



ATHENS AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Membership Guide

**WELCOME TO THE ATHENS
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

WELCOME

Our Chamber is a historic organization that has been a lasting foundational support to local and prospective business alike; helping keep Athens an ever developing, ever growing business community. Given Athens's unprecedented levels of economic growth it is important now more than ever for businesses to stay informed, stay connected and to support one another in our vibrant economy.

The Chamber provides a multitude of opportunities for networking and brand exposure that our members can plan to stay connected through. Please take a moment to read our annual and monthly event page. We've constructed a diversified social calendar that range from networking to informative to celebratory. The calendar was developed with you in mind and we want everyone to be able to have a unique takeaway that can most affect your business. Aside from attending networking functions ask our office about hosting. Potential venues are always welcome and sponsoring an event can provide a unique exposure opportunity.

In addition overhead and day to day operation costs for any business can accumulate quickly. The Chamber has put together a cost reduction package that will help that end of the year expense report. Save potentially thousands on any named items from healthcare to office supplies to shipping expenses.



**“Thank you for your interest in joining
the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce Community!”**

The Athens community is made up of innovative entrepreneurs and established businesses alike and we believe by coming together and staying connected everyone stands to prosper. It is through our engaged and exemplarily member base we are able to provide the best possible opportunities and value for the community as a whole. We thank you for your engagement and look forward to working with you in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Bradley', written in a cursive style.

David Bradley
Chamber President

BENEFITS SYNOPSIS

The Athens Area Chamber offers a variety of exclusive saving opportunities for business expenses. Below we have a few of our signature items, find what suits your needs and take advantage!

Anthem HEALTHCARE

Does your small business need Healthcare but you don't know where to look? The Chamber provides a SMART option with Blue Cross Blue Shield. Anthem's program allows small businesses to connect and share in overall savings. Check to see if you qualify and join in on a program covered by 97% of doctors and 96% of hospitals in Georgia.



Office DEPOT® OfficeMax® SAVINGS

Happy with the price of toner? No one is. Save up to 20% on printing supplies and an assortment of over 6,000 items at your local Office Depot and Office Max.

NETWORKING

Networking and staying in touch with your client base is both difficult and rewarding. Organize your business through Constant Contact and through the Chamber save 25% on their services.



DRUGS DON'T WORK HEALTHCARE

Studies have shown that drug free work spaces have a lower rate of workers compensation claims. Members can become drug free certified through Georgia's Drugs Don't Work program and save an automatic 7.5% on worker compensation premiums.

NEW ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

Better match your accounts payable and receivable with NOWaccount's. NOWaccount allows your company to take the unpredictability out of your businesses invoice collection.



UPS SHIPPING

Happy with the price of shipping? No one is. Save up to 34% with UPS on shipping on anything from Next Day Air to International Export.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL RECOGNITION

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#6

**“THE BEST SMALL CITIES FOR
BUSINESS AND CAREERS”**

— Forbes (2018)

“TOP 17 MOST AFFORDABLE US CITIES”

— Inuit Mint (2016)



NAMED A GEORGIA “GREEN CITY”

— Insurify (2018)

#2

“BEST COLLEGE FOOTBALL TOWNS IN AMERICA”

— USA Today Sports (2017)

#7 “BEST COLLEGE CAMPUSES IN AMERICA”

— Business Insider (2018)

“25 MOST GIVING CITIES IN THE US”

— Travelocity (2016)

“TOP 25 BEST PLACES TO RETIRE”

— Forbes (2014-2018)

CHAMBER EVENTS

The Athens Chamber boasts an extensive social calendar with monthly and annual events. Mark your calendars and be sure to register for tickets through our website at <http://athensga.chambermaster.com/events> . For additional exposure contact David Bradley at david.bradley@athensga.com about a multitude of event sponsorship opportunities.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Second Tuesday of Every Month

Women in Business is one of our most popular and important functions. It is a monthly luncheon that allows business women in Athens to connect and find out how to exemplify themselves in the community. The luncheon features guest speakers and is closely connected to the Women in Business Council.



SMALL BUSINESS BREAKFAST CLUB

Third Tuesday of Every Other Month

Small businesses face difficult challenges along with unique opportunity for growth. Small Business Breakfast Club allows participants to learn about tools and paths related to specific topics. Guest speakers can cover a wide range of topics from mobile media to business loan opportunities. Join us the third Thursday of each month to help maximize the opportunities that are available to businesses in Athens.

NETWORK LUNCH

First Tuesday of the Month

The NetWORK Lunch provides an opportunity for businesses to connect in a relaxed, professional environment with guest speakers and a provided lunch. This is an opportunity for members to interact over a meal and discuss pertinent topics that relate to their own business experiences. This is predominantly a networking function and bringing business cards, brochures and marketing information are highly encouraged.



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Third Thursday of Every Month

Business After Hours is the chambers main monthly social function that has eclectic rotating event venues. Pick up your appetizers and drink tickets and enjoy a night away with fellow Athens business members and entrepreneurs.

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ANNUAL MEETING

February

The Annual Meeting is the Chamber's annual gala celebrating and acknowledging the hard work that goes into the Athens-Clarke Community. Community leaders, guest speakers and board members all make an appearance in this fun and formal award ceremony event.



PANCAKES AND POLICY

Quarterly

Pancakes and Policy is a new event hosted by the Chamber that allows community leaders to get their message out to members of the Athens business community. This morning meeting and Q&A provides an excellent opportunity for members to get a glimpse of the inner workings of Athens. So far hosted by the Superintendent of Clarke County Schools and the incoming mayor the Chamber is excited to expand this important, already popular event.



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK SOCIAL

First Thursday of Every Month

The Athens Chamber works closely with YPN in order to help foster relationships between the younger business professionals of the community. The future of any community relies on a talented professional base the Social opportunity helps young professionals develop lasting relationships and regional insight.

ATHENA AWARD NOMINATION BANQUET

November

Leading up to the Annual meeting the nominations for the ATHENA Award are revealed. Over the past 25 years the competitive ATHENA Award has recognized the contributions of the outstanding women of Athens-Clarke.

MID-YEAR

August

The Athens Chamber's Mid-Year is the Chamber's premier late summer/early fall event of the year. Enjoy networking with fellow businesses through a mutual love of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and décor in this fun-filled themed event.

ATHENS FEATURES

Athens is a cultural center of the South and hosts a multitude of exciting venue and events. There is something for everyone and there is a mutual agreement that Athens is a beautiful place to explore.

THE STATE BOTANICAL GARDENS

The State Botanical Gardens are located in Athens and attract a large number of visitors of all ages. The property is 313 acres and is home to a stunning range of collections, displays and trails. Gardens offers a wide range of educational programs for adults. Less formal programs, such as Garden Rambles, provide relaxing walks through the garden and focus on specific items of seasonal interest.



GEORGIA THEATRE

The Georgia Theatre was originally the home of the Athens YMCA from 1889 to 1919. After that, it was used for an array of different businesses, including a hotel, music store, and a furniture company. The Georgia Theatre now hosts a variety of bands and events, and its iconic sign has been used by many for pictures and proposals.

ATHFEST

AthFest is a three-day, family-friendly music festival in Athens that supports music and arts education by supporting their nonprofit AthFest Educates. It brings local and regional musicians and artists to venues throughout Downtown Athens, appealing to a broad audience. There also is a designated block-long area of the festival for children.



UGA FOOTBALL

One of the best ways to experience Athens is by coming to a UGA football game. The whole dynamic of the city changes during football season, and you will see families and college students tailgating all over campus and its surrounding areas all day long on Saturdays. Sanford Stadium, which has been recently renovated, is one of the most iconic places in Athens. It sits directly in the middle of UGA's campus and has the capacity to hold 92,746 people. It is famous for the hedges that surround the field and is widely known as the greatest spectator stadium in the South.



Athens is an amazing City that offers impossibly large and diversified opportunities for success. We welcome you to our community and thank you deeply for your membership to our chamber. The community would not be the same without you and as your Chamber we are here for you and your business.