



A Catalyst for
GROWTH
& PROGRESS

Greater Hagerstown Committee

5 Public Square, Suite 601
Hagerstown, MD 21740
(301) 733-8811
www.GreaterHagerstown.org

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2025-2026



WORKFORCE READINESS &
EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT



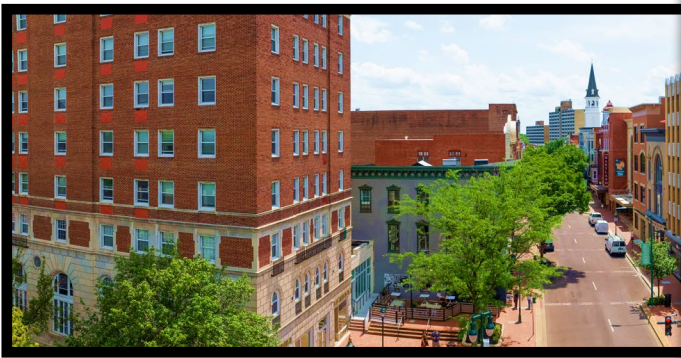
VITALITY IN CITY CENTERS



ROBUST COMMUNITY
INFRASTRUCTURE



CATALYTIC
COLLABORATIONS



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.



Pre-Legislative Forum Luncheon
11/05/2025



New Educator's Reception
08/13/2025



MDOT Transportation CTP Tour
10/09/2025



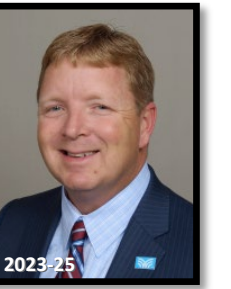
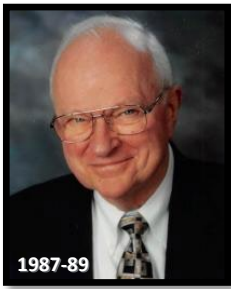
Day in Annapolis
01/27/2026



Chamber Annual Meeting
10/27/2025



Education Summit
02/25/2026



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

BJ Goetz 2023-2025

Past Executive Directors:

Philip Moery 1988-1989

Herbert Meininger 1989-1998

Art Callaham 1998-2010

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 Elliott 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 38 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.



Membership of GHC FY 2025-2026

93 Full Active Members (as of 04/30/2026)

1. **Aaron, Patrick** – Total Comfort Heating
2. **Allen, Sam** – Potomac Excavating
 - Collins, Rick (Delegate)
3. **Allen-Hall, Michael** – Noelker and Hull Associates, Inc.
 - Hoffman, Melanie (Delegate)
4. **Asbury, Jeannie** – Reach of Washington County
5. **Azizi, Basheer** – OpSmart
6. **Bakos, Jenny** – Wash. Co. Free Library
7. **Barnes, Bryan** – Myers Building Systems, Inc.
8. **Barr, Jonny** – Ellsworth Electric
9. **Baylor, Michael** – Ameriserv Financial
10. **Blenckstone, David** – Hagerstown Flying Boxcars
11. **Bowen, Scott** – MSB Architects
12. **Bowen, Taylor** – Berkshire Hathaway Bowen Realty
13. **Bowman, Don** ♦ – Bowman Group LLP
 - Ferree, Rob (Delegate)
14. **Brezler, Ronnie** – United Bank
 - Rock, Sarah (Delegate)
15. **Browning, Buck** – Fort Ritchie Community Center
16. **Campbell, Craig** – River Bottom Roasters
17. **Carroll, Chad** – F&M Trust
 - Jozik, Matt (Delegate)
18. **Colby, Austin** – Hearty Pet
 - Chapin, Ryan (Delegate)
19. **Crawford, Stacey** – Community Foundation of Wash. Co.
20. **Davis, Taylor** – Morgan-Keller Construction
21. **Day, Michael** – The Family Heritage Trust Company, Inc.
22. **Ebersole, Linda** * – Bowman Hospitality
23. **Elliott, Andre** – YMCA of Hagerstown, Inc.
24. **Ellis, Jason** – Tele-Plus Corporation
25. **Fiery, Doug** – Douglas A. Fiery Funeral Home
26. **Fleming, Michele** – Western Maryland Hospital Center
 - Sim, Emily (Delegate)
27. **Fritts II, Bill** * – Smith Elliott Kearns & Company
28. **Fulton, Brad** ♦ – AC&T Co., Inc.
 - Fulton, Wes (Delegate)
29. **Gehr, Michael** – Bushey Feight Morin Architects, Inc.
 - House, Aaron (Delegate)
30. **Goetz, BJ** * – Middletown Valley Bank
31. **Grach, Patrick** – Lifehouse Church
32. **Griffith, Sean** – Hagerstown Housing Authority
 - Buhrman, Sherry (Delegate)
33. **Guessford, Heather** – United Way of Washington County
34. **Hall, Sarah** – Washington County Museum of Fine Arts
 - Mele, Kellie (Delegate)
35. **Harrell, Mark** – CNB Bank
 - Menard, John (Delegate)
36. **Herrera, Laura** – RBC Wealth Management
37. **Hess, David** – Dot Transportation, Inc.
38. **Holzappel, Richie** * – The Holzappel Group
39. **Houser, Nicole** – Family Healthcare of Hagerstown
40. **Howell, Aaron** – Potomac Bank
 - Slick, Scott (Delegate)
41. **Hull, Jeff** – BJ's Custom Creations
42. **Johnston, Michael** – M.S. Johnston Company
43. **Joshi, Maulik** – Meritus Health
44. **Kagle, Drew** – Battery One, Inc.
45. **Kanani, Dixit** – Twilight Hospitality
46. **Kurzrok, Andrew** – Hopewell Sheet Metal Manufacturing
47. **Lampton, Ryan** – Middletown Valley Bank
48. **Latimer, John** – Blue Ridge Risk Partners
49. **Lehr, Dave** – Meritus Health Inc
50. **Leppert, Brittany** – Patriot Federal Credit Union
51. **Lough, Ed** – Northwestern Mutual
52. **Lyles, David** – David Lyles Developers
53. **McGovern, Gaye** – Gaye McGovern Insurance Agency, Inc.
54. **Mellott, Ben** – Mellott Real Estate, LLC
55. **Moore, Tereance** * – TM Consulting, LLC
56. **Mullendore, Alan** ♦ – First United Bank & Trust
57. **Nardi, Addie** – Boys and Girls Club of Washington County, MD
58. **Natale, Nicholas** – Trust Home Financial
59. **Newcomer, Tom** – R. Bruce Carson, LTD
60. **Noel, Melissa** * – Noel's Fire Protection
61. **O'Neal, Jeffery** – Brook Lane Health Services
62. **O'Neal, Shaun** – ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC
 - Ratkowski, Greg (Delegate)
63. **Radaker, Mike** * – MEC, Inc.
64. **Ranieli, Matthew** – Hagerstown Health, LLC
 - Ranieli, Brenna (Delegate)
65. **Rappaport, Jason** – Innovative Inc.
 - Rappaport, Lauren (Delegate)
66. **Reynolds, Brad** – Triad Engineering, Inc.
 - Wolfe, Nick (Delegate)
67. **Reynolds, Kent** – Blue Ridge Risk Partners, LLC
68. **Rinehart, Dan** – Waynesboro Construction Company, Inc.
69. **Ritchie, Jacob** – Hagerstown Honda and KIA
 - King, Britton (Delegate)
70. **Rohm, Julie** ♦ – Preit Valley Mall
71. **Runyon, Barb** – Brechbill & Helman Construction Co. Inc.
 - Boushell, Jeff (Delegate)
72. **Ryan, Patrick** – News Talk 103.7FM
 - Trobaugh, Allison (Delegate)
73. **Sauvé, Jeff** – GDC IT Solutions
 - Trace, Joe (Delegate)
74. **Schriever, John** – Sideling Hill Financial
 - Swink, Michael (Delegate)
75. **Scott, Randy** – Chick-Fil-A
76. **Shipman, Chris** – Antietam Broadband
 - Grimes, Susan (Delegate)
77. **Shuster, Dave** – Horizon Goodwill Inc.
78. **Singer, Jeanne** – Law Offices of Jeanne Singer, P.A.
79. **Skaggs, Brandon** – Abeles-Flurie Wealth Management Group
80. **Smith, Chris** – Manor House Builders
81. **Snook, Greg** – CHIEF
82. **Spedden, Dan** – Visit Hagerstown
83. **Spicher, Callan** * – Spicher's Appliances & Security
84. **Stewart, Keith** – Kinsley Construction, LLC
 - Cook, Jason (Delegate)
85. **Stitely, Steven** ♦ – Saunders Tax and Accounting, Inc.
 - Stitely, Bev (Delegate)
86. **Toothman, Jeffrey** – Toothman Orthodontics
87. **Twigg, Brock** – Twigg Cycles, Inc.
88. **Van Scoyoc, Troy** – The Arc of Washington County
 - Jancuk, Meg (Delegate)
89. **Warren III, Major** – Amasia Pest Prevention Services, LLC
90. **Weiss, Michael** ♦
91. **Wilkes, Selena** – Elmwood Farms Hospitality Group

Lifetime Full Active Members:

92. **Bowen, Blackie** ♦ ♦ – Ewing Oil Co., Inc.
93. **Kothari, Mitesh** ♦ – Capital Women's Care
 - Andrews, Matthew (Delegate)

*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 local, state, and non-profit boards, commissions, and committees.

Membership of GHC FY 2025-2026

Honorary Members (4)

Art Callaham

Former GHC
Executive Director

Merle S. Elliott❖

Smith Elliott Kearns &
Company

Alan Noia

Allegany Energy

William J. Reuter❖

Susquehanna
Bancshares, Inc.

Ex-Officio Members (7)

Michelle Gordon

Washington County
Government

Dr. Jim Klauber

Hagerstown Community College

Paul Frey

Washington County
Chamber of Commerce

Dr. David Sovine

Washington County Public
Schools

Scott Nicewarner

City of Hagerstown

Dr. Tara Sargent

Leadership Washington County

Dr. Jacob Ashby

University System of Maryland
at Hagerstown

Retired Members (10)

Wayne Alter

Mark Halsey

Al Martin

Mary Baykan

Gary Hayes

Jim Pierne

Mary Anne Burke

Tim Henry

William P. Young, Jr.❖

Robert Cirincione

❖ *Charter Member*



Monthly Meeting - HCC BTC Tour
06/27/25

Leadership Team 2025-2026

Board of Directors FY 2025-2026

Tereance Moore, Chair

TM Consulting, LLC

Julie Rohm, 1st Vice Chair ¹

Preit Valley Mall

Linda Ebersole, 2nd Vice Chair

Bowman Hospitality

Bill Fritts, Treasurer

Smith Elliott Kearns & Company

Richie Holzapfel, Secretary

Holzapfel Investments

B.J. Goetz, Immediate Past Chair

Middletown Valley Bank

Alan Mullendore, Member at Large ²

First United Bank & Trust

Melissa Noel, Member at Large

Noel's Fire Protection

Mike Radaker, Member at Large

MEC, Inc.

Callan Spicher, Member at Large

Spicher's Appliances & Security

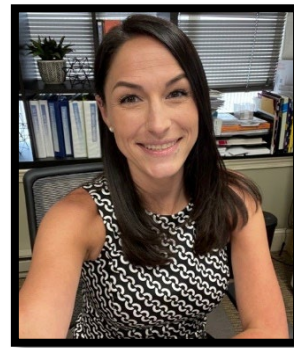
¹ Chair of Downtown Enhancement Committee

² Chair of Education Forum



James F. Kercheval
Executive Director

Staff



Erin Griemsmann
Executive Assistant



Board of Directors Meeting
06/13/2025

Draft Budget 2026-2027

| GHC BUDGET PROPOSAL FY 2026-27 | | Actuals FY 2025-26 | FY 2025-26 Budget | FY 2026-27 Budget Proposal | \$ New Budget Vs. Old Budget |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Income | | | | | |
| Education Summit Revenue | 50,000.00 | 0.00 | 7,000.00 | 7,000.00 | |
| GHC Member Event Revenue | 870.00 | 0.00 | 700.00 | 700.00 | |
| Holiday Party Extra Ticket Sales | 480.00 | 80.00 | 0.00 | -80.00 | |
| Special Events Revenue | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 1,000.00 | |
| New Educator's Reception Income | 1,020.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | |
| Interest Income | 1,020.43 | 860.00 | 600.00 | -260.00 | |
| Membership Dues | | | | | |
| Corporate Membership (1) (PY-1) | 2,400.00 | 2,400.00 | 2,400.00 | 0.00 | |
| 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 - 88 @ \$2600 (PY-82 Actual 82.5) | 214,720.00 | 213,200.00 | 228,800.00 | 15,600.00 | |
| NEW Delegate Fees - (Ended Year w/ 28) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | |
| Retired Member Dues (10 @ \$400) (PY-9) | 4,000.00 | 4,400.00 | 4,000.00 | -400.00 | |
| Total Membership Dues | 226,320.00 | 225,200.00 | 245,400.00 | 20,200.00 | |
| Miscellaneous Income | 300.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 | |
| Reimbursed Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Total Income | 280,010.43 | 228,140.00 | 256,900.00 | 28,760.00 | |
| Expense | | | | | |
| Business Travel/Community Events | 8,268.68 | 8,800.00 | 9,350.00 | 550.00 | |
| Education Summit Expenses | 43,083.32 | 0.00 | 7,000.00 | 7,000.00 | |
| New Educators Reception Expense | 1,020.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | |
| Bank Service Charges | 24.00 | 36.00 | 36.00 | 0.00 | |
| Capital Contingency Funds | 0.00 | 4,000.00 | 10,500.00 | 6,500.00 | |
| Communications (Phone, Internet, Website) | 4,630.83 | 5,840.00 | 6,150.00 | 310.00 | |
| Dues | 779.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | |
| Equipment | 4,781.31 | 3,300.00 | 2,400.00 | -900.00 | |
| Insurances | 2,077.00 | 2,550.00 | 2,475.00 | -75.00 | |
| Members Services | 10,194.99 | 9,800.00 | 11,000.00 | 1,200.00 | |
| Special Events Expenses | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 1,000.00 | |
| Holiday Party | 5,625.37 | 8,000.00 | 8,000.00 | 0.00 | |
| Payroll & Benefit Expense | 162,967.06 | 162,418.20 | 173,777.58 | 11,359.38 | |
| Postage and Delivery | 526.40 | 150.00 | 350.00 | 200.00 | |
| Printing | 1,403.20 | 2,250.00 | 2,200.00 | -50.00 | |
| Professional Fees | 898.00 | 800.00 | 1,100.00 | 300.00 | |
| Rent | 11,500.00 | 11,700.00 | 12,000.00 | 300.00 | |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 150.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | |
| Subscriptions | 1,878.05 | 1,200.00 | 1,700.00 | 500.00 | |
| Supplies | 1,790.18 | 1,745.80 | 1,811.42 | 65.62 | |
| Training | 197.00 | 250.00 | 250.00 | 0.00 | |
| Utilities (Electric) | 1,054.49 | 1,300.00 | 1,800.00 | 500.00 | |
| Total Expense | 262,848.88 | 228,140.00 | 256,900.00 | 28,760.00 | |
| NET INCOME | 17,161.55 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| LESS EDUCATION SUMMIT REVENUE AND EXPENSES | 10,244.87 | | | | |

Calendar FY 2026-2027

As of April 24th, 2026

| | 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 8, 2026 | May 29, 2026 2026 Annual Post-Session Legislative Update with John Favazza, Manis Canning & Associates | GHC Downtown Happy Hour/Dinner Meinelschmidt Distillery/Schmankerl Stube Wed. May 13, 2026, from 4:30pm-7:30pm Fort Ritchie Walking Tour & Dinner at Top Secret Tap Room <i>Tentative</i> Wed. May 27, 2026, from 4:30-8pm |
| June | June 12, 2026 | June 26, 2026 | Member Picnic at Meritus Park Hagerstown Flying Boxcar Game Thur. Jun 4, 2026, 5:30-9pm |
| July | July 10, 2026 | No Monthly Meeting | |
| August | August 14, 2026 | No Monthly Meeting | Michael G. Callas New Educator's Reception Week of August 11-15 at SHHS, time TBD |
| September | September 11, 2026 | September 25, 2026 | Member Event: Live @ Hub City Vinyl "The Special Consensus" Thur. Sept. 3, 2026 Pre-show happy hour 7:00pm/show 8-10pm GHC Member Luncheon Veva's on Potomac Thur., Sept. 17, 2026, from 12-1:30pm |
| October | October 9, 2026 | October 30, 2026 | Mummers Parade Party at BFM Sat., Oct. 31, 2026, begins at 6pm |
| November | November 13, 2026 | November 20, 2026 <i>(one week earlier due to Thanksgiving)</i> | GHC Annual State Delegation Luncheon Early Nov. 2026 - Location TBD GHC New Elected Officials Reception Wed. Nov. 18, 2026, from 4:30-6:30pm Location TBD |
| December | December 11, 2026 | No Monthly Meeting | GHC Holiday Party Wed., Dec. 9, 2026 Bowman Milestone Barn, 5:30pm-8:30pm |
| January | January 8, 2027 | January 22, 2027 <i>(one week earlier due to WCCC)</i> | GHC Downtown Happy Hour/Dinner Brick House (28 S Potomac St.) Thur. Jan. 14, 2027, from 4:30pm-7:30pm Washington County Community Coalition "Day in Annapolis" Wed., Jan. 27, 2027 Calvert House 4:30-6:30pm |
| February | February 12, 2027 | February 26, 2027 | GHC Member Lunch Location TBD Tue. Feb. 16, 2027, from 12-1:30pm |
| March | March 12, 2027 | March 26, 2027 | 7th Grade Career Exploration Day Mon. Mar. 8 and Tue. Mar. 9, 2027 Hagerstown Community College GHC Downtown Happy Hour Hub City Brewery Wed., Mar. 17, 2027, from 4:30-6:00pm |
| April | April 9, 2027 | April 30, 2027 GHC Annual Meeting Extended: 7:30am - 9:30am | |

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* Tereance Moore | Review operations and policies of our organization and provide direction to, and oversight of, the Executive Director. |
| 2 nd Thursday bi-monthly (As needed) 8:00 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 Steven Stitely | 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 by-laws. 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.*

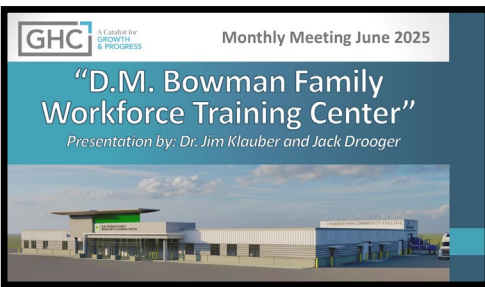
GHC Regular Monthly Meetings 2025-2026

May 2025 – 2025 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session Wrap-Up

GHC members received a detailed overview of the 2025 Maryland legislative session from John Favazza, Esq., lobbyist for the Washington County Community Coalition. The discussion highlighted major advocacy outcomes, including funding restored for I-81 Phase 2, support for the HCC Advanced Technology Center, a new visitors center, a public safety feasibility study, and expanded heritage funding. The meeting reinforced the importance of strong regional advocacy and partnership in securing state support for projects that strengthen Washington County’s economy and infrastructure.



June 2025 – D.M. Bowman Family Workforce Training Center Tour



Members had the opportunity to hear from Hagerstown Community College President Dr. Jim Klauber and tour the new D.M. Bowman Family Workforce Training Center. The meeting showcased how new training infrastructure is helping prepare students and workers for in-demand careers while supporting local employers’ workforce needs. The session highlighted the growing importance of hands-on, industry-aligned training opportunities in building a stronger regional talent pipeline.

September 2025 – The CHIEF Brief: What’s Old, What’s New, What’s Next & Why It Matters

Greg Snook shared the history, purpose, and continuing impact of the Hagerstown-Washington County Industrial Foundation, Inc. (CHIEF). Members heard how CHIEF was formed in response to economic instability in Washington County and how it has since played a major role in attracting employers, preparing business sites, and supporting catalytic community projects. The presentation also looked ahead to CHIEF’s future, including activity at Mt. Aetna Technology Park and discussion around what major initiative may come next for the organization and the community.



October 2025 – Hagerstown’s CHOICE Neighborhood Plan



Sean Griffith, Executive Director of the Hagerstown Housing Authority, presented the CHOICE Neighborhood Plan and its long-term strategy to improve housing and neighborhood conditions in downtown Hagerstown. Members learned about efforts to redevelop distressed housing areas into high-quality, mixed-income neighborhoods while expanding housing options and investing in infrastructure, education, employment, and health initiatives. The discussion emphasized the direct connection between housing availability, neighborhood quality, workforce attraction, and overall community growth.

November 2025 – Creating Inclusive Communities: One Person, One Property, One Neighborhood at a Time

Representatives from Fello Communities introduced members to their nonprofit, neighborhood-based housing model focused on “missing middle” housing and inclusive development. Their presentation offered a practical example of how small-scale, scattered-site housing can fit into existing neighborhoods while expanding opportunities for workforce housing, accessibility, and long-term neighborhood stability. This meeting built on October’s housing discussion by presenting an additional model for addressing one of the region’s most pressing challenges.



January 2026 – Creating a Healthier Community 2.0



Dr. Maulik Joshi and Dave Lehr of Meritus Health provided an update on the growth and evolution of Meritus Health over the past five years. Members heard about system expansion, the new medical school, increased residency programs, stronger regional partnerships, and Meritus’ continued efforts to improve access to quality care close to home. The conversation also explored how changes in health care delivery and rising costs affect employers, families, and the long-term health of the community.

February 2026 – The State of Fire and Emergency Services in Washington County

Held at the Washington County Public Safety Training Center, this meeting gave members a closer look at the county’s fire, rescue, and emergency medical services system. Director Dave Hays discussed the demands facing emergency services, including recruitment and retention, funding sustainability, training, modernization, and rising call volumes. The meeting highlighted both the professionalism of Washington County’s emergency response agencies and the importance of continued investment to maintain readiness and public confidence.



March 2026 – Preparing Tomorrow’s Workforce: Education Summit Highlights for Employers

Alan Mullendore and Jim Kercheval shared key findings from GHC’s recent Education Summit and updated Cradle-to-Career work, emphasizing the growing gap between workforce needs and current educational attainment in Washington County. Members reviewed how changing job requirements, automation, and artificial intelligence are reshaping the future of work and discussed the important role employers must play in supporting education, training, and credential attainment. The meeting underscored that workforce readiness is not only an education issue, but a core economic development priority for the region.



NEW MEMBER NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES





A Catalyst for **GROWTH & PROGRESS**

The Greater Hagerstown Committee, Inc.
2025-2028 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
Value: Collaborative, Informed, Trusted, Nonpartisan, and Visionary

External Goals

Workforce Readiness
Educational Achievement

- Support mental health and wellness initiatives for schools and workforce
• Promote community's need to improve educational attainment and aid the growth of CTE programs for future workforce needs.
• Break down barriers to post-secondary education and career training
• Expand educational footprint including Downtown Hagerstown

Vitality in City Centers

- Support or create initiatives that diversify housing stock, expand homeownership, and attract investment
• Encourage collaboration of organizations impacting revitalization efforts
• Support efforts to enhance public's perception and the safety in city/town centers
• Attract and support catalytic projects
• Support efforts to attract jobs and corporate offices

Community Infrastructure

- Foster collaboration to enhance water/sewer infrastructure to support growth
• Support capital funding to address school capacity and deferred maintenance
• Improve housing opportunities
• Recommend and support transportation and transit improvements in the region
• Support, connect, and grow tourism infrastructure
• Enhance our Entrepreneurial Infrastructure

Catalytic Collaborations

- Emphasize the value of access, opportunity, and success for all voices in our community
• Support economic development efforts in our county, municipalities, and region
• Support initiatives improving the health of our community
• Support efforts to expand tourism in the region
• Enhance our entrepreneurial Ecosystem
• Support service coordination of nonprofit organizations

Collective Achievements Over the Last 39 Years

EDUCATION

- Spearheaded two community wide Educational Summits in 2015 and 2025 to advance the percentage of adults with postsecondary credentials (AA Degree or trade certifications) Both summits jumpstarted stakeholder collaboration and expanded our local cradle-to-career network of support, empowering individuals to maximize their potential to secure living wage jobs.
- Aided a successful effort to gain \$11.5 million dollars in State 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 multiple College and Career Readiness report cards for our county 2013-2020 and 2026.
- 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 a quad state task force (1999), securing Federal funding for a \$1.6M study (2005), state funding for Phase 1 widening (2014 – WV to Williamsport), \$5M state funding for Phase 2 engineering & design (2015), \$100M construction funding for Phase 2 widening (2022 and 2025 - 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), a new visitor’s center, office space for National Park Service employees, and acquisition of historic Springfield Manor farm.
- Assisted in securing \$90M in state funding for the development of a new Multi-use Sports & Events Center in downtown Hagerstown which is home for Atlantic League’s Hagerstown Flying Boxcars (Opened May 2024).

GHC Memories 2025-2026





We are thankful for all our members and the memories made through the year!



A Catalyst for
**GROWTH
& PROGRESS**

Greater Hagerstown Committee

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