

## Chamber Profile



700 Main St. Sebastian, Florida 32958

[www.SebastianChamber.com](http://www.SebastianChamber.com)

(772) 589-5969

### Mission Statement:

**“The Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce is a pro-active member supported association of businesses, organizations and individuals, united in their efforts to support a healthy business environment, promote business development, encourage growth of tourism and to use its collective strength to enhance the quality of life in the community.”**

### Organizational Background:

The Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce was organized as a 501c(6) not for profit organization in February, 1958 and this year celebrated 60 years of representing businesses and organizations in the area. The boundaries called out in the original by laws of the Chamber include the City of Fellsmere, west, the Wabasso community south, the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the City of Grant to the north. Generally our location is considered East Central Florida, or the north end of the Treasure Coast of Florida. The Chamber covers two counties in its jurisdiction, Brevard and Indian River. The overall population of the area is estimated to be 55,000 to 60,000 residents and businesses.

The Chamber is governed by a Board of Directors, comprised of nine directors who are elected from the membership and up to seven directors who are appointed by the Chair. The Executive Committee, made up from the Board of Directors includes a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and past Chair. The Board is rounded out with representation from the City of Fellsmere, the City of Sebastian and Indian River County Commission.

The Chamber finances are stable, with an annual operating budget that averages \$ 350,000 and a healthy reserve. Supporting the Chamber is a Foundation that is dedicated to the facilities and maintenance. The Chamber is debt free, and holds a fifty year lease (2055) with the City of Sebastian for the 2,500 sq. ft. Visitor Center and offices, overlooking the Indian River Lagoon. The Chamber offices

were completely renovated in 2016, with a new porch added to the existing building, a new roof, windows and doors, interior improvements and a completely redesigned Visitor Center with amenities for visitors to the area.

The Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce has maintained a strong membership base, with approximately 500 members, representing small and large businesses in the area, and not for profit organizations seeking to connect to the business community. It also serves as a resource for the residents in the area.

Chamber staff has a combined history of almost fifty years of Chamber experience. There are three full time positions, two part time positions and an independent book keeper who is supported with outside CPA services.

The Chamber earned a Designation as a Certified Chamber through the Florida Association of Chamber Professionals in 2010, and was re-certified in 2015. The Chamber serves as the “Front Door” to the community. The Chamber is the designated Visitor Center with the Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway Program in Indian River County and is a Certified Travel Information Center with Visit Florida.

**Significant Programs and Services:**

- Pelican Porch Visitor Center
- Concerts in the Park
- Annual Golf Tournament
- Media Auction
- Grill Out Night and Light Up Night
- Legislative/Government Affairs, including annual Candidates Forums
- Health and Wellness Committee
- Chamber Publications including the Annual Community and Business Guide and the Visitor Guide
- Tourism Committee
- Ambassador Program
- Communication program including weekly Chamber Intel, Monthly Digital Newsletter, Tourism Email Blast, two Facebook Fan Pages, Instagram, Pinterest and Twitter and a robust website, [www.SebastianChamber.com](http://www.SebastianChamber.com).