

Chamber Name: Best Ideas Committee	Number of members:
Telephone number:	Email:
Contributor: Refer to page I - 1	Title:
Website:	

CHAMBER101.COM

Ideas, ideas and ideas is what chamber101.com is all about! It is designed to help chamber execs, think outside the box.

January 2013 exercise and questions was somewhat different. In the exercise, we are asking you to wear another hat. You are a businessman, who is opening up a new business in town. You have been a member of several other Chambers and have yet to move to town but will be in town next week. Today, you look up the Chamber on the web.

First, you need to find the address of the Chamber and phone number so you can copy and paste it into your address book. Now, you look for a list of staff (exec name and membership director if they have one).

1. Look at the list of the Board of Directors. See if the Chamber has a good mix of community leaders. Are some from the financial community, medical community, retail and service industry, etc.? Is the board of directors made up of community leaders or all lower management?
2. Check out the list of the membership by category. You will need a list of:
 - Hotels and motels until your family can join you
 - Restaurants because you will be eating out a lot
 - List of Real Estate agents for a new home for the family
 - List of Employment Agencies
 - List of hardware stores, you will need to buy stuff for the new building
 - Is anyone from your Industry listed?
3. Does the website have information on how to arrange for a Grand Opening and/or Ribbon Cutting? In addition, is there a checklist or procedures on Grand Openings and/or Ribbon Cuttings?
4. In several months, your company would like to host a mixer. What is the Policy & Procedures for hosting a mixer and what is involved (cost)?
5. To kick-off your business coming to town and to get some of your employees involved we need to look into:
 - Mixer dates
 - General membership meeting dates
 - Networking or a Leads Club
 - Do they have an Ambassador Committee? I would like to get one of my key employees involved.
6. Does the Chamber have a pamphlet on how to start a business, either online or one to be purchased at the Chamber office? As a new business, we need to find out where to get a business license, and water, sewage and utility signups.
7. Are there a Mission and Vision statement and a Program of Work - Strategic Plan? As part on the Program of Work - Strategic Plan do they have a five year plan.

These are just some of the questions I would ask if I was coming to your Chamber area. I am sure there are other questions, but this is a good starting point. It doesn't make a difference what size your Chamber is, your website can make you look ten-feet tall or not. Your Chamber website can make you look professional or you can look like a small dinky Chamber.

The question is: How does your Chamber measure up?

