

Chamber of Commerce



Friends,

It's time to join or renew your membership with the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce, an organization that for more than 50 years has sought to enhance the quality of life in the two communities that form its base. In this unprecedentedly difficult year which has created fear and hardship for many business owners and families, we have worked to help those affected, and built towards a time when life as we used to know it can resume –

- providing call-in opportunities for businesses to learn about payroll protection loans for employees,
- joining with the City of Rio Dell and the Community Resource Center to supply free bags of groceries to seniors so they could stay home and safe in the early weeks of the pandemic
- upgrading the appearance of the downtown area for travelers and tourists, and
- facilitating communication among residents and community leaders through events like the candidate forums for the two local county supervisor races held in February, in advance of the election in March.

If you live in town, or have a business that serves Rio Dell and Scotia, you need to belong to the chamber. It's only \$35 for an individual, \$40 for a couple, and \$50 for a business or organization, though many join at much higher levels (bronze, silver, gold or platinum) because they believe in and want to support our efforts.

One major project undertaken this year that has gained massive support and already expanded, is a flag display down Wildwood Avenue in Rio Dell. Area individuals, businesses and families sponsored an American flag which the chamber puts up each holiday. The flags flew on holidays such as Memorial Day, Flag Day, July 4, Labor Day and Sept. 11. From an initial 60, another 20 are being added due to the popularity and support they have generated.

Other activities have been put on hold for now due to the virus, like the chamber's participation in a tri-county tourism effort to engage travelers with local businesses, called the Otter Art Project. Others are ongoing like expanding each year the Wildwood Avenue holiday decorative display with the goal of making the community a regional "Christmas tree lane" that would bring visitors to view the lighting.

Through a free, monthly newsletter, monthly member email, website and Facebook page we share news with the larger community, promote upcoming events, and introduce new businesses.

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The chamber is without political affiliation and supports the diversity of its community by keeping events free and open to all. We invite you check out our website (riodellscotiachamber.org); “like” us on Facebook; email us with your questions or concerns (rdschamber@gmail.com) or attend our monthly board meetings on the first Friday of each month at noon which because of the virus are for now held by phone and can be accessed at 605.313.4802, access code 860467.

We hope you will join to make 2021 our most successful year yet!

Nick Angeloff, President *Jim Brickley, Vice President*
Melissa Marks, Treasurer *Tracy O’Connell, Secretary*
Sharon Holt *Susan Pryor* *Gabriel Smith*