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*"The Chamber actively convenes key stakeholders and business, government and education leaders to enhance a global, competitive business climate for the Akron metro market."*

Dan Colantone  
President & CEO, Greater Akron Chamber

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*"Over the last few years, my KNOW membership has given me rich opportunity for building my network professionally and personally. Not only have I expanded my network and filled it with some of the most professional and intelligent women in the area, but I have even had the opportunity to be a presenter in the smaller, more intimate KNOW on the Go monthly meetings, sharing some of the professional skills I have developed along the way. The quarterly speakers are thoughtful and well-chosen, and the topics are always relevant. There is something for everyone in the KNOW, and I am thankful for the group and its dedicated leaders."*

Tiffany Herbert  
Manager, CBIZ MHM, LLC.

*"The Greater Akron Chamber has the opportunity to unite the business community and partner organizations around the Advance Akron plan. I support it not only because I think it is important for businesses to give back to the community but also because I think it will help my company's bottom line."*

Donzell S. Taylor  
President and CEO, Welty Building Co., Ltd.

## Member Benefits

*"We view our Chamber membership as something that pays for itself. It is a great resource that we use to help our business grow and prosper. As a community, we should feel fortunate that we have such a vibrant Chamber assisting businesses."*

Steve Marks  
President and CEO, Main Street Gourmet

*"I have been a member of the Greater Akron Chamber for 18 years and it has been an exceptional experience. It has helped my business grow in many ways, especially through the Chamber's educational programs, networking events and contact with other business leaders. Taking a leadership role in the Chamber has also allowed me to contribute to the strengthening of our business community and to the growth of our region. Being a member of the Chamber has been a sound investment. I recommend that every business owner in our region take advantage of a membership in the Greater Akron Chamber."*

Dennis Kleidon  
President and CEO, Kleidon and Associates.

- 1** A shared commitment to the region's economic vitality and quality of life for employees and their families.
- 2** Strengthens the community by providing a representative voice for the business community on air service and transportation infrastructure, healthcare, education and workforce development issues.
- 3** High profile networking events and exposure opportunities at the region's best business events.
- 4** Exclusive marketing and sponsorship opportunities through numerous and diverse programs.
- 5** Business assistance for entrepreneurs.
- 6** Cost savings through member-to-member discounts and exclusive member rates.
- 7** Access to more than 30 products including customized lists, relocation information, economic data and business directories from our research department.
- 8** Increased awareness among young professionals of the advantages of living and working in the Greater Akron region.



1 Cascade Plaza | 17th Floor | Akron, OH 44308  
330-376-5550 | [greaterakronchamber.org/Afactor](http://greaterakronchamber.org/Afactor)

**The Mission** of the Greater Akron Chamber is to drive economic development and prosperity for the people of the Greater Akron Region.

BE PART OF THE



# FACTOR

Advance Akron.  
Our Region. Our Future.



[greaterakronchamber.org/Afactor](http://greaterakronchamber.org/Afactor)

## Building a Better Community

*"The Greater Akron Chamber is an important advocate for the growth and development of area businesses. The Chamber promotes the Greater Akron Region as a great place to live, build a business and raise a family. My investment in the Greater Akron Chamber plays a key role to help improve the quality of life for our citizens by helping businesses prosper. I encourage area business owners to get involved with the Greater Akron Chamber with their time, resources and people to help Greater Akron to continue to grow and prosper during these challenging times."*

Bruce Jentner  
President, Jentner Final Group

*"The Chamber represents the community voice for small businesses and must be supported and funded appropriately so important advocacy work for all business in Greater Akron is done effectively. Our investment in the Chamber is considered an investment in our company and the community in which it thrives."*

Elizabeth Bartz  
President and CEO  
State and Federal Communications, Inc.

*"Our strong partnership with the Greater Akron Chamber helps all of us keep a sharp focus on economic development issues and opportunities that positively impact Akron."*

Donald L. Plusquellic  
Mayor, City of Akron

## Connecting with People

*"The growth and success of our region is a result of business and community leaders working and investing together. This demonstrates our ability to take a 'business not as usual' approach to innovative thinking and positive change."*

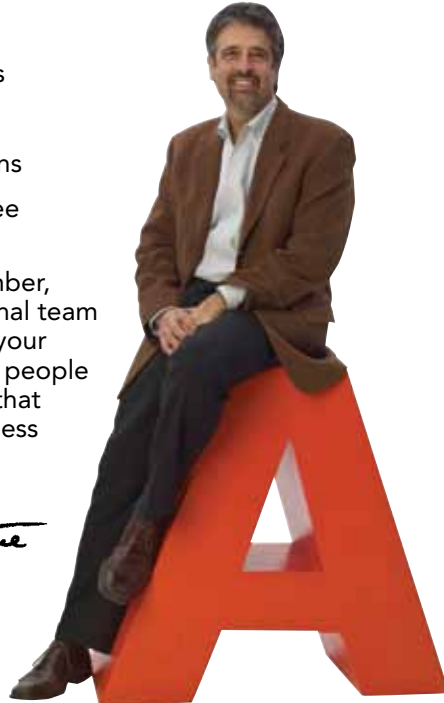
Theresa Carter  
President, OMNOVA Solutions Foundation

## Access

Participation in the Greater Akron Chamber will connect you with both the private and public sector leaders in our region. From small business owners to corporate CEO's and elected officials, the Chamber is where business leaders go to connect. Active participation in Chamber initiatives will help your business to:

- Build relationships
- Create new business leads
- Gain valuable knowledge
- Create political connections
- Engage through committee involvement

Let the Greater Akron Chamber, with its 20-person professional team go to work for you. We are your connection to communities, people and money-saving benefits that can help you and your business succeed.



Dan Colantone  
President & CEO,  
Greater Akron Chamber

## Building a Better Community

### Economic Development

When the Greater Akron Region prospers, your business prospers. The Greater Akron Chamber works to attract, retain and create jobs to keep the region's economy strong. We are uniquely positioned to market the Greater Akron Region throughout the nation and the world.

Our economic development team works directly with companies looking to invest in the Greater Akron Region. Some of the economic development services that we provide are:

- Assisting companies with project management, site selection and workforce needs.
- Connecting companies with financing opportunities.
- Working with state and local officials to identify and develop incentive programs.
- Maintaining a comprehensive database of commercial and industrial buildings and sites.
- Administering face-to-face company visits to retain businesses in Medina, Portage and Summit Counties.
- Participating in major national and international trade shows to promote Akron as a place to do business.
- Participating in international trade missions including China, Finland, Great Britain, India and Israel.
- Hosting annual "Familiarization Tours" with corporate and real estate executives; showcasing business location advantages of the Greater Akron Region.
- Collaborating with local, regional and statewide partners in the public and private sectors to promote economic development.
- Publishing annual resource guides including Akron Book of Facts, Directory of Largest Employers and Directory of Manufacturing.

### Entrepreneurship

To encourage and support entrepreneurship, the Chamber offers resources to members to facilitate innovation, technology development and commercialization, new business formation and new venture opportunities.

### Talent Development

In today's competitive job market, the Greater Akron Chamber offers members the tools they need to attract, cultivate and retain top talent.

- Relocation guides – in print, cd or online – highlighting our quality of life.
- Young Professionals Network - personal and professional development program that connects YP's to the community.
- Implementation of the Talent Dividend which will increase college attainment rates.

### Advocacy

We are the voice of business, advocating its interests on the local, state and federal level.

- Implementing a comprehensive public policy agenda that serves as a platform for all advocacy issues.
- Informing and educating elected officials on economic development issues critical to the success of our region.
- Providing the opportunity for members to meet and engage elected officials.
- Mobilizing our members to become active in the public policy process.

*"I appreciate the Chamber's efforts to help businesses grow. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong within the Chamber and I am always encouraged by the support I receive. The Chamber has positively impacted my business by helping me to make valuable connections in the community and expand my business knowledge."*

Jay Mellon, Partner, AtNetPlus, Inc.

## Connecting with People

### Networking and Events

We are the area's largest business association providing you with the opportunity to connect with peers and decision makers.

**Annual Meeting** – A dynamic dinner with 700+ business leaders, makes this a signature event and a networking gold mine.

**Coffee, Tea & Contacts** – A monthly networking opportunity for members to learn more about other GAC members, share business cards and information.

**Economic Outlook** – a panel of business leaders present key economic and financial indicators that will influence business in the upcoming year.

**Executive Dialogue** – Business owners share experiences, best practices and new directions for growing their businesses in a confidential non-competitive setting.

**KNOW (Knowledgeable Network of Women)** – Quarterly luncheon designed for women to openly discuss emerging issues impacting women of our business community.

**Legislative Luncheons/Forums** – Hear from leaders at the local, state and federal levels on issues directly related to improving economic development.

**Membership Appreciation/Salute to our Volunteers** – A special evening to thank members for their continued support of the Chamber and our community.

**Membership Golf Classic** – Network and enjoy golf at a local country club. This event is filled with wonderful sponsorship opportunities, games and prizes, and concludes with a cocktail reception.

**Public Officials Recognition Luncheon** – Officials from Medina, Portage and Summit Counties are recognized for their roles in enhancing business and economic development opportunities for their communities.

**Excellence in Business Awards** – Annual meeting of the Small Business Council and presentation of awards to distinguished, growing businesses.

**Entrepreneur Connect** - A monthly meeting for business owners to connect and hear from the Chamber and guest speakers about topics aimed at growing local small businesses.

**Young Professionals Network Speaker Series** – A quarterly luncheon where business leaders speak about professional development topics for young professionals.

**30 for the Future Awards** – An annual awards program that recognizes young professionals who are making a positive impact in their industries and the community.

## Member Benefits Saving Money

**The Chamber's group buying power allows members to take advantage of large discounts and significant savings.**

### Group Health Insurance

SummaCare Health Plan  
www.summacare.com

SummaCare offers Greater Akron Chamber members significant savings on group healthcare coverage for both small and large groups.

### Workers' Compensation Group Rating

Compensation Consultants Inc.  
www.cciworkerscomp.com

Allows Greater Akron Chamber members to take advantage of significant premium savings through Workers' Compensation Group Rating.

### Direct Value to Members

#### Electronic and Print Newsletters

Each contains important Greater Akron Chamber, member and investor news.

**Referrals** – The Chamber responds to inquiries daily and only refers member companies when responding to goods and services.

**Membership Directory** – Your products and services receive listings online.

#### www.greaterakronchamber.org

A virtual portal to the community and to information about your business. Members receive listings and free links on our site.

#### Global Immersion Trips

The Chamber uses its competitive buying power to offer members and the community incredibly affordable prices to visit fabulous destinations worldwide.

*"The Chamber is the voice for business. By leveraging its assets with other organizations we can gain a competitive advantage. The impact of our collective efforts toward our shared goals is far greater than the sum of individual efforts."*

Virginia Albanese  
President & CEO, FedEx Custom Critical

*"The Chamber's comprehensive approach for the growth and success of our region translates into business growth for all of us."*

Gordy Opitz  
President, ComDoc, Inc.