

Our History





GHC Mission

Identify community needs and apply the time and talents of each member to be a catalyst for consensus and progress

The Greater Hagerstown Committee (GHC), a 501c(3) corporate body, was established in 1987 to bring stakeholders and community leaders together to discuss broad issues of importance in the region. While much of GHC's focus has centered in Washington County, MD, our region extends along the I-81 corridor. Since its inception, GHC has served as a community catalyst recruiting the people, gathering the information, identifying the resources, and crafting the conversation necessary to advance initiatives that make our region a better place to live, work, and play.

The Committee strives to cooperate with and assist governmental bodies and community organizations to achieve existing goals and objectives or to identify new ones. In addition, it provides a vehicle for its members and invited stakeholders to take a broad view of our region, become educated on regionally significant issues, and craft visions for improving the quality of life in our community.

The Committee does not exist to undertake any particular project and does not seek recognition for its work. Instead, it serves as a catalyst to identify and support community partners and public entities as they undertake these projects.

GHC's success is derived from its members, the community forums they create, and the networks they have established to discuss, debate, and ultimately impact vital issues. Individually and together, GHC members are active in our community, stay abreast of current affairs, and understand the paths of influence necessary for change. This allows GHC to intervene at a strategic point and leverage the strengths of its members to affect, motivate, and influence positive change for our region.













Our History















On January 27, 1987, a group of concerned citizens assembled to discuss the creation of an organization whose purpose would be to improve and enhance the quality of life in the Washington County Tri-State area. As a result of this initial Steering Group effort, the Washington County Area Progress Council was established. Their initial efforts included a summary of the region's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

On May 1, 1987, the name of the organization was changed to The Greater Hagerstown Committee, Inc., a 501c(3) non-profit organization. Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were reviewed and approved, and Merle Elliot was selected as the organization's first Chairman. At the next regular meeting, eight standing subcommittees were appointed to monitor issues involving government, economies, education, health, human services, recreation, culture, transportation, urban renewal, and historic preservation.

On July 1, 1988, The Greater Hagerstown Committee acquired office space at 5 Public Square, Hagerstown Maryland where they reside today. Over the course of 35 years, The Greater Hagerstown Committee has had four executive directors and averages about 70 active members and over 20 ex-officio and retired members. The organization continues to attract business and professional leaders devoted to giving back to their community and finding ways to enhance the quality of life for all citizens of the region.



Past Board Chairs:

Merle Elliott 1987-1989 Dick Phoebus 1989-1991 Bill Reuter 1991-1993 John Waltersdorf 1993-1995 Wayne Alter 1995-1997 **Robert Cirincione 1997-1999** Jim Latimer 1999-2001 Mike Callas 2001-2003 Bill Barton 2003-2005 **Tom Newcomer 2005-2007** Jim Pierne 2007-2009 John League 2009-2011 John Schnebly 2011-2013 Dr. Gaye McGovern 2013-2015 Chris Motz 2015-2017 **Jeanne F. Singer 2017-2019** Dr. Mitesh Kothari 2019-2021 **Terry King 2021-2023**

Past Executive Directors:

Philip Moery 1988-1989 Herbert Meininger 1989-1998 Art Callaham 1998-2010

Membership of GHC FY 2023-2024

80 Full Active Members (as of 04/30/2024)

- Aaron, Patrick Total Comfort Heating
- Allen, Sam Potomac Excavating
 - Collins, Rick (Delegate)
- Allen-Hall, Michael Noelker and Hull Associates, Inc. 3.
 - Hoffman, Melanie (Delegate)
- Asbury, Jeannie Reach of Washington County
- **Azizi, Basheer*** **♦** − OpSmart
- Bakos, Jenny Wash. Co. Free Library
- 7. Barr, Jonny – Ellsworth Electric
- Baylor, Michael Ameriserv Financial
- **Bowen, Scott*** ← MSB Architects
- 10. Bowen, Taylor Berkshire Hathaway Bowen Realty
- 11. **Bowman, Don**❖ Bowman Group LLP
 - Ferree, Rob (Delegate)
- 12. Brezler, Ronnie United Bank
 - Rock, Sarah (Delegate)
- 13. Browning, Buck Fort Ritchie Community Center
- 14. Burke, Mary Anne WC Arts Council, Inc.
- 15. Colby, Austin Hearty Pet
 - Chapin, Ryan Chapin (Delegate)
- 16. Crawford, Stacey Community Foundation of Wash. Co.
- 17. **Davis, Taylor** Morgan-Keller Construction
- 18. Day, Michael Law Offices Michael Day & Assoc.
- 19. Ebersole, Linda Bowman Hospitality
- 20. Ellis, Jason Tele-Plus Corporation
- 21. Fiery, Doug Douglas A. Fiery Funeral Home
- 22. Fitzgerald, Mike Gideon Properties, LLC
 - Parisi, Joe (Delegate)
- 23. Fritts II, Bill* Smith Elliott Kearns & Company
- 24. Fulton, Brad → AC&T Co., Inc.
- 25. **Gehr, Michael –** Bushey Feight Morin Architects, Inc.
 - House, Aaron (Delegate)
- 26. Gessel, Dawn Herald-Mail/Gannett Inc
- 27. Goetz, BJ* Middletown Valley Bank
- 28. Grach, Patrick Lifehouse Church
- 29. Guessford, Heather United Way of Washington County
- 30. Harrell, Mark CNB Bank
 - Menard, John (Delegate)
- 31. Harshman, Rick CBIZ Retirement Plan Services
- 32. Heaton, Tony Antietam Broadband
 - Grimes, Susan (Delegate)
- 33. Heizer, Shane Carson Wealth
- 34. Henry, Tim F&M Trust
 - Jozik, Matt (Delegate)
- 35. Herrera, Laura RBC Wealth Management
- 36. **Hess, David** Dot Transportation, Inc.
- 37. Holzapfel, Richie* Holzapfel Investments
- 38. Howell, Aaron Bank of Charles Town
- 39. Hull, Jeff BJ's Custom Creations
- 40. Johnston, Michael M.S. Johnston Company
- 41. Joshi, Maulik Meritus Health
- 42. Kagle, Drew Battery One, Inc.
- 43. Kick, Bill HRG Inc, Engineering & Related Services
 - Holleran, Tom (Delegate)
- King, Terry* Leadership Development Resources
- 45. Latimer, John Keller Stonebraker Insurance.
- 46. Lehr, Dave Meritus Health Inc.
- 47. Leppert, Brittany Patriot Federal Credit Union
- 48. Lough, Ed Northwestern Mutual
- 49. Lyles, David David Lyles Developers
- 50. McGovern, Gaye Gaye McGovern Insurance Agency, Inc.
- 51. Mellott, Ben Mellott Real Estate, LLC
- 52. Moore, Tereance* → TM Consulting, LLC

- 53. Mullendore, Alan → First United Bank & Trust
- Nardi, Addie Boys and Girls Club of Washington County, MD
- 55. **Noel, Melissa*** Noel's Fire Protection
- 56. Olson, David Family Healthcare of Hagerstown
- O'Neal, Jeffery Brook Lane Health Services
- Park, Debi Fulton Mortgage Company
- Radaker, Mike MEC, Inc.
- Ranieli, Matthew Hagerstown Health, LLC
 - Ranieli, Brenna (Delegate)
- 61. Rappaport, Jason Innovative Inc.
- Ratkowski, Greg ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC
 - O'Neal, Shaun (Delegate)
- 63. Reynolds, Brad Triad Engineering, Inc.
 - Wolfe, Nick (Delegate)
- Reynolds, Kent Blue Ridge Risk Partners, LLC
- **Rohm, Julie*** → Preit Valley Mall
- Runyon, Barb Brechbill & Hellman Construction Co. Inc. Dice, Matt (Delegate)
- 67. Schifano, Anthony Sheehy Hagerstown
- Scott, Randy Chick-Fil-A
- 69. Shuster, Dave Horizon Goodwill Inc.
- 70. Singer, Jeanne Law Offices of Jeanne Singer, P.A.
- 71. Smith, Chris Manor House Builders
- 72. Snook, Greg CHIEF
- Spedden, Dan Visit Hagerstown
- 74. Spicher, Callan Spicher's Appliances & Security
- 75. Stitely, Steven Saunders Tax and Accounting, Inc.
 - Stitely, Bev (Delegate)
- 76. Swayne, Steve State Farm Insurance
- Toothman, Jeffrey Toothman Orthodontics
- 78. Truman, Blake VerStandig Media

Lifetime Full Active Members:

- **Bowen, Blackie ❖ ♦** Ewing Oil Co., Inc.
- 81. Kothari, Mitesh* → Capital Women's Care
 - Andrews, Matthew (Delegate)

Retired Members:

- Alter, Wayne
- Barton, William
- Baykan, Mary
- Fulton, Adna
- Halsey, Mark
- Hayes, Gary
- 7. Martin, Al
- Pierne, Jim
- Williams, Noel 9.
- Young, William P., Jr *

Ex-Officio Members:

- Frey, Paul WC Chamber of Commerce
- Ashby, Jacob USMH
- 3. Klauber, Jim – Hagerstown Community College
- Gordon, Michelle Washington County
- 5. Sovine, David – WCPS
- Nicewarner, Scott City of Hagerstown
- Sargent, Tara Leadership Washington Co.

Honorary Members:

- Callaham, Art Retired Executive Director of GHC
- Elliott, Merle ❖ Smith Elliott & Kearns (deceased)
- Noia, Al Allegany Energy
- Reuter, William ❖ Susquehanna Bancshares Inc (deceased)

*Board of Directors ♦Lifetime Member ❖Charter Member ♦Committee Chair ※Corporate Membership

Membership Statement

Each member of the Greater Hagerstown Committee is expected to give his or her time, talent, and resources without thought of personal benefit to assist in making the greater Hagerstown area a vital and progressive region. GHC members take an active role in our community, serving the public on several local, state, and non-profit boards, commissions, and committees.

GHC Leadership Team 2024-2025

Board of Directors FY 2024-2025

B.J. Goetz, Chair

Middletown Valley Bank

Tereance Moore, 1st Vice Chair

TM Consulting, LLC

Julie Rohm, 2nd Vice Chair 1

Preit Valley Mall

Bill Fritts, Treasurer

Smith Elliott Kearns & Company

Richie Holzapfel, Secretary

Holzapfel Investments

Terry King, Immediate Past Chair

Leadership Development Resources

Linda Ebersole, Member at Large

Bowman Hospitality

Melissa Noel, Member at Large

Noels Fire Protection

Mike Radaker, Member at Large

MEC., Inc

Callan Spicher, Member at Large

Spicher's Appliances & Security

¹Also Chair of Downtown Enhancement Committee



James F. Kercheval Executive Director

Staff



Erin GriemsmannExecutive Assistant

























GHC Budget 2024-2025

GHC BUDGET PROPOSAL FY 2024-25	Actuals FY 2023-24	FY 2023-24 Budget	FY 2024-25 Budget	\$ New Budget Vs.
F f 2024-25	F1 2023-24	Buuget	Proposal	Old Budget
Income				
Holiday Party Extra Ticket Sales	450.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
Special Events Revenue	2,000.00	5,000.00	2,500.00	-2,500.00
New Educator's Reception Income	1,020.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Interest Income	1,548.73	240.00	360.00	120.00
Membership Dues				
Lifetime Membership (1) (PY-1)	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	0.00
Ex-Officio Dues (7 @ \$400) (PY-7)	2,800.00	2,800.00	2,800.00	0.00
Full Member Dues - 74 @ \$2600 (PY-72)	183,083.00	187,200.00	192,400.00	5,200.00
Retired Member Dues (10 @ \$400) (PY-14)	4,800.00	5,600.00	4,000.00	-1,600.00
Total Membership Dues	195,483.00	200,400.00	204,000.00	3,600.00
Micellaneous Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reimbursed Expenses	14.74	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	204,816.47	206,640.00	208,160.00	1,520.00
	Astuala	EV 0000 04	FY 2024-25	\$ New
	Actuals	FY 2023-24	Budget	Budget Vs.
	FY 2023-24	Budget	Proposal	Old Budget
Expense				
Business Travel/Community Events	6,268.68	7,275.00	8,360.00	1,085.00
New Educator Event Expense	1,020.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Bank Service Charges	24.00	36.00	36.00	0.00
Communications (Phone, Internet, Website)	3,995.23	5,100.00	5,540.00	440.00
Dues	615.00	1,500.00	1,200.00	-300.00
Equipment	594.69	2,950.00	2,500.00	-450.00
Insurances	2,084.00	2,550.00	2,550.00	0.00
Members Services	5,913.49	10,475.00	9,400.00	-1,075.00
Special Events Expenses	3,116.50	5,000.00	2,500.00	-2,500.00
Holiday Party	7,501.03	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00
Payroll & Benefit Expense	146,325.44	143,229.80	147,401.36	4,171.56
Postage and Delivery	134.00	300.00	300.00	0.00
Printing	2,149.90	1,800.00	2,300.00	500.00
Professional Fees	640.00	600.00	650.00	50.00
Rent	10,800.00	10,800.00	10,800.00	0.00
Repairs & Maintenance	590.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Subscriptions	1,307.13	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
Supplies	1,384.86	2,024.20	1,622.64	-401.56
Training	10.00	250.00	250.00	0.00
Utilities (Electric)	1,268.86	1,250.00	1,250.00	0.00
Total Expense	195,742.81	206,640.00	208,160.00	1,520.00
NET INCOME	9,073.66	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: April's Actuals were estimated and may change slightly



A Catalyst for **GROWTH** & **PROGRESS**

The Greater Hagerstown Committee, Inc.

2023-2026 Strategic Plan

Mission: To identify community needs and engage the resources of each member to be a catalyst for consensus and progress.

Vision: We will be a strong, growing prosperous region

Values: Collaborative, Informed, Trusted, Nonpartisan, and Visionary

Goals

Workforce Readiness
Educational Achievement

Vitality In City Centers

Community Infrastructure

Catalytic Collaborations

- Support educational & workforce mental health and wellness initiatives
- Promote community's need to improve educational attainment and career training levels to fill jobs of tomorrow
- Break down barriers to post- secondary education and career training
- Aid in growth of relevant educational and CTE programs
- Expand educational footprint (with focus on downtown)

- Encourage collaborations of organizations impacting revitalization efforts
- Support or create initiatives that diversify housing stock, expand homeownership, and attract corporate investment
- Support efforts to bring jobs and corporate offices into city and town centers
- Support efforts to enhance safety in city and town centers
- Attract a large anchor catalyst project to downtown

- Improve housing opportunities to support growth
- Enhance water/sewer infrastructure to support growth
- Recommend and support transportation and transit improvements in the region
- Support and grow arts
 & entertainment
 infrastructure
- Support, connect, and grow tourism infrastructure
- Enhance our Entrepreneurial Infrastructure

- Support economic development efforts in our county and municipalities, and region
- Emphasize the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our community
- Support initiatives improving health of community
- Support efforts to expand tourism in the region
- Enhance our entrepreneurial Ecosystem



GHC Calendar FY 2024-2025

As of April 30th, 2024

	Board of Directors 7:30 a.m. GHC Office	Regular Monthly Meeting 7:30 a.m. at HCC's Merle Elliott Conference Center Rooms 211/213	Special Events/Meetings
May	May 10, 2024	May 31, 2024 2024 Annual Post-Session Legislative Update with John Favazza, Manis Canning & Associates	Start-Up Week Luncheon Mon. May 20, 2024 HCC CBES-103 from 11:00am – 12:30 pm 7th Grade Career Exploration Day Wed. May 29 & Thur. May 30 Hagerstown Community College
June	June 14, 2024	June 28, 2024 – <i>Program TBD</i>	GHC Member Luncheon Tuesday, June 18th
July	July 12, 2024	No Monthly Meeting	
August	August 9, 2024	No Monthly Meeting	Michael G. Callas New Educator's Reception Wed. Aug 14th at 2pm SHHS Member Picnic at Meritus Park Hagerstown Flying Boxcar Game Thur. Aug 1st, 2024
September	September 13, 2024	September 27, 2024 – <i>Program TBD</i>	GHC Dine Downtown Locations TBD Tue., Sept. 17, 2024, from 5pm – 7:30pm
October	October 11, 2024	October 25, 2024 – <i>Program TBD</i>	Mummers Parade Party at BFM Sat., Oct. 26, 2024, begins at 6pm
November	November 8, 2024	November 22, 2024 – Program TBD (One week earlier due to Thanksgiving)	GHC Annual State Delegation Luncheon Early Nov. 2024 – Location TBD GHC New Elected Officials Reception Late Nov. 2024 – Location TBD
December	December 13, 2024	No Monthly Meeting	GHC Holiday Party Wed., Dec. 4, 2024 Bowman Milestone Barn, 5:30pm-9:00pm
January	January 10, 2025	January 31, 2025 – <i>Program TBD</i>	WCCC "Day in Annapolis" Wed., Jan. 22, 2025 Calvert House 4:30pm-6:30pm
February	February 14, 2025	February 28, 2025 – <i>Program TBD</i>	
March	March 14, 2025	March 28, 2025 – Program TBD	GHC Dine Downtown Locations TBD Wed., Mar. 19, 2025, from 5pm – 7:30pm
April	April 11, 2025	April 25, 2025 GHC Annual Meeting Extended: 7:30am – 9:00am	

MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR FORUMS/COMMITTEES:

All forum/committee meetings are held in the GHC Conference Room at 5 Public Square, Suite 601 Hagerstown, MD and/or by ZOOM

- **Education Forum -** meets every other odd month on the 2nd Thursday at 8:00 a.m.
- Membership Committee meets as needed
- **Transportation Forum -** *meets as needed on the 3rd Monday at 8:00 a.m.*
- **Downtown Enhancement Committee** meets monthly on 3rd Wednesday at 8:00 a.m.
- **Vision Forum -** meets monthly on 4th Wednesday at 8:00 a.m.



FORUMS, COMMITTEES & TASK FORCES

Date, Time, Location	Committee & Chair	Mission
2 nd Friday monthly 7:30 am GHC Office	GHC Board of Directors* BJ Goetz	Review operations and policies of our organization and provide direction to, and oversight of, the Executive Director.
2 nd Thursday bi- monthly (As needed) 7:30 am GHC Office	Education Forum Alan Mullendore	Implement specific courses of action designed to have a positive impact on employment and education in the Greater Hagerstown area. Serve as an official point of contact for local public schools, private schools, higher education centers, and workforce training organizations to collaborate on improving our education system and workforce development in Washington County.
Meets As Needed GHC Office	Membership Committee Michael Weiss	Search out and contact new prospects to become members of GHC. Review and develop policies, programs and events to grow membership, as well as support retention and engagement of existing members.
3 rd Monday (As Needed) 8:00 am GHC Office	Transportation Forum Brad Fulton	Assess current transportation plans prepared by the County, City, and State for the region, and offer feedback and support, as appropriate, to ensure growth considerations, traffic congestion, parking, environmental concerns, economic development, and funding needs are addressed. Monitor and provide input on the long-range transportation plans of the region (Ground, Air, Transit, and Rail).
3 rd Wednesday monthly 8:00 am GHC Office	Downtown Enhancement Committee Julie Rohm	Create vibrant urban centers and downtowns in Hagerstown and within our municipalities. Strategies include increasing home ownership and diversity in housing types (more market housing); defining, creating, or attracting an industry, product, or service hub; identifying catalytic projects to drive investment opportunities, etc.
4 th Wednesday monthly 8:00 am GHC Office	Vision Forum Scott Bowen	Function as the Committee's "Think Tank" charged with the task of formulating a long-range vision of the region. Cultivate opportunities for projects, initiatives, collaborations, and/or specialized task forces needed to help our community achieve its vision and goals for the region.

^{*}Members of GHC's Board of Directors are annually elected to their positions by the full membership as required by GHC bylaws. Only these elected members may vote and actively participate in the Board of Directors meetings. However, all GHC members are welcome to attend any Board of Directors meeting to gain insight into the inner workings of our organization.

Our Collective Achievements Over the Last 36 Years

EDUCATION

- Spearheaded the development of OnTrack Washington County, a local cradle-to-career network of support, empowering individuals to maximize their potential to secure a rewarding career. www.OnTrackWC.org
- Supported and aided a successful effort to gain \$11.5 million dollars in State capital funding for our Regional Library expansion.
- Researched financing options and secured funding for the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts in Hagerstown.
- Helped secure funding for University Plaza, the "open space" project as an adjunct to the new University System of MD - Hagerstown Facility
- Created an annual Report Card assessing College and Career Readiness in our county 2013-2016
- Supported Meritus Health and their plans for a new Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine opening in 2025

FOREIGN TRADE ZONE

Catalyzed the process leading to the establishment of a General-Purpose Foreign Trade Zone in County.

GOVERNMENT

- Helped establish the Washington County Community Coalition a coalition of public and community partner groups that advocate for a priority list of local projects and initiatives in Annapolis each year.
- Participated in a community-wide task force that recommended that a Charter Home Rule referendum be placed before the voters during the 2008 Primary Election.
- · Held past forums for education, transportation, and community issues with state and local elected officials

HEALTHCARE

- Supported community initiatives to reduce high teen pregnancy rates in our community including support for the creation of the Washington County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition.
- Established a substance abuse task force to encourage employee substance abuse testing.
- Assisted Meritus Health and Healthy Washington County on their Lose 1 Million Pounds Bold Goal campaign

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

• Helped community leaders develop and establish a new leadership development program for the community currently known as Leadership Washington County: www.leadershipwashingtoncounty.org

PARKING DOWNTOWN

- Supported the efforts of the City of Hagerstown and Washington County to finish a surface parking lot and A&E parking deck in downtown Hagerstown.
- Supported the efforts of the City of Hagerstown in enhancing Renaissance Way (formerly Cramer's Alley) to make access to the Arts & Entertainment parking deck easily accessible.

TRANSPORTATION

- Supported long term efforts to widen I-81 including organizing a quad state task force (1999), securing Federal funding for a \$1.6M study (2005), state funding for Phase 1 widening of I-81 (2014 WV to Williamsport), \$5M state funding for Phase 2 engineering & design (2015), and \$100M state funding for Phase 2 widening (2022 Williamsport to Halfway Blvd), and multiple grant applications and earmark requests to complete project
- Supported efforts to build an Airport Runway Extension at Hagerstown-Washington County Regional Airport to be a catalyst for economic development in the region and improve safety for those using the airport.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- Helped the City of Hagerstown establish its first Community Development Corporation to catalyze market rate housing development in the urban core.
- Assisted Williamsport in acquiring state and federal funding for improvements to the C&O Canal (over \$11M) and a site for a new visitor's center, office space for National Park Service employees, and acquisition of historic farm.
- Assisted in securing \$90M in state funding for the development of a new Multi-use Sports & Events Center in downtown Hagerstown which will be home of a new Atlantic League Baseball team (Opened May 2024).

GHC Memories 2023-2024













































































