



ABERDEEN
AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

2017



ENGAGEMENT GUIDE

“Serving as the leading business advocate for the economic health & vitality of our membership, our community, and the greater Aberdeen area.”

Monthly Committee Meetings

Agribusiness Committee – The mission of the Agribusiness Committee is to promote agriculture as a major segment of the local economy, to address and educate the membership on issues important to agriculture, to unite and network groups through ag-related programs and events, and to recognize outstanding achievements in agriculture. Committee meets the third Thursday of the month at noon at the SDSU Regional Extension Office.

2017 Meeting & Event Dates:

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Friday	1/13/16	12:00 PM	SDSU Extension	Regular Meeting
Friday	1/19/2017	3:00 PM	Ramkota	Committee Retreat
Friday	2/10/2017	12:00 PM	SDSU Extension	Regular Meeting
Thursday	3/16/2017	12:00 PM	SDSU Extension	Regular Meeting
Tuesday	4/11/2017	8:00 AM	Prairie Hill Farms	Ag Fair
Thursday	4/20/2017	12:00 PM	SDSU Extension	Regular Meeting
Thursday	5/18/2017	12:00 PM	SDSU Extension	Regular Meeting
Saturday	6/3/2017	8:00 AM	Holum Expo	Livestock Show
Thursday	6/15/2017	12:00 PM	SDSU Extension	Regular Meeting
Thursday	7/20/2017	12:00 PM	SDSU Extension	Regular Meeting
Thursday	8/17/2017	12:00 PM	SDSU Extension	Regular Meeting
Sunday	8/20/2017	8:00 AM	Fairgrounds Clubhouse	Consumer Breakfast
Thursday	9/21/2017	12:00 PM	SDSU Extension	Regular Meeting
Thursday	10/19/2017	12:00 PM	SDSU Extension	Regular Meeting
Friday	11/10/2017	5:30 PM	Dakota Event Center	Ag Banquet
Thursday	12/21/2017	12:00 PM	SDSU Extension	Regular Meeting

Ambassadors – The mission of the Ambassador Committee is to promote a positive community image and serve as goodwill ambassadors at Chamber and community functions such as ribbon cuttings, new business openings, ground breakings, business relocations, and other networking events. The Ambassadors also host the Community Champions Awards Luncheon. They meet the second Tuesday of every month at noon at various locations.

2017 Meeting & Event Dates:

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Tuesday	1/19/2017	3:00 PM	Ramkota	Committee Retreat
Tuesday	2/14/2017	10:30 AM	TBD	Champions Luncheon
Tuesday	3/14/2017	12:00 PM	TBD	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	4/17-21/2017	AM - PM	Various	Chamber Week
Tuesday	5/9/2017	12:00 PM	TBD	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	6/13/2017	12:00 PM	TBD	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	7/11/2017	12:00 PM	TBD	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	9/12/2017	12:00 PM	TBD	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	10/10/2017	12:00 PM	TBD	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	11/14/2017	12:00PM	TBD	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	12/5/2017	12:00 PM	TBD	Meeting and Visits

Partners in Community Pride Committee – The purpose of the Partners in Community Pride Committee is to coordinate projects that serve to beautify the community and enhance our quality of life; educate the public on related issues which affect them such as regulations, codes, and new efforts; and to recognize and promote business and community development projects. The committee meets the first Friday of every month at 9:00 am at the Chamber and facilitates the annual Spring Residential Cleanup program the last weekend of April.

2017 Meeting Dates:

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Thursday	1/19/2017	3:00 PM	Ramkota	Committee Retreat
Friday	2/3/2017	9:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	3/3/2017	9:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	4/7/2017	9:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	5/5/2017	9:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	6/2/2017	9:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	7/7/2017	9:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	8/4/2017	9:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	9/8/2017	9:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	10/6/2017	9:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	11/3/2017	9:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	12/1/2017	9:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting

Diplomats – The mission of the Diplomat Committee is to strengthen membership engagement and retention by visiting current members and facilitating communication to and from members, helping to identify member concerns, and garnering support for the Chamber. (Committee selection is done on a nomination basis). The committee also facilitates the annual ABBY Awards program and raises scholarship funds for the Leadership Aberdeen program. The Diplomats meet the second Thursday of every month at 3:00 pm.

2017 Meeting & Event Dates:

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Tuesday	1/19/2017	3:00 PM	Ramkota	Committee Retreat
Thursday	2/9/2017	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and Business After Hours
Thursday	3/9/2017	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and Business After Hours
Thursday	4/17-21/2017	AM-PM	Various	Chamber Week
Thursday	5/11/2017	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and Business After Hours
Thursday	6/8/2017	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and Business After Hours
Thursday	7/13/2017	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and Business After Hours
Thursday	9/14/2017	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and Business After Hours
Thursday	9/21/2017	3:00 PM	DEC	ABBY Awards
Mon-Thur	10/12/2017	3:00 PM	Various	Meeting, Visits and Business After Hours
Thursday	11/9/2017	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and Business After Hours
Thursday	12/14/2017	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and Business After Hours

Community Affairs Committee – The mission of the Community Affairs Committee is to open up a dialogue and provide education on a broad range of issues which affect the business community; increase communication and collaboration between business and governmental entities; break down barriers; and advocate to elected officials on the local, state and federal levels. The Committee meets the first Thursday of every other month at noon at the Ramkota.

2017 Meeting & Event Dates:

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Monday	1/16/2017	9:00 AM	DEC	State of the State Address/Legislative Breakfast
Tuesday	1/19/2017	3:00 PM	Ramkota	Committee Retreat
Thursday	2/2/2017	12:00 PM	Ramkota	State of the City Address
Saturday	2/4/2017	10:00 AM	NSU	Cracker Barrel
Saturday	2/11/2017	10:00 AM	NSU	Cracker Barrel
Friday	2/24/2017	9:00 AM	Pierre	Aberdeen Day at the State Capitol
Saturday	2/25/2017	10:00 AM	NSU	Cracker Barrel
Thursday	3/2/2017	12:00 PM	Ramkota	Regular Meeting
Saturday	3/4/2017	10:00 AM	NSU	Cracker Barrel
Thursday	4/6/2017	12:00 PM	Ramkota	Regular Meeting
Thursday	5/4/2017	12:00 PM	Ramkota	Regular Meeting
Thursday	6/1/2017	12:00 PM	Ramkota	Regular Meeting
Thursday	7/6/2017	12:00 PM	Ramkota	Regular Meeting
Thursday	8/3/2017	12:00 PM	Ramkota	Regular Meeting
Thursday	9/7/2017	12:00 PM	Ramkota	Regular Meeting
Thursday	10/5/2017	12:00 PM	Ramkota	Regular Meeting
Thursday	11/2/2017	12:00 PM	Ramkota	Regular Meeting
TBD	12/2017	11:00 AM	TBD	Pre-Legislative Luncheon

Health & Wellness Committee – The mission of the Health & Wellness Committee is to implement business-healthcare partnerships and programs to promote workplace wellness and inspire healthy lifestyle choices through education and initiatives. The committee produces a community health and wellness directory available as a magazine directory and searchable online. This committee meets the first Wednesday of every odd-numbered month at 8 a.m. at various locations.

2017 Meeting Dates:

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Wednesday	1/4/2017	8:00 AM	Safe Harbor	Regular Meeting
Thursday	1/19/2017	3:00 PM	Ramkota	Committee Retreat
Wednesday	3/1/2017	8:00 AM	Primrose	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	5/3/2017	8:00 AM	NEMH	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	7/5/2017	8:00 AM	TBD	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	9/6/2017	8:00 AM	TBD	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	11/1/2017	8:00 AM	TBD	Regular Meeting

Military & Veterans Committee – The Military & Veterans committee’s mission is to promote a positive working relationship among the community, employers and area military and veterans’ groups while heightening awareness of the military and veteran presence in the community. The group meets the first Tuesday of every other month at noon at the National Guard Armory.

2017 Meeting Dates:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
1/19/2017	3:00 PM	Ramkota - Committee Retreat
3/7/2017	12:00 PM	National Guard Armory
5/2/2017	12:00 PM	National Guard Armory
7/11/2017	12:00 PM	National Guard Armory (1 week later)
9/5/2017	12:00 PM	National Guard Armory
11/7/2017	12:00 PM	National Guard Armory

Transportation Committee – The Transportation Committee is the Chamber’s primary business voice on transportation issues of importance locally, regionally, and nationally. The committee meets to gather information from transportation experts in all areas of transportation including ground, rail, and air; analyze the information presented and determine how the Aberdeen Chamber can have an impact; and to share pertinent information with business people in the community. The committee meets the last Tuesday of every other month at 3:30 pm at the Chamber.

2017 Meeting Dates:

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Tuesday	1/19/2017	3:00 PM	Ramkota	Committee Retreat
Tuesday	3/28/2017	3:30 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Tuesday	5/30/2017	3:30 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Tuesday	7/25/2017	3:30 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Tuesday	9/26/2017	3:30 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Tuesday	11/28/2017	3:30 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting

Workforce & Education Committee – The mission of the Workforce & Education Committee is to facilitate and support activities related to business-education partnerships, youth engagement and workforce recruitment and retention. The committee also addresses education needs amongst the business community. The Workforce & Education committee meets the third Wednesday of every month at 3:30 pm at the Aberdeen Recreation and Cultural Center (ARCC).

2017 Meeting Dates:

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Thursday	1/19/2017	3:00 PM	Ramkota	Committee Retreat
Wednesday	2/15/2017	3:30 PM	ARCC	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	3/15/2017	3:30 PM	ARCC	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	4/19/2017	3:30 PM	ARCC	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	5/17/2017	3:30 PM	ARCC	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	6/21/2017	3:30 PM	TBD	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	7/19/2017	3:30 PM	TBD	Regular Meeting
Monday	8/14/2017	Noon	DEC	New Faculty Luncheon
Wednesday	9/20/2017	3:30 PM	ARCC	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	10/18/2017	3:30 PM	ARCC	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	11/15/2017	3:30 PM	ARCC	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	12/20/2017	3:30 PM	ARCC	Regular Meeting

Retail Theft Coalition - The Chamber began working with the Aberdeen City Police Department to host Retail Theft Coalition meetings generally the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10:30 am at the Police Department. Good information is shared regarding shoplifting, convicted offenders, prevention, etc.

NEW The Edge Task Force - Explore. Discover. Grow. Engage. The mission of the task force is to assist Chamber staff with the development of local educational and networking activities and events targeted at young professionals and start-up entrepreneurs; implementation of social media ideas and concepts for the Chamber and community; and coordinating efforts with the Aberdeen Development and other area organizations working towards common mission. Meeting scheduled will be determined by task force members.

NEW Keep It Local Task Force - The mission of the task force is to assist Chamber staff in promoting Aberdeen businesses, resources, and events through collaborative marketing efforts to include promotion of NEW Aberdeen Gift Card and Chamber For Good programs. The group will also work to continue educating the general public about the economic benefits of shopping and buying locally. Meeting scheduled will be determined by task force members.

NEW Leadership Development Task Force - The mission of the task force will be to evaluate the current Leadership Aberdeen program and discuss additional training opportunities that could be included; develop a scholarship program to offset costs for state-wide leadership opportunities for Aberdeen participants; and to coordinate efforts with other organizations and businesses to grow leadership skills of our citizens and expand leadership training opportunities that will positively impact our community and state. Meeting scheduled will be determined by task force members.

Gift Card Program – The Chamber implanted a NEW Gift Card Program in 2016, which replaced the gift certificate program. These cards are prepaid, private label gift cards that operate on a closed loop system. This means that participating merchants must be active members in good standing with the Chamber to accept the card. Aberdeen gift cards are available for purchase at the Chamber office, by businesses and citizens at no charge, thanks in part to our local partner, Dakota Broadcasting. Participating merchants process the gift card as they would any credit or bankcard on their store’s register. The program circulates over \$200,000 annually.

Relocation Packets – The Chamber distributes relocation packets requested by individuals, universities, and businesses. These packets showcase Chamber members and their services, as well as promoting the wonderful attributes of our community and region. There is no charge for these packets.

PROGRESS Magazine – The Chamber will publish six magazines for 2017. They are mailed to all members and inserted into the Aberdeen American News. They are also distributed to clinics, waiting rooms, NSU, PC, etc.

2017 Issues:	January/February	March/April	May/June
	July/August	September/October	November/December

Business After Hours – Second Thursday of the month. Business After Hours networking mixers are held from 5:15 to 7 pm. The event is held to encourage networking among the city's business leadership and employees. Chamber members have the opportunity to be a sole host, host or booth sponsor at this event. All active members are put into a drawing to win cash. Here is the current schedule for 2017:

DATE	HOST	LOCATION
Thursday, January 12	Aberdeen Development Corporation	The Workshop
Thursday, February 9	Finishing Touch	Finishing Touch
Thursday, March 9	Non-Profit Month	Yelduz Shrine Center
Thursday, April 20	Chamber Week	NSU Centennial Rooms
Thursday, May 11	Pierson Ford-Lincoln	Pierson Ford-Lincoln
Thursday, June 8	Aberdeen Downtown Association	Main Street
Thursday, July 13	Sportsman Club of Brown County	Sportsman Club of Brown County
Thursday, September 14	Boys & Girls Club	Boys & Girls Club
Thursday, October 12	Midstates Printing	Quality Quick Print
Thursday, November 9	Presentation Convent	Presentation Sisters
Thursday, December 14	Midco	Dakota Event Center

City Marketing – The Chamber receives funding from the City of Aberdeen to advertise and promote the Aberdeen community. One hundred percent of funds received are spent on promotion and the Chamber pays all costs of administration of funds including staff time to coordinate the advertising and to handle accounts payable and receivable. We do so because we believe that a successful community will lead to successful businesses and future economic development. Proposals are made to the city in July.

JANUARY 2017

Leadership Aberdeen 2017: January 12- March 30, 2017. The Leadership Aberdeen program is a comprehensive workshop for current and potential leaders designed to analyze characteristics associated with leadership, develop individual skills, and gather an awareness of trends, challenges, and issues that face Aberdeen and the region. Leadership Aberdeen seeks a diverse group of participants of varying interest and styles across the broad spectrum of achievement from the region. Of the over 400 alumni, graduates have served on the Aberdeen school board, city and county commissions, and for the Chamber of Commerce. Many have assumed leadership in civic and community groups and in their professional roles. Applicants to the program must live or work in the Northeastern South Dakota region and agree to attend the orientation retreat and all weekly sessions. Leadership Aberdeen meets Tuesday evenings, as well as a half day on Saturday and the trip to Pierre for Aberdeen Day. The Chamber works with business partners to teach the courses and tour businesses.

Pre-Legislative Luncheon/State of the State Address: This annual luncheon features Honorable Governor Dennis Daugaard presenting the State of the State Address and is an opportunity for citizens to visit one on one with legislators before session. Date and time will be set once we receive the Governor's schedule.

Membership Directory & Resource Guide Published: The Chamber produces the Membership Directory and Resource Guide each year. The guide is designed for Chamber businesses to use as a resource when looking for services and information on other members, chamber benefits, committee information, opportunities, city, county and state officials, service organizations, demographic information, and more. Chamber members may also advertise in this directory

FEBRUARY 2017

2017 Legislative Cracker Barrels: Saturdays Mornings: February 4, 11, 25 and March 4, 2017. The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee hosts the legislative cracker barrel sessions in the Centennial Rooms of Northern State University. They run from 10 am to noon. The sessions are open to the public and offer an excellent opportunity for legislators and their constituents to publicly discuss issues of importance. The sessions are streamed live by the Aberdeen American News and replayed on cable channel 7.

Community Champions Luncheon: The event will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel. The Community Champions Awards Luncheon recognizes volunteer leaders within Aberdeen and the region. The following awards are presented on behalf of the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce, the Aberdeen Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Aberdeen Development Corporation, the Aberdeen Hotel Alliance and the Prairie Family Business Association: The Woman of Spirit Award; The GEORGE Award; The STAR Award; The Emerging Leader Award; The ViTality Award; The Aberdeen Area Family Business of the Year Award; The Hometown Hero Award; The Spotlight Award; The Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Aberdeen Day at the State Capitol: Friday, February 24, 2017. This annual trip to the State Capitol offers Leadership Aberdeen participants and community leaders from our area the opportunity to see our legislative process in action. Displays are set up in the Capitol Rotunda, refreshments are served and the all-city elementary chorus sings on the capitol steps. The Chamber arranges a session with the Governor and several different state agencies as well as attending the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry Business Day Banquet.

MARCH 2017

2017 Leadership Aberdeen Graduation: March 30, 2017. Join us in recognizing the graduating class of 2017 at their ceremony and dinner. The ceremony starts at 4:00 pm with dinner and networking at 5:00 pm at the Best Western Ramkota. This is a great way to recognize a new generation of leadership for our community and region.

APRIL 2017

Ag Fair: April 11, 2017. The Ag Committee of the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce holds an Ag Fair each year at Prairie Hill Farms. In 2016, there were 11 schools represented with 475 students and 40 adults. The committee is proud to partner with the Groton and Roncalli FFA Chapters on this event. The fair's purpose is to teach fourth grade students about the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. Students attend and experience six areas of agriculture including: sheep and swine, farm safety, beef cattle, horses, dairy cattle and crops.

Chamber Week: April 17-21, 2017. This year the Chamber is combining our Annual Meeting with Chamber Week to create a week-long celebration of our members and volunteers. Final details are still being determined, but will include: Mayor's Proclamation, Open House at the Chamber, New Member incentives, Member Visits, a FREE Business After Hours Mixer for all Chamber members and speaker or seminar event.

Health and Wellness Directory Published: The Healthcare Committee produces this directory every year. This resource lists all healthcare providers and services, as well as information targeted for senior citizens. The goal is to highlight the wonderful medical services and specialties available right here in our community. If you have a health-related business, you are automatically listed in the directory at no charge. You also have the opportunity to advertise in the directory if you would like by contacting Quality Quick Print.

Residential Cleanup: April 28 and 29th and September, 2017. The Community Pride Committee works with the Brown County Landfill to organize and promote the annual residential cleanup the last weekend of April and again in September. Residents can drop trash off at the landfill and various locations in the city.

MAY 2017

Leadercast: The Chamber will host Leadercast on Friday, May 5, 2017 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. There are typically in 150 in attendance. Leadercast Live is the largest one-day leadership event in the world. Broadcast live each year from Atlanta to 100,000+ people in hundreds of locations around the world, Leadercast Live brings together many of the world's most recognized and respected global leaders to create a leadership experience unlike any other.

JUNE 2017

Aberdeen Chamber Golf Scramble: Monday, June 5, 2017. The Annual Chamber Golf Tournament is a four-person, best ball tournament held the first Monday in June at Moccasin Creek Country Club. The tournament kicks off at 11:30 am with a shotgun start and wraps up with drinks and hors d'oeuvres served in the club house. Prizes are awarded for the first three places in three flights with a maximum of 36 total teams competing. In 2016 there were 31 teams participating.

Northern Plains Livestock Show: Saturday, June 3, 2017 at the Brown County Fairgrounds. The Agriculture Committee of the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce has hosted Northern Plains Livestock Day each year for more than 20 years. Participants from over 10 counties in South Dakota and bordering states participate at the event held at Brown County Fairgrounds Expo Building. Northern Plains Livestock Day is both a sanctioned beef, lamb and goat show with the South Dakota Junior Points program. We work closely with other shows and extension offices around the region, and state to coordinate efforts on dates, and hopefully avoid duplication of shows on the same date.

AUGUST 2017

New Faculty Luncheon: August 14, 2017. The Chamber hosts this luncheon to welcome new faculty at all Aberdeen K-12 and higher education institutions. Businesses have the opportunity to sponsor. In 2016 there were about 120 attendees and close to 80 new teachers.

Consumer Breakfast: Sunday, August 20, 2017. The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce Ag committee holds a Consumer Breakfast the last Sunday of the Brown County Fair from 8:00 am to 11:00 am at the Club House at the Fairgrounds. The menu is milk, juice, coffee, pancakes and sausage. The mission is to increase public awareness of agriculture's vital role in northeast South Dakota. In 2016 we served close to 500 adults and children.

Collegepalooza: Thursday, August 31, 2017. This event, started in 2016 is a partnership between the Chamber, Downtown Association, NSU, Presentation College and IHelp Student Loan. The fair is held to welcome college students to our community and showcase everything we have to offer them from jobs to recreation.

SEPTEMBER 2017

2017 ABBY AWARDS: September 21, 2017 at the Dakota Event Center. Over 300 people attend this annual award gala. The ABBY Awards are hosted by the Chamber diplomats and recognizes area businesses and organizations in the following categories:

- Agribusiness
- Bridge Builder
- Community Involvement-Business
- Community Involvement-Not For Profit
- Customer Service-Retail
- Customer Service-Service
- Health and Wellness
- Manufacturing
- Professional Services
- People's Choice

Candidate Forum: Date TBD. The Chamber works with the Aberdeen Area League of Women Voters to host a candidate forum for city, county and school board elections.

OCTOBER 2017

Youth Career Expo: The Youth Career Expo will be held October 5, 2017 at Northern State University. This event provides businesses with the opportunity to market career opportunities within their company and industry to a large group of eager, young high school students. The expo is held in conjunction with post-high planning from 8:00 am noon. Businesses are organized within 16 career clusters.

NOVEMBER 2017

Ag Appreciation Banquet: November 10, 2017 at the Dakota Event Center. The Annual Ag Appreciation Banquet is hosted by the Chamber's Ag Committee. Local businesses sponsor the evening to thank farm and ranch families for their hard work and dedication to the industry, as well as thanking them for their patronage. Attendees pay only \$5 to enjoy a wonderful evening meal and great entertainment. The Farm Family of the Year Award is also presented at the event.

DECEMBER 2017

Christmas With The Chamber: Thursday, December 14, 2017. This event is held in conjunction with the December Business After Hours Mixer and is hosted by Midco. The Chamber secures items from members for both a silent and live auction event as an annual fundraiser.

Pre-Legislative Luncheon:

The Government Affairs Committee of the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce hosts the Annual Pre-Legislative Luncheon in December or January each year from 11:00 – 1:30 p.m. The Governor or Lieutenant Governor speaks along with legislators from District 1, 2, and 23.