

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to become a member in the Rhea Economic & Tourism Council, Inc. (RETC). You may wonder what the difference is between the RETC and the Dayton or Spring City Chambers of Commerce. The entities have entirely different functions; first and foremost, we are dedicated to serving all of Rhea County, not just the individual municipalities.

Rhea County is a Three-Star community and has been for 30 years. The Three-Star program is a roadmap designed by the Governor to assist urban and rural communities in their effort to achieve excellence in community and economic development. The program fosters community consensus toward accomplishing developmental goals and objectives, thus creating an environment for businesses and citizens of Tennessee to profit and succeed. It is the responsibility of the RETC to fulfill the stringent requirements of the Three-Star program, which include the creation, execution, and a yearly update of a Five-Year Asset-Based Strategic Plan. Communities who show performance excellence in the Three-Star program are awarded with incentives and grants to address their development issues.

The RETC assists existing industries and businesses in their efforts to improve and expand, therefore, creating new jobs. The RETC also helps create jobs by seeking new industries and businesses interested in relocating to Rhea County. Some of the ways we achieve this is by:

- Providing assistance in securing job training
- Providing assistance in obtaining funding for infrastructure and other needs through loans and grants
- Assisting in finding prime locations
- Furnishing community data
- Working closely with the State of Tennessee and other state, regional, and local government officials

The RETC also works industrial and tourism trade shows, sharing information about Rhea County. We furnish Rhea County brochures to welcome centers throughout the State of Tennessee, as well as update the Rhea County website to ensure those seeking to relocate to Rhea County will have the information they need so that we may remain competitive in the search.

The Rhea County Welcome Center is owned by the RETC, where our office is located. The Dayton Chamber of Commerce office is also located there, and the cost of the operation of the Welcome Center is shared by both entities. RETC members are offered the following amenities:

- Reduced rental fee for the conference room
- Post information in the Welcome Center
- Free web page or link to your website. The Rhea County website is linked with the State of Tennessee, the Southeast Tourism Association, and the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau websites, just to name a few.
- We direct potential clients to conduct business with members
- We have a policy to support those who support the RETC

The RETC frequently attends conferences each year in order to learn what is working in other locations. We also work closely with our state senators and representatives, as well as U. S. senators and Congress, to help pass legislation that will benefit the people living and working in Rhea County.

The RETC Board is made up of 32 members. We meet on the 4th Monday of each month, and our meetings are open to the public and to our members. The RETC is funded by 3/5 of the Rhea County hotel/motel taxes, as well as funds from the cities of Dayton, Graysville, and Spring City. Approximately 25% of our support comes from membership dues.

Rhea County is growing, but we are limited in what we can do because of funding. We need your support in order to perform our job to the best of our ability. When you join, you will receive a beautiful wooden plaque to display at your place of business. The membership dues are as follows:

1-5 Employees	\$100
6-25 Employees	\$250
26-50 Employees	\$300
51-75 Employees	\$350
76-100 Employees	\$400
101-250 Employees	\$450
251-500 Employees	\$500
501-750 Employees	\$550
751-1000 Employees	\$600
1001-2000 Employees	\$650
2001 Employees or more	\$700

Please consider joining the Rhea Economic & Tourism Council. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Raymond Walker
Executive Director

RW:aac



RHEA ECONOMIC & TOURISM COUNCIL, INC.

107 Main Street • Dayton, TN 37321 • 423-775-6171 • rheacountyetc.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

BUSINESS INFORMATION

Name of Company/Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____
(If Different from Mailing Address)

Billing Address: _____
(If Different from Mailing Address)

Office Phone: _____ Cell/Pager: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Website: _____

Date Business Started: _____ Classification: _____

Products and/or Services: _____

Number of Employees: Full Time: _____ Part Time: _____

The undersigned hereby applies for membership in the Rhea Economic & Tourism Council, Inc. and in consideration of this application, agrees to pay the sum of \$_____ annually, which will cover dues from July 1 through June 30 of each year. Membership will continue thereafter unless cancelled or modified, in writing, while in good standing, or otherwise terminated by the action of the Board of Directors.

Signature

Date

