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## Chamber readies its own stimulus plan

By [Bethany Fuller](#) | Statesville R&L

Its plan isn't worth billions, but the Greater Statesville Chamber of Commerce is working on its own economic stimulus.

The 12-pronged plan aims to re-introduce the community to the benefits of the chamber, President and CEO David Bradley said.

Bradley credits chamber accounting manager Brian Weiss for preparing the initiative, which offers networking, business tips and discounts to chamber members.

"Virtually every one of these is to help people," Bradley said. "We want to give them the opportunity to make their business as effective as possible."

One of the steps the chamber intends to take is a campaign to encourage local spending. Bradley said the chamber plans to market the reasons why people should use local vendors.

"We will be more of a common-sense approach to shopping locally," Bradley said.

One of the chamber's goals in the coming months is to point out what is going right in Statesville.

Several networking opportunities, such as the Chamber Member Breakfast Club, Business After Hours, Statesville Professional Networking Women, Lunch and Learns and the Young Professionals of Statesville, are already available.

Weiss said he has seen several newcomers attend the chamber's networking events recently.

Chamber staff members are meeting several long-time business owners who haven't attended the networking events until recently.

"We are trying to discount as much as possible to help people network more," Weiss said.

For example, one of the markdowns for chamber members is a 50 percent discount on the cost of placing a brochure in the Discover Statesville relocation packet. Also, more than 40 area businesses are participating in the new member-to-member discount program.

In addition to its own programs, the chamber is promoting Toastmasters International and some of the Greater Statesville Development Corp.'s programs, such as the free technomarketing workshops and the Committee of 100.

Toastmasters, which will meet for the first time Friday, is designed to help people become more competent and comfortable speaking in front of an audience. The meeting from 11:45-12:45 at the chamber offices at 115 East Front St. Call the chamber at (704) 873-2892 to register.