



# 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 Vermillion 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.

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## 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 city 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 is an investment in the future of Vermillion. The VCDC is dedicated to economic development in the region, promotion and support of business, and growth of opportunities for all Vermillion residents. Your investment supports these efforts and helps build a strong, growing Vermillion 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:**

***Three Rivers Business Resource Center*** – As a member you have access to Three Rivers Business Resource Center, 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 Vermillion and its businesses.

### **Business Promotion:**

The VCDC can promote your business through the following means:

***Ribbon Cutting*** - Introduce your new or expanding business to Vermillion 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 Plain Talk, posted on the VCDC website, and included in Chamber newsletter.

***New Member Recognition*** - Your company is recognized at our Annual Banquet, 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 4000 people each month. Your business will be listed on our membership directory page along with its service and contact information.

***Community Guide*** - All VCDC members are listed in the Annual Vermillion Community Guide. This guide is distributed to area businesses and is sent out with Vermillion 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 Vermillion. 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)

Amount of your "A La Carte" items: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please see "A La Carte Items" information on page 5)

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, 116 Market Street, Suite 103, or fax to 624-0094.

## VCDC “A La Carte” Items

Throughout the year there are times that the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company looks to its investors to help sponsor various events. Many businesses prefer paying up front with their membership investment for these events. If you are one of these businesses, you may use the form below to do so. If you prefer not to pay for sponsorships up front, you will receive information on the event and its sponsorship during the planning stage prior to the event..

Name of Individual, Organization, or Business: \_\_\_\_\_

“A La Carte” items:

### 4th of July Celebration Fireworks show Sponsor

Each year the VCDC plans a community 4th of July Event at Barstow Park. The event includes vendors selling various food items, community organizations hosting kid friendly activities, an inflatable park, and many other items. The event ends with a huge fireworks display. A sponsorship for the fireworks show includes being featured on the flyers for the event that are posted around Vermillion and mention by the DJ during the event.

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to be a fireworks show sponsor for the 4th of July. (Amount sponsoring: \$\_\_\_\_\_)

### VCDC Golf Social

Each summer the VCDC plans a golf social for its members at The Bluffs Golf Course. The event includes a full day of golf, door prizes, pin prizes, and a great meal at the end of the day. Investors can contribute in various ways. Hole sponsors, teams, pin prizes, and door prizes are all needed to make this a successful event.

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to have a team. Teams consist of 4 players and the cost covers the following for each player: 18 holes of golf, an event t-shirt, a drink coupon, a team picture and dinner. Please note that the cost does not cover golf cart costs. (\$250/team)

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to be a hole sponsor. Being a hole sponsor is a great way to promote your business. The hole you sponsor will have signage advertising your business’s generosity towards this fundraiser, it will be listed in the event program and your business’s logo will be printed on the back of the event t-shirt. (\$250)

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to donate a prize. Prizes can be for pin prizes or for the door prizes that are given out. Prizes in the past have included gift certificates, golf merchandise, electronics, event tickets, apparel, etc. (Prize: \_\_\_\_\_)

## VCDC Newsletter Membership News Submission Form

**The quarterly VCDC Newsletter** is excited to share your news and photographs with the membership. The newsletter is happy to announce significant changes in your business, anything from expansion, new location, new ownership or management, awards, anniversaries, to other news items. You can write your news release and mail, fax, or email it to the VCDC or use this form to have the Chamber to write your news. Photographs are welcome but please completely identify all people in them and send a stamped self-addressed envelope if you want photographs returned.

Member's Name		Date Submitted	
Name of Preparer		Title (Owner, President, etc.)	
Address	City	ST	Zip
Business Phone	Fax	E-Mail	Website

What is your business news? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If it involves people, who are they? (Name, previous employment, city of residence, family information [if appropriate], etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant dates related to this news, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for the change, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Business background (when started, type of business, number of employees, products and/or services, etc)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Any additional information about yourself, your business/profession and/or your family

\_\_\_\_\_

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