



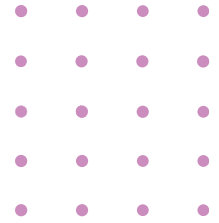
2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Supporting local business, empowering communities.

406.363.2400 | www.bitterrootchamber.com | jodi@bvchamber.com

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Members,

As we reflect on 2025, we want to extend our sincere thanks to each of you for being such an important part of our organization and our community.

This past year brought exciting opportunities, new ideas, and meaningful progress. As we stepped into several new initiatives designed to strengthen our organization and better serve the Bitterroot Valley, your support, patience, and encouragement made all the difference. Change and growth take collaboration, and we are incredibly grateful to have members who believe in the work we're doing together.

Because of you, we were able to continue building connections, supporting local businesses, and creating opportunities that help our entire community thrive. Your engagement, participation, and commitment are what make this organization strong.

We are proud of what we accomplished together in 2025 and even more excited about what lies ahead. Thank you for believing in the mission, supporting new endeavors, and being an essential part of this community.

We look forward to continuing this work with you in the year ahead.

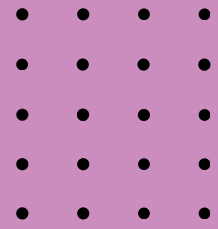


With sincere appreciation,

— Jodi Mitchell,
Executive Director



OUR MISSION & VISION



Mission: As a nonprofit organization, we are dedicated to supporting our members and strengthening the collective voice of the local business community. By working together, we advocate for a strong economy, a high quality of life, and a vibrant business environment for everyone in the Bitterroot.

Vision: Our vision is a thriving Bitterroot Valley where businesses, organizations, and community members work together to build a vibrant economy and an exceptional quality of life.

2026 Board of Directors

Elizabeth Pickford, President
Ravalli Republic Newspaper

Darren Bayer
Clearwater Systems

Courtney Hartelius
Daly Mansion

Dyana Canavan, President-Elect
Partners in Home Care

Kim Bishop
Your Choice Benefits

Gary Mitchell
Trapper Creek Job Corps

Ryan Williams, Treasurer
Edward Jones

Dora Bradt
Historic St. Mary's Mission

Keith Mullan
First First Security Bank

Sandy Bollom, Past-President
Stevensville Community Foundation

Sharon Dedmon
Glacier Sotheby's International

Kierstin Schmitt
Western Ag Research Center

Melissa Greenwood
Ravalli Electric Co-op

Jessica Warnken
Ravalli Services Corporation

YEAR AT A GLANCE

Here's what we did...

INITIATIVE WORK

- **Childcare Affordability & Accessibility**
- **Workforce Development**
- **Nonprofit Support & Collaboration**
- **Bitterroot Agriculture & Local Foods**

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

- **Leadership Bitterroot** - A 9-month course dedicated to exploring the diverse business culture in the Bitterroot and how we, as a region within Montana, must evolve to assure our economic prosperity
- **Weekly Newsletter** - Tuesday newsletter that informs members on chamber & community events, new member information, grant opportunities, state & county updates, etc.
- **Publications & Resources** - "Living in Ravalli County", Membership Directory, Maps, Community Resource Guides, etc.
- **State of the Valley Address** - An annual event that brings together community and business leaders to share updates on the Bitterroot Valley's growth, challenges, and opportunities. The event highlights local priorities and the partnerships working to keep the valley strong.
- **Variety of Training Courses** - Co-hosted a variety of trainings and workshops ranging from childcare and education sector; a visit from Secretary of State; tax reform workshop; Montana Nonprofit trainings; educational series for women, etc.

BUSINESS ADVOCACY

- **Attend conferences on business & tourism**
- **Meet with local & state representatives to be a liaison for the business community**

BITTERROOT VALLEY TOURISM

- **Bitterroot Tourism & Relocation Annual Guide**
- **VisitBitterrootValley.com**
- **Visitor Center**

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING & CONNECTIONS

- **Non-Profit Ambassador Groups** - Connections & Trainings
- **Ambassadors Group** - Social Arm
- **Monthly No-host Luncheons**
- **Business After Hours Events**
- **Ribbon Cuttings**
- **New Member Breakfast** - Review member benefits, network with other new members and answer any questions
- **Bitterroot Agriculture & Local Foods Committee**
- **North Valley Connections**
- **South Valley Connections**
- **Around the Root Event Show**

ANNUAL EVENTS

- **BV Chamber Awards Banquet**
- **30th Bitterroot Brewfest**

LOOKING AHEAD...

Here's where we are going...

FOCUS ON VALLEY-WIDE NON-PROFITS

- Engage with Non-Profits the first Tuesday of the month with a variety of focuses
- Finish the development of the Nonprofit/Volunteer website
- Offer trainings and resources to local nonprofits and organizations

CHAMBER COMMITTEE WORK

- Government Affairs: Help update the members on current issues and offer education and resources.
- Membership Committee: Closely connect with our membership to guide them on Chamber benefits and how we can help their business or organization
- Bitterroot Agriculture & Local Foods Committee: Continue distributing the North Valley and South Valley Growers and Producers Maps (online & in print); bring back the "Know Your Farmer Event" to connect consumer to the producer; bring back "Partners on a Plate" designed to introduce restaurants with local growers and producers

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Continue creating partnerships and collaborations on events/education opportunities
- Continue offering meetings and connection opportunities in south and north valley or "outside office hours".

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

- Continue the development of the Ravalli Child Care Advantage pilot program with the Bitterroot Early Learning Network
- Continue educating the tourism-focused industries on the Tourism Revolving Loan Fund led by Ravalli County Economic Development Authority
- Develop business-focused classes and workshops with Ravalli County Economic Development Authority
- Work with "Roots to Rise" (a committee comprised of U of M-Bitterroot College, Hamilton School District, Bitterroot Early Learning Network, RCCOA) to development a career exploration program designed to create a strong connection between our entry-level workforce to local employers

WEB PRESENCE/SOCIAL MEDIA

- Revamp the Chamber website to get a clearer picture of the Chamber's story
- Finish the development of the Nonprofit/Volunteer website to connect nonprofits with volunteer positions
- Create a consistent structure for social media and content
- Revamp VisitBitterrootValley.com

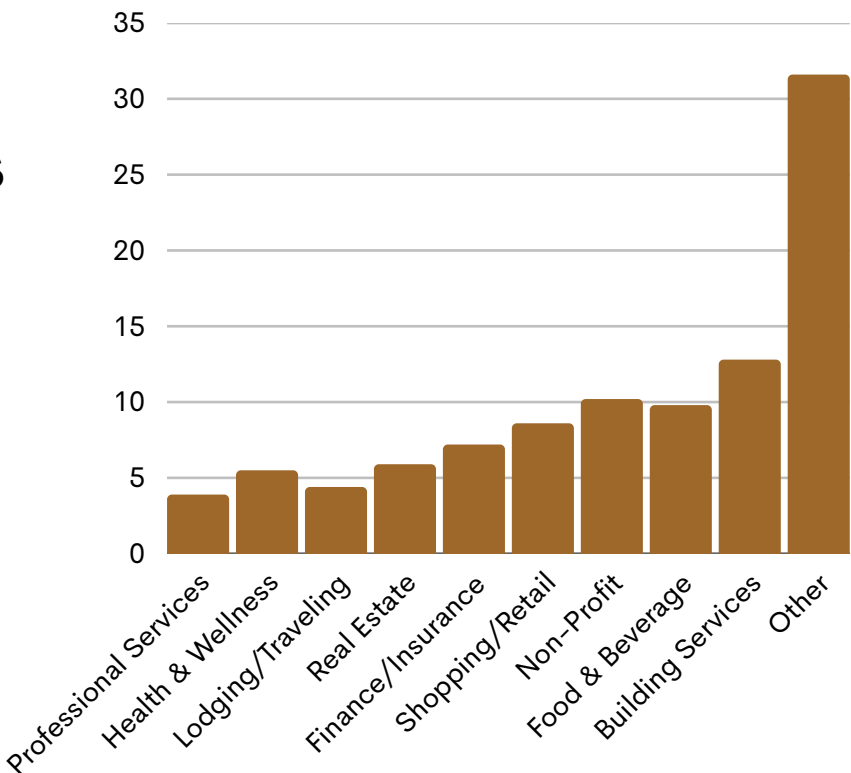


MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP **496** 2025 NEW MEMBERS **68** 2026 NEW MEMBERS **23**

01.

TOP 10 INDUSTRIES by %



02.

MEMBERS BY LOCATION

