



Membership Guide

Our Mission:

The role of the Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce & Development Company is to foster and promote the retail, commercial, manufacturing, civic, agricultural, and economic development interests of our community and the surrounding area.

Our History:

According to the *History of Clay County South Dakota* by Herbert S. Schell, The Commercial Club of Vermillion played an important part in supporting and promoting business and community projects in the early 1900s. In 1931 the Vermillion Commercial Club became the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce. The Vermillion Development Corporation, formed in 1967, contributed largely to the growth of the Vermillion area by bringing in small plants and other businesses to the area as well. Eventually these two entities combined to become what is now known as the Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce & Development Company.

Inside:

<i>What is a Chamber of Commerce?</i>	2
<i>Why become a member of the VCDC?</i>	2
<i>Levels of Investment</i>	2
<i>Benefits of Membership</i>	3
<i>Membership Investment Agreement</i>	4

What is a Chamber of Commerce?

Plain and simple, a Chamber of Commerce is a partnership between business and professional people to create progress and growth in an area. Working together as a group, members of a Chamber of Commerce can do things that they might not have been able to do on their own as an individual. By all of its members working together on a common goal, a Chamber of Commerce can make their region a better place to not only live and work, but also to do business and visit.



Why become a member of the VCDC?

Membership in the Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce & Development Company (VCDC) is an investment in the future of the Vermillion area. The VCDC is dedicated to economic development in the region, promotion and support of business, and the growth of opportunities for all Vermillion area residents. Your investment supports these efforts and helps build a strong and growing Vermillion area which results in an expanding market for your goods and services.

Levels of Investment

Individual	\$ 100
Community Service Organization	
Non Profit	\$ 200
For Profit	\$ 250
Business	
Investor	\$ 365
Bronze	\$ 500
Silver	\$ 750
Gold	\$ 1500 +

Benefits of Membership

Business Support Services:

Southeast Entrepreneurial Resource Program – You have access to the Southeast Entrepreneurial Resource Program, which provides ongoing business support, consulting and education to new and existing businesses in the community, as well as provides incubator space to start up companies in order to foster innovation and entrepreneurship.

Chamber Conference Room - Receive free use of the Chamber Conference Room for your company meetings or events.

Business Networking:

The VCDC provides you with many networking opportunities. Some of the member functions you can attend are:

Chamber Socials - Various events such as our Annual Golf Social, "Chamber Business After Hours", and the VCDC Annual Banquet are held throughout the year for members to exchange business cards, make new contacts, socialize and have fun. Members also have the opportunity to sponsor "Chamber Business After Hours" and other Chamber activities and events, which are promoted in media advertisements and through communications to membership.

Committee Meetings - The Chamber has several committees which member businesses and their employees are invited to join. These committees provide the membership a stake in the promotion and economic development of the Vermillion area and its businesses.

Business Promotion:

The VCDC can promote your business through the following means:

Ribbon Cutting - Introduce your new or expanding business to the Vermillion area by holding a ribbon cutting ceremony. The VCDC invites members of our Board of Directors and community dignitaries to share your celebration. You select the date and the Chamber will assist in promotion, provide the ribbon and scissors, and emcee the event. You, or a member of your business, will be introduced and asked to share some brief remarks during the ceremony. A photo of the event is provided to the Broadcaster News, posted on the VCDC website, and included in the Chamber newsletter.

New Member Recognition - Your company is recognized at our board meetings, in the Chamber Newsletter, and through direct communication with our membership.

Visitors Information - Display your company brochure in the lobby of the VCDC. Your brochures are available to walk-in visitors and are provided in visitor packets which are requested by various organizations throughout the year.

Web Listing - Our web page is viewed by over 1000 individuals each month. Your business will be listed on our membership directory page along with its service and contact information.

Visitor Guide - All VCDC members are listed in the Annual Vermillion Area Visitor Guide. This guide is distributed to area businesses, SD Information Centers, and is sent out with Vermillion area information requests received by the VCDC.

Business Referrals:

The Chamber continually receives referral requests and website hits from individuals looking for service providers and retailers in the Vermillion area. As a VCDC member your business will be receiving these referrals.

Keeping You Informed:

Membership includes a subscription to the VCDC quarterly newsletter. The newsletter will keep you informed of chamber and community activities and events. Also, you will receive our weekly "Monday Messenger" which provides up-to-date information on community happenings.

Membership Investment Agreement

Name of Individual, Organization, or Business: _____

Address: _____

Business Opening/Anniversary Date: _____

Contact Person: _____ Contact Phone #: _____

Contact Email: _____ Contact Fax #: _____

Website: _____

How would you like to receive your weekly Monday Messenger? Email or Fax (please circle one)

Level of your Annual Investment: _____ (Individual, Community Service Organization, Investor, Bronze, Silver, Gold)

Amount of your Annual Investment: _____ (Please see "Levels of Investment" information on page 2)

Total Payment: _____

Payment Options:

_____ Check Enclosed (Payable to: Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company)

_____ Credit Card (Visa, Discover, Mastercard)

Card Type: _____ Card Number: _____

Cardholder Name: _____ Expiration Date: _____

_____ Quarterly Payments (Invoices will be sent in January, April, July, October)

I understand that completing and signing this Membership Investment Agreement indicates that I accept the benefits of membership and my financial commitment to the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company.

Name: _____ Date: _____

* Please return this form to VCDC, 6 W. Main Street, Vermillion, SD 57069, or fax to 624-0094.