

NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR WOMEN

P.O. Box 19124, Washington, D.C. 20036 (Telephone 202/223-4710)

Yes, I would like to join the National Chamber of Commerce for Women; I want to build your non-profit organization and participate in your benefits, services, policy-making and voting rights. I've checked the category of membership I'm eligible for: [ ] individual / [ ] business/ [ ] organization.

(Please print My name is or type): \_\_\_\_\_ (My Organization or Company name is): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to sponsor a gift membership for the [ ] individual(s) / [ ] business(es) / or [ ] organization(s) named below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization or Company name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please use a separate piece of paper to list additional gift memberships you may want to sponsor.)

My gift card(s) is to be signed (jot your message here — no more than 2 lines please including your name):

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please note:)

Dear Friend,

As you consider joining us, please give special consideration to contributing a little extra by way of your membership dues for the coming year. Your additional measure

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consumer-service, non-profit organization. Let us serve you. Help us in service to America . . . "To Form A More Perfect Union . . ."

Q. How can you\* apply for membership? Or give gift membership to a friend, a relative, a man, business, or an organization that could benefit from the Women's Chamber of Commerce?

A. Just fill out the attached certificate of application and mail it to The National Chamber of Commerce for Women, P. O. Box 19124, Washington, D.C. 20036 (Telephone 202/223-4710). [If the membership form in this brochure has been removed, just send us your name and address plus the name and address of any gift memberships you want to sponsor.]

The Special, minimum charter-membership rate for individuals and students is \$10 a year; \$35 for businesses and organizations. Important: These reduced dues still entitle the applicant to all membership privileges and services, including voting rights for Board of Directors, and Advisory Board participation.

But those individuals, corporations, and organizations who can afford it should contribute more: Your generous contribution will help us to hold our minimum yearly dues requirement to \$10 and will permit as many women as possible to join, including those on very low incomes or fixed incomes.

Note: Our specially printed, National Chamber of Commerce for Women letterhead will list the names of charter members who contribute \$100 or more. Please send as much as you can, but whatever you can give, please accept our thanks and . . . welcome.

\*If you are already a member or don't need this application form, please pass this brochure and application on to a friend or associate.

A more perfect you . . . A more perfect America PO Box 19124 Washington, D. C. 20036

The National Chamber of Commerce for Women, Inc.

Telephone (202) 223-4710

The Board of Directors of THE NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR WOMEN cordially invites you to join us or to enroll your organization or company with us.

The benefits, services and voting rights you are entitled to with membership will be valuable helps in your own personal growth plan. Plus, your membership will be a meaningful building block in our nationwide program of greater opportunities for women and for consumers. R.S.V.P.

Join us. Build us. Participate with us . . . To Form A More Perfect Union. . ."

A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH JULIA A. GRAY, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Q. Mrs. Gray, just what is the National Chamber of Commerce for Women?

A. The Women's Chamber of Commerce is a Consumers' Chamber of Commerce. We are a non-profit membership association of both business and consumers: We work together for our mutual benefit. Our purpose is to significantly increase opportunities for women, and we want to get needed programs and better quality goods to all consumers.

Q. You have both business and consumers in your Chamber of Commerce?

A. Yes. The Chamber works for consumers, and we work for any business that realizes the consumer movement and opportunities for women are in business' best interests as well as in the nation's best interests.

Q. Where are you located?

A. The Women's Chamber of Commerce has its national headquarters in Washington, D.C. Our corporate office is at 1328 Vermont Avenue, N.W. And our mailing address is P.O. Box 19124, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Q. Who are the organizers of the National Chamber of Commerce for Women? Who helped you put it all together and who makes policy?

A. The Chamber was organized in July, 1977. When we were starting up, we secured the advice of the Massachusetts State Chamber of Commerce, one of the oldest chambers of commerce in America. In addition, we were helped by a number of women who are prominent in Government — these women also helped organize the First National Women's Conference, in Houston. Our Board of Directors is made up of women executives, homemakers and businessmen. The board makes policy but all members of the Chamber, nationwide, are entitled to vote on matters put before them by the board. Most important, all members vote on who is to represent them on the Board of Directors itself.

Q. Well then, who is qualified to be a member?

A. Businesses, organizations and individuals can join the National Chamber of Commerce for Women. You can be a homemaker, self-employed, a small-business woman, a businessman, a corporation, an executive female, a student or a wage earner. You can even represent a union, a professional society, or an industrial organization for women. . . an alumnae association or a lobbying, religious, charitable or social group. All are eligible for membership, for services, and for benefits in the Women's Chamber of Commerce.

Q. Are you in any way part of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce?

A. No, we are not a part of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. We represent a different body of interests: the interests of women, consumers, and those businesses who feel that their best interests are compatible with the consumer movement. We are a Consumers' Chamber of Commerce.

Q. A Consumers' Chamber of Commerce. . . Isn't that a contradiction in terms?

A. No. Not at all, really. Since the founding of this country, chambers of commerce were established to promote business and to better their communities. Business interests and community interests should go hand in hand. But sometimes the community, the people, are forgotten. The National Chamber of Commerce for Women wants to balance the needs of business with the needs of women in particular and with the well-being of consumers in general. We are working towards the "more perfect union" which is one of the ongoing objectives of our country's founding. We bring together different people and different interests to make things happen for the better.

Q. Why not push for greater representation for women in other chambers of commerce? Why start a totally new and different chamber of commerce?

A. We don't feel that asking other chambers of commerce to represent women and consumers is realistic. For one thing, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the National Small Business Association all represent business, but they have so many differences even among themselves,

that they have to have separate organizations. The differences that separate us as women and as consumers from these business organizations convinced us that the quickest and most effective way to accomplish our goals is through creating a new, strong, independent, and separate association for women, for consumers, and for sympathetic businesses.

Q. You think that your new association can bridge the gap between business and consumers?

A. Yes. We can. We offer a powerful coalition of women, consumers, and business working together. We have an outstanding opportunity for mutual success.

Q. But aren't there enough women's and consumer groups now?

A. There are many women's groups and consumer organizations. But we women and consumers are far from accomplishing our objectives. We still face an uphill battle. Women as persons want to gain more self-possession and self-government of their own individual minds, bodies and destinies. The Women's Chamber of Commerce can help women do that. Women as consumers want to get better quality goods. The Women's Chamber of Commerce can help women get that. Some of us want continuing education opportunities, greater financial services, credit privileges and insurance protection. That's what the Women's Chamber of Commerce is all about. Women have slowly been making progress in these areas for decades. But recent economic trends have gone against us. Court rulings, Congressional legislation and school crises are setting us back. . . hurting women's opportunities in general and our economic welfare in particular. We are losing out in areas of social security, free public continuing education programs for adults, and athletic and academic programs for young women. These conditions make it harder for women to get good-paying jobs, to manage their own homes, or to run their own businesses. . . Yes, the women's movement and consumer groups have done a good job in a lot of areas, but there remains a lot to be done. And the National Chamber of Commerce for Women can help these organizations and can help individual women with our special programs.

Q. Well, how do you feel about the woman who has been left out of the women's movement? How about the woman who chooses not to be part of that movement?

A. We respect her choice. We understand her situation. We welcome her: After all is said and done, the "women's movement" is really the collective experience of individual women, women like her, women like me. Every woman, inside or outside "the movement," is growing and undergoing a process of change. When we work outside the home, we all want good pay. Inside or outside the home, we all want respect and responsibility. We want more money and more for our money. Each woman, as a person, must ultimately take the responsibility of deciding on her own needs and her own pace. Each act of discrimination or opportunity she faces is really a moment-to-moment proposition. There is no way for an organization or a movement to determine what any individual woman is going to encounter or what she should do in that encounter. What she should do depends on her own considerations for her family, her career, or for her personal, private goals. But no matter what her situation is — whether she is a homemaker with a family to think of, or a student, or a career woman, or a "feminist" or a "traditional woman" — the Women's Chamber of Commerce can step in and stand up for her. We can channel all kinds of benefits, services and resources to her. Whether she wants to start a business, find health care, file a complaint, go to school or go to court, we can help her. We can help her find a job, or find a daycare center, or find a travel mate, or find a retirement plan, or find a women's organization that, in addition to the Women's Chamber of Commerce, is right for her. We can even help her to find a shop that has her dress size — We help people find themselves and assert themselves.

Q. That's certainly a wide-ranging program, Mrs. Gray. Can you kind of sum it all up?

A. We assist members to a more rewarding work life, and to a more financially and emotionally secure personal life.

Q. No, I guess what I mean is — out of all that you propose, what is the single most important benefit of membership? A newsletter? A workshop?

A. We do have newsletters. We have workshops. And we have a whole lot more. But in a very real sense, the primary benefit — the most enriching feature — of membership in the Women's Chamber of Commerce is our sense of community: We are a meeting house. . . Our members can relate to each other and learn from each

other. We open up new lines of communication with each other, as women. Our members can discuss their career goals, their home lives, and their lifestyles as friends. . . We are a meeting ground for women in business, for women earning a wage, for women in executive ranks, for feminists and traditionalists. . . We are a meeting place for housewives who are raising children but who have need for adult companionship, for homemakers who want to be alerted to the best in home economics, and for all women who, as consumers, want to speak to business and hear business' side of the story. . . We are a gathering place.

Q. Are you in competition with other women's groups?

A. No. We want other women's organizations to be part of the Chamber of Commerce for Women. They can use our facilities, our research, our offices, and our good name to reach any portion of the female community they want to enroll. The Chamber can assist these organizations in becoming more profitable and effective associations. We have a full range of consulting services and promotional facilities to help them. Whether a woman does or doesn't belong to other women's groups, she can and should still belong to the Women's Chamber of Commerce. Whether or not she's into women's publications, she can round it all out with a complete program of communications, services, and benefits from the Women's Chamber of Commerce.

Q. Mrs. Gray, what exactly are all of the benefits and services that you're developing for your members?

A. First and foremost is a vital sense of community — in an organization which offers all women . . . consumers and housewives, professional and career women. . . a unique organizational structure to make their needs and wants felt. Business members of the Chamber are part of this community: As corporate members, they're demonstrating the seriousness of their commitment to improving the scope and quality of goods and services available to women today. And there's more. All members will receive membership credentials, including a meaningful parchment membership certificate suitable for framing. There are also many other substantial benefits of Chamber membership. As arranged and developed by the Chamber, our services will include:

- 1. A membership and ID card which will entitle the holder to discount car rentals.
2. Hotel/motel discounts for vacations, seminars or business travel.

II. FINANCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

- 3. Individual and group life, health, dental and legal insurance.
4. Credit information: the how-to's of getting and using credit.
5. Credit application help to specific credit agencies.
6. A credit card registry and credit card insurance.
7. Credit card billing dispute assistance.
8. A directory to credit unions nationwide.
9. Career counseling and resume preparation services.
10. Job placements for individual members and recruitment services for business client-members.
11. Seminars, workshops and classes on business, management, vocational training, health, money, home economics, household risk management, etc. These will be held at Chamber headquarters in Washington, D.C. and across the country, nationwide.
12. Specialized correspondence courses.
13. Academic and athletic scholarships.
14. Continuing education funds.
15. Financial counseling.
16. Widow and retirement programs.

III. COMMUNICATION PROGRAMS

- 17. Publications, including our membership magazine, Turning Point.
18. Bellwether, a catalog of valuable merchandise offers.
19. Yearbook.
20. Book club.
21. Movie library.
22. Low-cost cassette tapes on many helpful topics.

IV. SECURITY SERVICES

- 23. Home security checklist and security system services.
24. Home security decals.
25. Home inventory registry.
26. Lost-key-return medallion.
27. Car-theft warning decal and reward fund.
28. Safety reflector and membership bumper sticker.

V. TRAVEL SERVICES

- 29. Free travel agency services.
30. Group tour vacations.
31. Medi-alert card.
32. Group tour seminars.

- 33. Luggage tags.
34. Free travel guide publications.
35. Travel club services, including bail bond coverage.

VI. HOUSEHOLD RISK MANAGEMENT HELP

- 36. Family impact studies.
37. Consumer alerts on merchandise and services.
38. Merchandise discounts.
39. Free sampling and product evaluation panel participation.
40. Quality lab testing and seal of approval for consumer goods.
41. Shopping guide to quality merchandise.
42. Consumer-retailer arbitration and investigation services.

VII. BUSINESS HELP

- 43. Small business loan application help, venture capital and financing assistance.
44. Government contract bid help.
45. Big corporation contract bid help.
46. Management consulting.
47. Chief executive searches and partnership searches.
48. Market studies.
49. Washington corporate representation.
50. U.S. and foreign government representation.
51. Camera-ready logo and endorsement for business and organization promotions.
52. Chamber membership window decals for retailers.
53. Business alerts on items of special and immediate interest to business members.
54. EEO help.
55. Full service advertising agency facilities.

VIII. ORGANIZATION HELP

- 56. Organizational kits on preparing proposals and presentations, conventions, workshops, and meetings; lobbying; public relations; opinion polling; advertising; fund raising; membership solicitations; volunteer training, etc.
57. Lecture bureau.
58. International activities.

IX. LOBBYING

- 59. Special bulletins monitoring politicians and political issues.
60. Lobbying in Congress, the Administration, state legislatures, corporations and the media.

X. MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

- 61. Free office space and conference room space for individual members' at the Chamber's Washington, D.C. offices.
62. A hospitality room at the Chamber.
63. The development of local Women's Chamber of Commerce activities.
64. National Advisory Board assignments.
65. Voting privileges.
66. Women of the Year voting and awards.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Consumers' Chamber
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A Partial List of Charter Members

Best & Barnes, Inc.; The Congressional Clearinghouse on the Future; Follett Publishing Company; Lasting Impressions, Inc.; The Marketing Advisory Group, Inc.; Royal Business Machines; Sonesta International Hotels Corporation . . .

Shouldn't your name, company, or organization be on this list? Join us.

The National Chamber of Commerce for women is a National Chamber of Commerce for Consumers. We are a

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of support will assure that others on fixed incomes and low incomes can also enjoy all the benefits of membership. And for any contribution of \$100 or more, the name of your organization or your company will be engraved under our National Letterhead.

Julia A. Gray
Julia A. Gray
Board Member

I have voluntarily set my dues this year (and the dues for any gift membership(s) I may be sponsoring) at:

- \$100 \$50 \$35 (minimum for USA businesses and organizations)
\$25 \$15 \$10 (minimum for individuals, USA).
Other

To help even more, my contribution includes a tax-deductible additional amount of \$ just for my sponsorship of your NCCW Scholarship Foundation and Continuing Adult Education Program for Women. (Your name will be engraved on the next printing of our letterhead if your tax-deductible gift sponsorship is \$100 or more.)

I wish to pay now (check one): My check is enclosed (make payable to The National Chamber of Commerce for Women) / Charge my Visa/BankAmericard/ Charge my Master Charge card.

(Complete if using credit card:)

Credit Card Number

Interbank No. (Master Charge only)

Expiration date: Month Year

Bill me later.

Signature:

- Please tell me how I may volunteer my services.
I'm interested in entering the job market or changing jobs. My resume and instructions are enclosed.
Other (send business information, household risk management information, etc.):

(Please allow up to four weeks for personalization and delivery of your membership card(s), membership kit(s) and other information).

After completing your application, please tear carefully along the dotted line. Address your envelope to The Women's Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 19124, Washington, D.C. 20036.