find you.
- ✓ **Ambassador's Program:** Our Ambassador's Program is designed to welcome your business to the Isle area and celebrate your milestones with you.
- ✓ **Advertising Opportunities:** As a member, you'll have access to advertising opportunities on our website as well as ads in cooperation with the Mille Lacs Messenger Newspaper.
- ✓ **Membership Certificate:** Display your Chamber membership certificate proudly in your place of business.
- ✓ **New Member Spotlight Article PSA:** We'll feature your business in a spotlight article on our website and our Facebook page.
- ✓ **Legislative Voice:** We represent our members in local, state, and government actions, giving you a voice in important community matters.
- ✓ **Members-Only Facebook Group:** Our members-only Facebook group is a great way to connect with other local business owners, share ideas, and participate in local discussions.
- ✓ **Access to our Online Calendar:** Post your events on our Chamber on-line calendar to be sure and reach our audience as well as yours.
- ✓ **Members-Only Local Discounts and Services:** Take advantage of exclusive discounts and services available only to Chamber members.

# Why Join the Isle Area Chamber of Commerce?



You make smart decisions for your business every day. Why not make a smart investment with the Isle Area Chamber of Commerce? A membership with the Isle Area Chamber speaks for itself and establishes credibility for your business.

A national study by the Schapiro Group revealed that positive perception increases among consumers and business owners when a business is identified as a member of their local chamber of commerce. The survey results found that, when told a business is a chamber member, consumers are:

- 63% more likely to buy goods and services in the future from a company that they believe is a member of the local chamber of commerce.
- 51% more likely to be highly aware of your business.
- 57% more likely to think positively of your local reputation.

Also, when decision-makers at businesses believe an organization is a chamber member, they are 59% more likely to buy goods and services from it.

## Five Ways to Turn Your Chamber of Commerce membership Into Revenue for Your business

1. Get on the Chamber's Web Site and link your business to the Chamber site
2. Let the Chamber promote your news, at meetings on their social media pages
3. Demonstrate your industry expertise via writing
4. Talk about your business at business networking events
5. Host an After Hours or other event, alone or with other Chamber Members

## What are top reasons to be listed on your local Chamber of Commerce business "Roster"

1. Voice of the Business Community
2. Networking
3. Business Promotion and Support

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# Membership Benefits



A significant investment that any company or business can make in growing their business is to expand its client/customer base and work in cooperation with fellow businesses. The Isle Area Chamber of Commerce seeks to offer various programs that provide an excellent return on investment.

Joining a local chamber of commerce can bring numerous benefits to a business, including

- Networking Opportunities:** Chambers of commerce provide an excellent platform for businesses to meet and connect with other business owners, professionals, and community leaders. Networking events, meetings, and conferences provide ample opportunities to build relationships and expand business contacts.
- Advocacy:** Chambers of commerce advocate on behalf of businesses at the local, state, and federal levels. They keep businesses informed about policy changes and work to influence government decisions that can impact the business community.
- Business Exposure:** Being a member of a chamber of commerce can increase a business's visibility and exposure within the community. Chambers often feature member businesses in their publications, websites, and social media accounts, which can lead to increased brand recognition and customer referrals.
- Professional Development:** Many chambers of commerce offer educational programs and workshops to help businesses develop and enhance their skills. These programs can cover topics such as marketing, finance, leadership, and management.
- Cost Savings:** Chambers of commerce often offer exclusive discounts and deals to their members on various products and services. These discounts can help businesses save money on essential business expenses.
- Community Involvement:** Chambers of commerce play a vital role in supporting the local community. By joining a chamber, businesses can participate in community events, charitable initiatives, and volunteer programs, which can help build a positive image and strengthen relationships within the community.

Overall, joining a local chamber of commerce can provide a range of benefits to businesses, including increased networking opportunities, advocacy, business exposure, professional development, cost savings, and community involvement.

# We Are a Community of Possibilities, Not of Problems

We are action takers.

We are optimistic.

*It's not about what this town used to be.*

We have people right now, assets right here, and we can act right away.

We don't need another plan, another committee, or another meeting.

# We can do it now!

We create the moments that show what this town could be and the places that take our breath away, if only just for a moment. What we create doesn't have to be permanent to create possibility. We don't care about titles or who holds official positions. The people who do hold titles may not think like us.

*That's OK.*

No one can stop us from doing the little things that really matter. We'd rather help 10 people try their own ideas than to hold a vote and tell everyone to support the "winner." That might be more efficient, but efficiency isn't our

# Community is our goal.

We try everyone's ideas. We don't let statistics and negative reports beat us up. Those numbers are nothing but a snapshot in time. What we do next is up to us. We aren't changing our town to attract others to come save us.

We are valuing the people who are here now and what we all want to create

That means everyone, every single one. People of all ages, all ethnicities, all backgrounds, all incomes, people who are new in town and people who have been here for generations.

*All of us have ways of doing things, culture, and things to share.*

We all want a thriving town with a future for generations. We thrive by doing more business together.

# We have everything we need.

We celebrate the entrepreneurs, businesspeople, dreamers, makers, artists, experimenters, performers, crafters, bakers, upcyclers, junkers, people who sell in booths and homes and parking lots and trucks and sheds. **Together we prosper, right here where we are.** We are creating the community we want one small step at a time. It's nothing short of a revolution in how we build our town together.



*Welcome to Isle, an Idea Friendly Town.*



## ANNUAL INVESTMENT SCHEDULE

General membership investment amount is based on the number of employees: Employees are calculated on a full-time equivalent basis (40 hours part-time = 1 full-time equivalent) and include regular employees plus owners, managers, licensees, agents, and commission salespeople. Three part-time employees are equivalent to one full-time employee for membership purposes.

**General Memberships:** All initial membership must include the additional **initial filing fee of \$25.00**. This is *not repeated* for annual renewals.

Employees	Investment
Home Based Business – 1 Person	\$50
1 to 5	\$100
6 to 10	\$200
11 to 25	\$300
26 to 49	\$400
50 to 100	\$500
Over 100	\$600
Special Categories	
Large Non-Profit Organization with Paid Staff	\$100
Non-Profit Organization with All Volunteers Staff	\$50
Associate Member - Must be affiliated with Member Business	\$50
Non-Business Member - Individual	\$25

Mail Application to: PO Box 324, Isle, MN 56342.  
Or Email to [info@islechamberofcommerce.org](mailto:info@islechamberofcommerce.org)  
Or drop off at Lakeland Printers on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.



## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street/Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

Facebook Page \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Product or Service \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Name of designated person as a business representative to the Chamber

President/CEO \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Employees\* \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Investment \$\_\_\_\_\_

Membership benefits will commence the month upon receipt of initial payment and become the annual investment renewal month.

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_ (Incl. one-time \$25 filing fee)

**Authorized Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Referred By \_\_\_\_\_ **Thank You** for your Membership!

Payment Method: (Office Use Only) Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Please email logo to [info@islechamberofcommerce.org](mailto:info@islechamberofcommerce.org)



## MEMBERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

Your Chamber will be more robust because of your participation... its members. Volunteer opportunities on committees and with events also provides members with valuable business and community contacts. Please consider sharing your time and expertise in an area that interests you. If you would like more information on a committee(s) or event, check below and return this sheet to the Chamber. Someone will follow up with you.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Promotions & Events Committee** - Oversees and helps organize the Isle Days Celebration and other community and business events throughout the year.

**Member Services/Ambassadors/Networking Committee** – Member Services assists the Chamber in recruiting and retaining members. Ambassadors represent the Chamber, business, and community in welcoming businesses to our area, helping with Grand Openings, Ribbon Cuttings, and photo opportunities for community awareness. The committee identifies and organizes meetings and events that bring business and the community together regularly. Events could be business breakfasts, luncheons, steering committees, business seminars. This committee meets as needed.

**Education Partnerships Committee** – Meets several times a year to organize and promote projects such as the Business Education Partnership projects, scholarships, Mentor Program, and Educators of the Year awards.

**Notify Me Of Future Committees and Events!**



# NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



# Isle Business Monthly Spotlight Article Form

This form is for the new members of the chamber to write a brief informational article about their business or company so it may be published on our website. This article should entail some information about what makes your business unique and how it meets the needs of others. Share a little of your company's history and what services you provide. Please fill out the form and return it to the Isle Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Company Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax** \_\_\_\_\_

**Website** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Brief Description:**

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If additional space is needed, please attach a separate sheet of paper. Please limit your article to no more than 200 words.

**Contact Name**

Date

**Representative Signature**

This is a courtesy ad opportunity provided by the Isle Area Chamber of Commerce for its members on a one-time-only basis. Information received will be published as space becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact our office. **Please email any photos and logo to [info@islechamberofcommerce.org](mailto:info@islechamberofcommerce.org).**



## CHAMBER BUCKS PROGRAM

The Isle Area Chamber of Commerce (IACC) has developed the "**CHAMBER BUCKS**" program to support the local community. It will be a way to keep dollars circulating throughout the greater Isle area. ***"Good for business - good for our customers!"***

### ***Participating Merchants:***

Most of the Isle area merchants participate in this program. The **CHAMBER BUCKS** will be nearly as good as cash. Once the **CHAMBER BUCKS** get into the hands of customers and they start spending, you will be excited about the results.

- IACC members can redeem or deposit **CHAMBER BUCKS** at First National Bank of Milaca- Lakeside Office and Blaze Credit Union - Isle Branch. They are the same as cash!
- IACC members will receive 100% of the face value of the **CHAMBER BUCKS**.
- Non-IACC members will receive 90% of the face value of the **CHAMBER BUCKS**.
- Non-IACC members can redeem **CHAMBER BUCKS** for cash at the Mille Lacs Messenger office.
- All **CHAMBER BUCKS** must and will be individually numbered and embossed to be valid.
- Please have customer sign the back of **CHAMBER BUCKS**.
- When depositing or cashing **CHAMBER BUCKS**, please sign or use endorsement stamp on back of coupon below the customer's signature as you would any check.
- There is no cash value to **CHAMBER BUCKS**. They will be accepted for merchandise and services at participating merchants. Some restrictions may apply.
- No Change given back over \$1.00

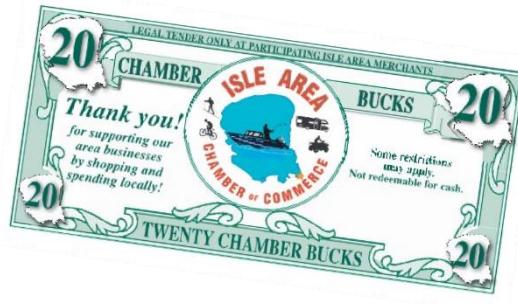
### ***Purchase CHAMBER BUCKS:***

- We encourage merchants to provide **CHAMBER BUCKS** for incentives to customers and employees and donation giveaways.
- **Purchase your CHAMBER BUCKS** at the Mille Lacs Messenger.
- **CHAMBER BUCKS** are available in \$5 and \$20 bills.
- For complete information on the IACC **CHAMBER BUCKS**, go to [www.IsleChamberOfCommerce.org](http://www.IsleChamberOfCommerce.org) site.
- If you do not accept **CHAMBER BUCKS** or you know of a business that does not accept **CHAMBER BUCKS**, please contact the chamber so we may post a list of merchants who do not accept **CHAMBER BUCKS**.



# DISCOUNTED CASH!

## Isle Area Chamber Bucks



## Do You Like Buying Cash for 10% Off?

Buy Isle Area Chamber Bucks Today  
for 10% Off Their Face Value!

**Support and Promote Your Local Businesses!**

- Isle Area Chamber Bucks can be used at many Isle Area Businesses.
- Chamber Bucks can only be purchased at the Mille Lacs Messenger (Cash or Check) Mon.-Fri. 9-4:30

Call 320-318-1098 with questions

Available in \$5 and \$20.  
Limit. \$200 per family.

**Hurry while  
supplies last.**



We  
Accept

ISLE  
Bucks  
Chamber

