

**Skamania County Chamber of Commerce
2014 DUES INCREASE
Frequently Asked Questions**

What was passed?

The Skamania County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted to increase annual dues amounts beginning January 1, 2014.

When did the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce last increase membership dues?

The last change took effect in 2008 with a flat 10% increase across the board. At that time, the dues had not been increased since 1981.

Does the increase in dues affect all Chamber members?

Annual dues for individual members (non-business membership) did not increase at this time.

How was the amount of the increase determined?

Skamania County Chamber of Commerce staff made the recommendations after analyzing the organization's funding sources, marketing plans and operational costs, while also evaluating the Chamber's inventory of benefits and service offerings. Staff also benchmarked Skamania County Chamber's dues investment against five regional Chambers and found Skamania's to be the lowest amongst those organizations. The increase moves Skamania County Chamber's to be on par with that group.

Were chamber members given an option to vote on this?

No. The Skamania County Chamber of Commerce by-laws give the authority to set the dues structure to the Board of Directors, a group of 16 people, eight of which are elected to represent the interests of all members with the other eight representing public agencies/municipalities in the County.

How do you justify the increase?

Since the last increase, the Skamania County Chamber has broadened the scope and number of benefits it delivers significantly. Member satisfaction remains high and the Board and staff are diligent about exploring ways to diversify non-member revenue sources, as well as carefully managing expenses.

What is the Chamber doing to contain costs?

Allowing for inflation, Chamber expenses have been virtually flat for the past several years. Cost-control measures have been utilized with regard to expenses such as postage, office supplies, rent, etc.

Will the cost of Chamber membership go up every year from now on or is this a one-time dues increase?

The Chamber staff and leadership pay close attention to the organization's program of work and the necessary finances to accomplish its mission and have no plans for annual increases. Members could, however, anticipate another increase in the next five to ten years.

I have already set my budget for 2014. What can the Chamber do to help me manage this increase?

Simply contact Angie Waiss or Casey Roeder at 509-247-8911 for options, including semi-annual, quarterly and monthly payments as options to a one-time payment of the full amount.