

Iowa Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce Frequently Asked Questions

Which groups are involved in forming the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce?

DavenportOne formally merged its personnel, assets and work plan into the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber organization in July 2009. The Bettendorf Chamber co-incorporated the new entity in July and requested additional time to develop a transition plan to recommend to its members. The Bettendorf Chamber board has since unanimously voted to recommend formally merging its personnel, assets and work plan into the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber.

Why is a regional chamber necessary on the Iowa side?

Recently, area chambers were asked to take the lead in regional economic development sales and marketing. Quad Cities First, the new economic development organization responsible for promoting the bi-state region to companies looking to expand or relocate to the Quad Cities, was designed to be co-managed by two-state based regional chambers: the Illinois Quad City Chamber, which represents Rock Island, East Moline, Moline and surrounding communities, and an Iowa-based counterpart with capacity and authority to represent businesses and communities throughout Scott County. Iowa and Illinois QC Chamber staff members are working together to support various functions of economic development throughout the region, including sales and marketing, workforce attraction / retention, entrepreneurial development and business retention with targeted industries.

I'm a small business. How will a consolidated regional Chamber better represent me?

More than 85 percent of current Iowa Quad Cities Chamber members own and manage small businesses with fewer than 50 employees. Therefore, programs and services geared toward small business will continue to be a top priority for the regional chamber. Through the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, small business members will not lose opportunities for involvement or representation. In fact, small business members of the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber will gain:

- Access to a larger network of potential customers, vendors, and business contacts;
- Strength in numbers, which is invaluable in advocating for small business concerns in Des Moines and Washington, D.C.;
- New marketing tools such as a regional "Quad Cities Business Directory" coming in 2010;
- Enhanced business resources like Business Connect, an electronic tool to make it easy for businesses and consumers to find local providers of specific goods and services, thereby increasing referrals to member companies;
- A Chamber-managed "College Intern Exchange" through which we'll make interns available on a short-term basis – from days to weeks - to assist smaller companies looking to advance projects or work products quickly and cost effectively;
- A "Buy Local" initiative designed to send more customers, vendors and suppliers your way;
- Additional programming to support the needs of small business, including a larger and more broad-based Small Business Council.

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I'm already a member of both the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber and the Bettendorf Chamber. How will a merger impact my dues payments?

You will be offered *Legacy Bucks* for any "unused" portion of Bettendorf Chamber dues you've paid. These dollar-for-dollar credits can be spent like cash to attend designated Iowa QC Chamber programs and events or use specific services at no cost. When your Iowa QC Chamber dues are up for renewal, you will simply renew this one membership at the Iowa QC Chamber rate.

I'm currently a member of the Bettendorf Chamber but do not belong to the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber. Will I automatically become a member of the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce? And what happens to my dues?

At the effective date of merger, all existing members of the Bettendorf Chamber will automatically become members of the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber, with full access to its expanded programs and services. You will be offered *Legacy Bucks* equivalent to the difference in rates between Bettendorf and Iowa QC Chamber dues. *Legacy Bucks* provide you an opportunity to take part in designated events, programs and services – at no cost. When it comes time to renew your chamber dues, you will be encouraged to join the Iowa QC Chamber at the rate schedule in place at the time. Should you elect to forego *Legacy Bucks*, you could opt for a one-time dues rate guarantee that is no more than 5% over your current Bettendorf Chamber rate.

How will the new Iowa Quad Cities Chamber be governed? What happens to the existing Bettendorf Chamber Board?

The Iowa Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce is governed by a recently seated Board of Directors that represents all parts of Scott County. Members of the former DavenportOne Board and additional business leaders in Scott County were invited to serve on the initial Iowa Quad Cities Chamber Board. With the merger of Bettendorf with the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber, several current and former members of the Bettendorf Chamber Board of Directors will join the governing board of the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber. One of these individuals will also serve on the Iowa QC Chamber Governance Committee.

What happens to my favorite programs at the Bettendorf Chamber, like Business After Hours and the golf outing?

Many of the Bettendorf Chamber committees, programs and events will continue as offerings of the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber. The 2010 Auction and Annual Recognition events will be held. There will be one Iowa QC Chamber Golf Outing on multiple courses, including Palmer Hills. Business After Hours events will continue.

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If I'm a volunteer at the Bettendorf Chamber, will there be opportunities to get involved at the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber?

Volunteerism is the heart of any chamber of commerce and the Bettendorf Chamber is certainly well-known for its strong culture of volunteer engagement and leadership. The Iowa Quad Cities Chamber embraces and values this legacy and as such will actively recruit Bettendorf Chamber volunteers to continue in leadership roles in support of the regional chamber's work plan. Many Bettendorf Chamber committees will be continued as Iowa QC Chamber committees or merged with similar committee functions at the Iowa QC Chamber, with many opportunities for involvement.

How will the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce be funded?

The Iowa Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce staff and activities will be funded in the same manner as today's chambers: through member dues and non-dues revenue from events, programs, sponsorships and project grants.

What happens to existing Bettendorf Chamber of Commerce staff?

Bob Lundin, Bev Ricketts and Mitzi Hook will become employees of the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber and along with their staff colleagues already employed at IAQCC will work under the direction of President and CEO Tara Barney.

Where is the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber housed? Will there be a Bettendorf office?

The Iowa Quad Cities Chamber will have two offices from which to provide services to members: its primary office in downtown Davenport and an office in Bettendorf. Various chamber functions – membership services, communications, events, etc. – will likely be headquartered in one location or the other, as determined by the CEO and management team.

What steps must occur for a merger to become final – and what's the timeline?

The Boards of Directors from both chambers have approved the plan of merger. The Bettendorf Chamber is now recommending this plan to their membership for a vote. This is required by Bettendorf's bylaws. Upon approval by Bettendorf chamber members, the boards of directors will take final action and complete the details of the transition as required by Iowa Code.