



“I started out in the newspaper business right out of college. What was supposed to be a temporary job ended up being my career for 38 years or so.

When I decided to semi-retire, there were a group of individuals who asked me to come and be a part of the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce.

We were living in North Carolina at the time and there was something about Florence that always brought us back. So the opportunity to move back to Florence was one that was attractive, and I was very familiar with the Chamber because I served as the Chairman and on the board for a numbers of years when I was here before.

It just seemed like the right time, the right fit. And I jumped at it.

I've been in this role for seven years now and every day is something different. The Chamber of Commerce really is representative of the entire community so when people want to relocate, the first place they go is to the Chamber for what's available and what living in the area is like.

We also work to keep the business community together as a network and keep them tuned in to opportunities of growth. We're a very informative group and we try to communicate with everybody, members and non-members.

I also get to work with the very talented people at the Chamber and the businesses and partnerships we have formed. Overall, everybody seems to be working towards making this a better community to live and work in.

When I first moved back here, I was watching the city try to reverse the negativity that people had about their own community.

I knew that Florence was a great place to live and to raise a family, but I was always amazed at the number of people that were from here that didn't believe that to be true.

Sure, there are some great things going on in much larger communities, but for the size of our community, the amenities we have are absolutely incredible. The businesses, the arts, the variety of entertainment venues, the affordability, the quality of life.

There's a lot to be proud of in this area.”

- Mike Miller, President of the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce