Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are essential to the Greater Omaha Chamber's mission to increase business, investment and employment in the Greater Omaha area. There are over 1,000 individuals volunteering their time and talent on a variety of Chamber councils, committees and projects.

It is a great way to develop business relationships and make a difference in our community!

Please contact the staff person listed for more information on a particular council, group, committee or project. For general information or if you have questions about getting involved, contact Anne Branigan at (402) 978-7949 or abranigan@omahachamber.org.

We appreciate your support!

Member Services

Advantage

- Purpose: Contact members to ensure their involvement and satisfaction with their membership.
- Commitment: Attend monthly meetings and contact a specified number of members each week.
- Structure: Open to members with desire to help other members. Ideal for bankers, administrative or office staff, sales people – anyone comfortable on the phone.
- Contact: Bridget Lynch, (402) 978-7930 or blynch@omahachamber.org

President's Club

- Purpose: Recruit new Chamber members and retain existing members. The Greater Omaha Chamber is one of the only Chambers in the nation that relies on a talented team of volunteers to increase membership.
- Commitment: Attend weekly one-hour team meetings, recruit at least one new member a month or 12 by the end of the year and help secure renewals.
- Structure: Open to members with experience in sales or consulting.
- Contact: Jim Butler, (402) 978-7914 or jbutler@omahachamber.org

Membership Campaign

- Purpose: Sell Chamber memberships during the annual eight-week campaign. Approximately 75 to 125 volunteers are needed.
- Commitment: Attend weekly one-hour sales meetings and sell at least four new memberships during the campaign.
- Structure: Open to members with experience in sales or consulting.
- Contact: Jim Butler, (402) 978-7914 or jbutler@omahachamber.org

Small Business Council

- Purpose: Advise and set policy on small business programs, specifically in providing value, services, networking opportunities and recognition to members.
- Commitment: Attend monthly/quarterly meetings, participate in a task force to determine Omaha 25 Award winners and monthly Small Business of the Month winners, and welcome new businesses into the community by attending grand openings and ribbon cuttings.
- Structure: Consists of experienced area business leaders with a passion for small business growth and success. Chair is elected by the board nominating committee and is part of the executive committee.
- Contact: Larry Gomez, (402) 978-7925 or lgomez@omahachamber.org

Membership Council

- Purpose: Advise and set policy on membership programs, specifically in providing value, services, networking opportunities and recognition to members.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings, assist in selling memberships and periodically review programs and services.
- Structure: Consists of experienced area business leaders with a passion for ensuring the Chamber succeeds in meeting its membership goals. Chair is elected by the board nominating committee and is part of the executive committee.
- Contact: Jim Butler, (402) 978-7914, jbutler@omahachamber.org

Thank-a-Thon:

- Purpose: Call members to thank them for their membership.
- Structure: Open to all members. Approximately 60-100 volunteers or 10 volunteer companies are needed.
- Commitment: Individual and company teams commit to at least one one-hour shift, typically in mid-November.
- Contact: Bridget Lynch, (402) 978-7930 or blynch@omahachamber.org

Economic Development

Economic Development Council

- Purpose: Advise and set policy on economic development programs to become the most proactive, professional, responsive and respected metropolitan economic development organization in the nation.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings, participate in attraction and retention visits and events.
- Structure: Consists of a chair and 10 committee members who are Chamber board members, partners and community leaders.
- Contact: Renae Connolly, (402) 978-7943 or rconnolly@selectgreateromaha.com

Ambassador Business Call Program

- Purpose: Under the direction of the Existing Business Target Advisory Group, ambassador volunteers schedule and meet with area business owners, presidents or CEOs to seek input on issues and opportunities facing their business.
- Commitment: The program typically kicks off in the spring and ambassadors are expected to attend orientation, complete a certain number of business calls and provide information back to staff.
- Structure: Open to members with experience in sales or consulting.
- Contact: Phil Phillips, (402) 978-7932 or pphillips@selectgreateromaha.com

Existing Business Target Advisory Group

- Purpose: Counsel on existing business and retention programs to enhance the profitability and growth of existing Omaha area companies and identify ways to improve the business climate.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings, participate in the Ambassador Program and provide leads.
- Structure: Consists of a chair and at least four committee members who are experienced area business leaders. Members are selected.
- Contact: Phil Phillips, (402) 978-7932 or pphillips@selectgreateromaha.com

Headquarters Target Advisory Group

- Purpose: Counsel existing business and retention staff on programs specifically aimed to develop relationships with and encourage continued operation and growth of Omaha facilities of companies that have their home offices outside of the Omaha area.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings, participate in trips to visit headquarters, provide leads, and provide feedback and evaluation on programming and/or new initiatives.
- Structure: Consists of a chair and at least four committee members who are experienced area business leaders. Members are selected.
- Contact: Phil Phillips, (402) 978-7932 or pphillips@selectgreateromaha.com

International Target Advisory Group

- Purpose: Advise on programs that promote Greater Omaha as an international business destination, and assist in building a comprehensive and strategic attraction effort for international companies.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings, provide strategic advice, information and leads, make contact with selected international individuals and organizations, and participate in local international events as applicable.
- Structure: Consists of a chair and at least four committee members who are experienced area business leaders. Members are selected.
- Contact: Marisa Ring, (402) 978-7940 or mring@selectgreateromaha.com

Military Affairs Target Advisory Group

- Purpose: Serve in an advisory role with the Chamber on military-related projects and act as a liaison between the Chamber, USSTRATCOM, the 55th Wing at Offutt AFB and Department of Defense Contractors.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings, provide business intelligence as it relates to attracting new missions, provide leads, and provide feedback and evaluation on programming and/or new initiatives.
- Structure: Consists of a chair and at least four committee members who are experienced business leaders committed to strengthening and maintaining the military presence in Greater Omaha. Members are selected.
- Contact: Ned Holmes, (402) 978-7946 or nholmes@selectgreateromaha.com

Entrepreneurship Target Advisory Group

- Purpose: Advise on the Chamber's strategic program of work in innovation and entrepreneurship, and create collaboration opportunities to improve the overall innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings, provide strategic advice and help find more high growth entrepreneurial opportunities that are either organic or relocation. Provide leads, contacts and information regarding new business ventures in the area or that are viable attraction leads.
- Structure: Consists of a chair and at least four committee members who are experienced area business leaders. This group operates in tandem with the Entrepreneurship Roundtable, a committee of service providers created to provide networking opportunities and mechanisms for the group to collaborate on certain types of projects. Members are selected.
- Contact: Tom Chapman, (402) 978-7905 or tchapman@selectgreateromaha.com

Insurance Target Advisory Group

- Purpose: Direct Chamber activities regarding the financial services and insurance industries.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings, provide strategic advice and general information regarding the insurance environment in the Omaha region. Provide, help identify and cultivate leads, and help to recruit identified target companies.
- Structure: Consists of a chair and at least four committee members who are experienced area business leaders in the financial services or insurance industry. Members are selected.
- Contact: Tom Chapman, (402) 978-7905 or tchapman@selectgreateromaha.com

Bioscience Target Advisory Group

- Purpose: Direct Chamber in building a comprehensive attraction effort for bioscience companies.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings, provide strategic advice, potential leads and help to recruit identified target companies.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings, provide strategic advice and general information regarding the bioscience industry in the Omaha region, provide, help identify and cultivate leads, and help to recruit identified target companies.
- Structure: Consists of a chair and at least four committee members who are experienced area business leaders. Members are selected.
- Contact: Tom Chapman, (402) 978-7905 or tchapman@selectgreateromaha.com

Information Technology Target Advisory Group

- Purpose: Direct Chamber in building a comprehensive attraction effort for information technology companies and provide a forum for IT knowledge sharing and transfer.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings, provide strategic advice, potential leads, and help to recruit identified target companies, recommend involvement in trade and other professional associations.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings, provide strategic advice and general information regarding the bioscience industry in the Omaha region. Provide, help identify and cultivate leads, and help to recruit identified target companies.
- Structure: Consists of a chair and at least four committee members who are experienced area business leaders. Members are selected.
- Contact: Ned Holmes, (402) 978-7946, nholmes@selectgreateromaha.com

Retail Development Target Advisory Group

- Purpose: Assist and advise in the development of strategies and programs to enhance retail development in Greater Omaha. Focus on promoting the retail environment in "in-fill" retail redevelopment to address underserved areas and long term attraction of upscale retailers.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings, provide strategic advice, potential leads and help recruit identified target companies.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings and specific interest area's meetings and report back to the TAG, provide strategic advice, provide, help identify and cultivate leads, and help recruit identified target companies.
- Structure: Consists of a chair and at least four committee members who are experienced area business leaders. Members are selected.
- Contact: Winsley Durand, (402) 233-7144, wdurand@selectgreateromaha.com

Minority Economic Development Council (MEDC)

- Purpose: Serves in an advisory role to the Chamber's board of directors and staff in developing a plan of action that fosters business development among ethnic minority owned firms within Greater Omaha.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings and serve a two-year term, attend specific interest area meeting(s) and report back to MEDC, provide leads and provide feedback and evaluation on MEDC programming and initiatives.
- Structure: Consists of a chair and at least four committee members who are experienced area business leaders. Chair is appointed by the board chairman and is a member of the board of directors. Members are selected.
- Contact: Winsley Durand, (402) 233-7144, wdurand@selectgreateromaha.com

Site Investigation and Development Target Advisory Group

- Purpose: Serves in an advisory role to staff of the Greater Omaha Economic Development Partnership to help shape long-term strategic objectives for the Partnership's role in identifying suitable land for further development to increase the region's competitiveness in product and price to attract our targeted industries.
- Commitment: Attend semi-monthly meetings, provide strategic advice on development potential of land across the whole metro region and support efforts to conduct economic feasibility studies for identified sites; research, seek and identify potential funding opportunities and mechanisms; encourage private sector development of shovel-ready sites; and where appropriate develop public-private partnerships to achieve the TAG's goals.
- Structure: Consists of a chair and at least 4 committee members who have experience or knowledge of public-private partnership business park development. Members are selected.
- Contact: Toby Churchill, (402) 978-7924, tchurchill@selectgreateromaha.com, or Mike Bruening, (402) 978-7935, mbruening@selectgreateromaha.com

Community Development

North Omaha Development Project (NODP)

- Purpose: The North Omaha Development Project brings business and community leaders together to find ways to positively impact the economic growth of the North Omaha community.
- Structure: The North Omaha Development Project steering committee and executive director, with the support of the Greater Omaha Chamber, are responsible for day-to-day implementation of this plan. Task forces, chaired by members of the steering committee and community leaders, have been established to address transportation, business development, workforce development, capacity building, housing and finance and communication priorities.
- Commitment: Attend regular meetings. Be knowledgeable about NODP, its mission and goals and share that knowledge with others in the community. Help support NODP programs by attending task force meetings, community meetings and events throughout the year and encourage others to attend. Network with the business community, always act in the best interests of NODP, avoid conflicts of interest and maintain the confidentially expected in committee meetings.
- Contact: Ed Cochran, (402) 233-7152, ecochran@projectnorthomaha.org

Destination Midtown

- Purpose: The mission of Destination Midtown is to create a premier urban environment where people want to live, work, shop and play. The vision of Destination Midtown is to establish a nationally-known, vibrant and distinct urban environment that promotes economic development activities, advances neighborhood goals and forges unique partnerships.
- Structure: Destination Midtown consists of a board of directors, a full-time executive director and a part-time intern and an assistant. The board reflects the partnering nature of the initiative, representing Midtown businesses, institutions and residents, the City of Omaha and the Greater Omaha Chamber. Volunteers help ensure the success of this vital effort and help make Midtown a great place to live, work, shop and play.
- Contact: Jamie Grayson-Berglund, (402) 233-7142, jamie@destinationmidtown.org

Education and Workforce Development

Young Professional's Council

- Purpose: Serves as the catalyst organization to retain and attract young professionals to Greater Omaha through engagement, opportunity and advocacy.
- Structure: Comprised of young professional leaders representing diverse industries and backgrounds.
- Commitment: Council board members are selected to serve a three-year term and attend monthly meetings. Responsible for providing direction and guidance to the council on project and initiatives, raise funds necessary to implement projects of the council, collaborate with community partners to increase effectiveness and participate in events and activities initiated by the council.
- Additional volunteers sought to provide input and assistance with projects of the Council.
- Contact: Sarah Johnson, (402) 978-7945, sjohnson@omahachamber.org

Leadership Omaha Curriculum Committee

- Purpose: Develop effective community leaders who will strengthen and transform the community.
- Structure: Comprised of selected community volunteers and Leadership Omaha alumni who are committed to establishing a program that addresses community awareness.
- Commitment: Serve a three-year term and attend monthly meetings. Responsible for assisting in the planning and implementation of two day-long seminars and serving as facilitators at these seminars; assisting in the preparation of Leadership Omaha goals and objectives; and serving as a resource for participants who want help identifying community involvement opportunities.
- Contact: Lynda Shafer, (402) 978-7928, lshafer@omahachamber.org

Leadership Omaha Selection Committee

- Purpose: Review and select participants to assure the class reflects the diversity of the community-at-large.
- Structure: Comprised of selected graduates of Leadership Omaha or Omaha Executive Institute who are committed to developing effective community leaders who will strengthen and transform the community. Committee Chair is a member of the Chamber's board.
- Commitment: Serve a two-year term and attend three meetings per year. Responsible for possessing an understanding of the overall Leadership Omaha program including the selection process; reviewing each application and ranking each in a consistent and fair manner; and for providing an evaluation of the selection process as well as making recommendations for the following year.
- Contact: Lynda Shafer, (402) 978-7928, lshafer@omahachamber.org

Leadership Omaha Alumni Association Board

- Purpose: Establish, promote and foster leadership for the Omaha community.
- Structure: Comprised of selected graduates of Leadership Omaha who are committed to establishing, promoting and fostering leadership for the Omaha community.
- Commitment: Members serve a one-year term and attend monthly meetings. The vice president serves a three-year term, with a succession to president and then past president. Responsible for planning and executing several events for alumni and community members annually, and for awarding the Goldstein Outstanding Young Leader Award.
- Contact: Lynda Shafer, (402) 978-7928, lshafer@omahachamber.org

Omaha 21st Century Education Council

- Purpose: Assist and advise in the development of strategies and programs to ensure a quality educational system that results in high academic achievement for all students.
- Structure: Comprised of selected business leaders who are committed to the continuous improvement of education and workforce development in the Omaha area. Chair is elected by the board nominating committee and is part of the Chamber's executive committee.
- Commitment: Serve a three-year term and attend quarterly meetings. Responsible for monitoring progress towards goal attainment and report progress to the Chamber's board. Champion and garner support among board members and the community for established goals and initiatives.
- Contact: Wendy Boyer, (402) 978-7934 or wboyer@omahachamber.org

Omaha Workforce Collaborative

- Purpose: Assist and advise in the development of strategies and programs of a workforce funding collaborative that strategically invests resources to create a more effective workforce development system that meets the needs of the community: employers and potential employees.
- Structure: Comprised of selected public and private organizations and foundations interested in strategically investing in workforce development initiatives from a dual customer approach.
- Commitment: Attend monthly meetings. Responsible for granting monies to workforce partnerships to create workforce development solutions from a dual customer approach; monitoring the success of investments and workforce partnerships; building the capacity of organizations to create new workforce development models; advocating for public policy based upon evidence collected to improve effectiveness of workforce development systems from dual customer approach: employers and low-skilled, unemployed workers; to champion funding collaborative goals and initiatives with community at-large and other potential partners
- Contact: Andrew Rainbolt, (402) 233-7153 or arainbolt@omahachamber.org

North Omaha Workforce Task Force

- Purpose: Employ the residents in North Omaha, both inside the targeted zip codes and the Greater Omaha.
- Structure: Comprised of community-based organizations and service providers working with residents of North Omaha.
- Commitment: Attend monthly meetings. Responsible for providing guidance and direction; for communicating and building support for workforce solutions and initiatives; building the capacity of organizations to create new workforce development models; and advocating for public policy based upon evidence collected to improve effectiveness of workforce development systems from a dual customer approach: employers and low-skilled, unemployed workers.
- Additional volunteers sought to provide input and assistance to the Task Force.
- Contact: Wendy Boyer, (402) 978-7934, wboyer@omahachamber.org

Workforce Development Council

- Purpose: Assist and advise in the development of strategies and programs to ensure talent exists with the community to attract, recruit and expand business in Greater Omaha.
- Structure: Comprised of selected business leaders who are committed to the continuous improvement of education and workforce development in the Omaha area. Chair is elected by the Chamber board nominating committee and is part of the executive committee.
- Commitment: Serve a three-year term and attend quarterly meetings. Responsible for providing direction and guidance as to the needs within the targeted industries, monitoring progress towards goal attainment and reporting progress to the board, championing and garnering support among board members and the community, assisting in identifying and recruiting stakeholders to support or implement initiatives, participating in events or activities initiated by Council.
- Contact: Wendy Boyer, (402) 978-7934 or wboyer@omahachamber.org

Public Policy

Agriculture Council

- Purpose: Solicit discussion and formulate strategy for improving the agribusiness climate in the metro area to close the gap between Omaha's agribusiness interests and those of greater Nebraska.
- Structure: Comprised of interested Chamber members (and any associates whose businesses are outside of the Omaha area) who have an interest in the economic growth and legislative issues concerning Nebraska's agribusiness. Chair is elected by the Chamber board nominating committee and is part of the board of directors.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings; assist in planning and organizing and attend Spring Agriculture Council Tour of Greater Nebraska; identify issues that affect the Nebraska's agribusiness industry and make recommendations to the Public Policy Council and the Chamber board on agribusiness issues on which the Chamber must take a position.
- Contact: Tim Stuart, (402) 474-4960 or tstuart@omahachamber.org

Transportation Council

- Purpose: Work closely with the Chamber lobbyists and public policy staff to determine Chamber priorities regarding transportation initiatives on the local, state and federal levels.
- Structure: Comprised of interested Chamber members (and any associates whose businesses are outside of the Omaha area) who have an interest in the economic growth and legislative issues concerning Nebraska's transportation industry. Chair is elected by the board nominating committee and is a member of the board.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings or as needed to discuss transportation issues concerning Omaha in particular and the state of Nebraska at Large; identify and make recommendations to the Public Policy Council and Chamber board on transportation issues on which the Chamber must take a position.
- Contact: Tim Stuart, (402) 474-4960 or tstuart@omahachamber.org

Public Policy Council

- Purpose: Serves in an advisory role to the president and CEO, public policy staff, executive committee and Chamber board on key public policy issues facing the business community.
- Structure: Comprised of selected Chamber members. Chair is elected by the board nominating committee and is part of the executive committee.
- Commitment: Attend quarterly meetings or as needed to discuss governmental issues that affect growth and development of Greater Omaha. Make recommendations to the board on legislative issues on which the Chamber must take a position.
- Contact: Alecia Hartwig, (402) 978-7936 or ahartwig@omahachamber.org

Events

Buy the Big O! Show

- Purpose: Assist at the annual Buy the Big O! Show by greeting attendees, handing out maps/programs, etc.
- Structure: Open to members. Approximately 10-20 volunteers needed.
- Commitment: Commit to at least one one-hour shift during the show.
- Contact: Jane McCain, (402) 978-7907 or jmccain@omahachamber.org

Member Appreciation Holiday Open House

- Purpose: Promote member companies at the annual Member Appreciation Holiday Open House to nearly 500 attendees.
- Structure: Open to members. Twenty company volunteers needed.
- Commitment: Commit to donating and serving food and/or beverage samples for 300 guests during the event.
- Contact: Alecia Hartwig, (402) 978-7936 or ahartwig@omahachamber.org

Promote Your Business

- Purpose: To promote member companies, there are exclusive targeted marketing and sponsorship opportunities.
- Contact: To discuss opportunities for building your awareness and/or promote a special offer to our members, contact Susan Hart, (402) 978-7937 or shart@omahachamber.org. To discuss sponsoring a program, event or providing promotional items, contact Anne Branigan, (402) 978-7949 or abranigan@omahachamber.org