

# Functions of chamber

**T**he Gaylord / Otsego County Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organization of business and professional men and women who have joined together for the purpose of promoting the civic, commercial and industrial progress of our community, according to chamber literature.

The area's economic well-being is directly related to the caliber of work that is done by the chamber, having a major impact on business, income and future growth for the area.

The chamber has two primary functions: it acts as spokesman for the business and professional community and translates into action the group thinking of its members, and, secondly, it renders specific services both to members and the community.

Chamber objectives include:

- Promoting better understanding of the private enterprise system.
- Coordinating the efforts of commerce, industry and professionals to maintain and strengthen a healthy business climate.



**Grand Haven speaker Peter Murdick gave the keynote address on the occasion of the chamber's dedication of its new building in 1948. Nine years later, Murdick became chamber executive in Gaylord.**

- Sponsoring aggressive programs of work to stimulate activities to develop employment and human and economic resources.

- Providing creative business leadership and effective coordination of all interested parties to solve community problems and initiate constructive community action.

- Creating broad understanding and appreciation of opportunities here and promote advantages and assets here, in the state and in the nation.

"It must be understood the chamber of commerce is people," states a chamber brochure explaining the organization.

"Although these are predominantly the members of the business community, others are not necessarily excluded. There is a place in the chamber of commerce effort for all who share the desire to improve the community and the conditions under which business is conducted.

"...The strength of the organization lies in attracting the greatest number of individuals and firms into membership, thereby creating a pool of resources — natural and human — from which can be drawn ideas, energy and finances."

## Membership continues to rise

**M**embership in the Gaylord / Otsego County Chamber of Commerce continues to grow annually.

Today, the local chamber boasts approximately 440 members, according to latest statistics. As recently as 1981, membership was pegged at 242 members.

Membership in the chamber in 1957, when Pete Murdick headed the chamber, numbered between 100 and 120, giving an indication of the kind of growth it's experienced in the last three decades.

Basic chamber membership costs \$160, and members enjoy

seminars and workshops; a medical plan; information and referral services; legislative activities on issues concerning business and industry; a monthly newsletter; inclusion in a classified membership directory; distribution of literature via the chamber office, and targeted advertising in chamber publications.

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