



OVERVIEW

The Mission Of The Conway Area Chamber of Commerce

The Conway Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to supporting our local businesses and enhancing the quality of life for all of our area's citizens. We will aggressively work towards positive economic growth, the promotion of tourism, the development of transportation, and excellence in education in Conway and throughout Horry County.

The History Of Our Chamber Of Commerce

On February 18, 1920, a mass meeting of the citizens of Conway was held in the City Hall for the purpose of organizing a Chamber of Commerce. After a full discussion of the question of dues, it was decided to make the fee for firms and corporations \$25.00; for individuals engaged actively in business \$12.00; for individuals not engaged in business or profession \$6.00. These were annual dues. A secretary was hired with a starting salary of \$50.00 per month. It took 25 years for the Chamber's secretary to have a salary of \$150.00 per month.

The Chamber of Commerce played a large role in getting the railroad removed from Main Street and paving started to eliminate the annoying dust.

In March of 1921, the Public Utilities Committee of the Chamber worked with the South Carolina Railroad Commission on improving local and long distance telephone service, and also the matter of improved car service on the train from Chadbourn, N.C.

Perhaps the most outstanding accomplishment of the Chamber of Commerce was the institution of a movement for a modern high school building in 1921.

Through the years the Chamber worked and completed many projects such as the securing of a hospital for Conway; building bridges over bodies of water in order to improve business relations with other counties; paving roads for better transportation; assisting in agricultural promotions; and bringing industry to the Conway area. The Chamber was instrumental in bringing Radio Station WLAT into Conway in 1946.

A lack of interest caused the Chamber to be inactive for a few years, but in 1958, the Chamber was reorganized. It was then decided that a full time Chamber Executive was needed in order to keep the organization active. Arthur Tate was hired as Executive Director, LaVerne H. Creel as secretary. Mrs. Creel became Executive Director in 1962.

The Chamber structure is basically the same today, as it was when it was first organized. Individuals giving tireless man-hours, as well as investing financially, have caused many visions to become realities. Today, your Chamber of Commerce is an organization stretching out in every direction of our city and county to make it a better place to work and live.