

August Newsletter



Dear Chamber Members, Friends, and Community Partners,

Summer may be winding down, but the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce is just heating up! As your Board Chair, I'm thrilled to share exciting updates, upcoming events, and a few proud moments that reflect the heart of our ever-evolving community.

First—mark your calendars and set your DVRs! (Do we still do that?) **On Sunday, August 11th**, we'll be featured on *Your California Life* on ABC10, sharing all things Chamber—from our mission and milestones to the incredible events and all the wonderful things that make us shine.

While you're soaking up the good vibes this month, don't miss our events calendar—it's brimming with opportunities to connect and celebrate. Kick things off with sparkle at **Drag Queen Bingo**, held every first Thursday at Mango's, where glamour meets game night in a truly unforgettable setting. Keep the energy flowing with our popular **Third Tuesday Mixers** and dynamic **Lunch & Learn** sessions that spark insight and lively conversation. Whether you're looking to grow your network, sharpen your skills, or simply share space with some phenomenal humans, we've got a seat saved just for you.

And of course, we're already counting down to our signature event: ***Boas & Bow Ties Gala*** in October. Sponsorships and tickets are moving fast, and trust me—you don't want to miss this unforgettable evening supporting our Foundation's scholarship programs.

What I love most about this Chamber is that it's not just about business—it's about belonging. It's about lifting each other up, creating safe spaces to thrive, and building a future where inclusion is more than a buzzword—it's the standard. Thank you for being part of this movement with us. Whether you're a longtime member or newly joined, you are a vital part of our story—and we're just getting started.

With pride and purpose,

Sara Hanson

P.S. There's still time to apply! Student

scholarship applications are open until August 15th. Please help us spread the word and encourage eligible students to submit. These scholarships are a cornerstone of our commitment to education, equity, and opportunity.



Mark your calendars..



B-I-N-G-O never looked so fabulous! Join us for Drag Queen Bingo on Thursday, August 7, and every **first Thursday** of the month at Mango's!

Each month features a new beneficiary, so every laugh, every game, and every prize supports a different amazing Non-Profit in our community. ☐

This month's beneficiary is **YOLO Healthy Aging Alliance**. Learn more about them [HERE](#).

NETWORKING MIXER

Free for members
\$10 for Non-Members



August 19, 2025
6:00 - 7:30 PM

Hosted Drinks & Appetizers
FREE Parking

2528 Yorktown Ave., Suite C,
Sacramento, California 95821

RSVP online
RainbowChamber.com



It's that time again! Join us for our Monthly Networking Mixer on **Tuesday, August 19** — where connections are made, businesses grow, and community thrives.

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber hosts these mixers **every third Tuesday** of the month, with a new location each time to highlight our partners.

See you there!

**REGISTER TODAY BY CLICKING
[HERE](#)**

Join the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce and Capital Valley Marketing, for a virtual Lunch & Learn session focused on using AI tools to streamline your communication. Learn how to set up smart systems that can respond to messages, emails, and even phone calls—so your business stays responsive 24/7.

**Get Registered TODAY BY
CLICKING HERE**



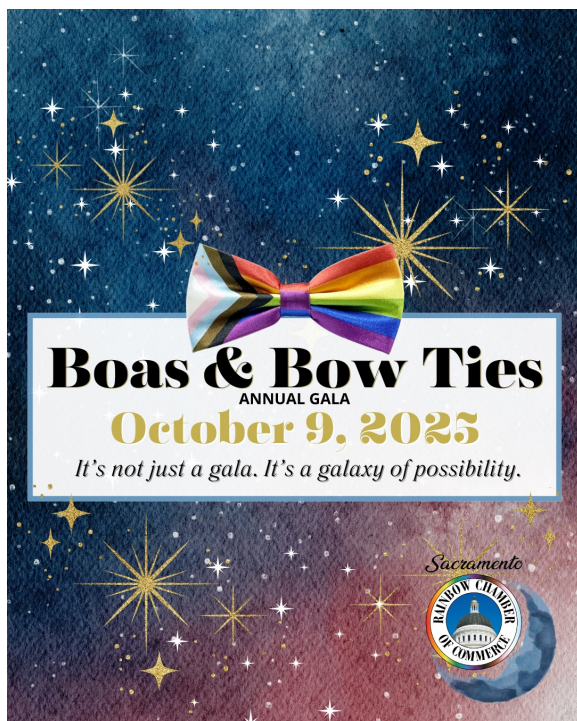
LUNCH & LEARN
With Celia Surridge
capital valley marketing
EST. 2024
SPONSORED BY: PC&E

**ANSWER EVERY CALL & MESSAGE—WITHOUT
HIRING A RECEPTIONIST**

WORKSHOP DETAILS DESCRIPTION:
What if your business could respond instantly, 24/7, without missing a beat—or a lead? This presentation breaks down how to use AI chatbots, text responders, and voice assistants to improve customer service, automate follow-up, and make sure your business never ghosts a client again. Bonus: We'll show you how to make it feel warm, friendly, and on-brand.

Register Here:
 **August 20**
11:00am - 12:00 PM

HELD ON ZOOM- WILL GET EMAIL WITH LINK UPON REGISTRATION
WWW.RAINBOWCHAMBER.COM



The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce invites you to our Annual Boas & Bow Ties Gala - happening Thursday, October 9, 2025, at the Hilton Arden West.

This year's theme, **Aurora Borealis**, will light up the night with vibrant energy, captivating entertainment, and community magic.

Let's Celebrate our Scholarship recipients together.

Sponsorship & Tickets are LIVE
[Click HERE to learn more](#)

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the return of our **Business & Community Excellence Awards and Expo** on March 12, 2026.

This event celebrates the outstanding individuals, businesses, and organizations making a lasting impact in our region. From LGBTQ+ trailblazers to ally advocates, it's a moment to shine a spotlight on excellence in leadership, innovation, and community service.

Nominations open October 1, 2025!

Plus! Our Business Expo will showcase LGBTQ+ and allied businesses from across the region. Don't miss this chance to connect, network, and grow.

More details coming soon, get ready to nominate, celebrate, and elevate!



Don't Forget...

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber Foundation's Scholarship opportunities are still open and ready for you to Apply.

Contact Scholarships@rainbowChamber.com if you have any questions.

Rainbow Chamber Foundation Scholarship
For more info & Application - [Click HERE](#)

Palmer Family Healthcare
For more info & Application - [Click HERE](#)

Residents & Fellows Debt Relief Award
For more info & Application - [Click HERE](#)



Drag Queen Bingo has raised more than **\$400,000** for local non-profit organizations since its inception in August 2009.

Will your organization be next?

APPLY TODAY

If you have any questions you can email us:



From our Chamber partners

Small Business Certification Workshop

In collaboration with the
Department of General
Services



Monday, August 11 | 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 pm

SMUD Headquarters | Arden Room | 6201 S Street, Sacramento

- Get your small business certification on-the-spot!
- Register in our contracting portal
- Learn how to qualify for our Supplier Education and Economic Development (SEED) program
- Gain valuable information about the benefits of certification
- Network with other local businesses

Participants must bring physical or digital copies of the following to receive certification, either on USB or device.

- Laptop (tablets and cellphones are usually too small for the process)
- Internal Revenue Service letter issuing Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- Federal tax returns for the last 3 years or for the period of time your business has been operational if less than 3 years.
- Personal federal tax returns for the last 3 years if your business is a sole proprietorship.
- California Employment Development Department Forms DE-9C records for the 4 most recent quarters
- Licenses (if applicable), such as business license, CSLB, resellers permit, etc.
- Legal entity documents
 - Sole proprietorship/partnership
 - Fictitious business name statement
 - Partnership agreement (if applicable)
- LLC
 - Articles of Organization
 - Statement of Information
 - Operating Agreement
- Corporation
 - Articles of Incorporation
 - Statement of Information
 - Corporate Bylaws and Amendments
 - Most recent copy of corporate meeting minutes showing election of officers

(In some cases, additional documentation may be required to complete certification.)



Visit smud.org/Workshops
or scan QR code to register.



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Join SMUD on August 11th as we invite the Department of General Services (DGS) to our office to offer hands-on small business certification support.

Certification with the DGS as a small business may also qualify you to receive contracting incentives toward SMUD contracts as a **SMUD SEED vendor!**

Participants can expect to receive their small business certification and SEED enrollment with successful participation of the workshop.

When: August 11th

Where: SMUD HQ 6201 S, Street Sacramento 95817

Time: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Take advantage of this opportunity to gain your small business certificate and SEED enrollment

on the spot.

Please note, a laptop and documents are required for this workshop. iPad and cellphones are not sufficient enough to support the full application process.

To register, [click here](#) or scan the QR code in the flyer above.

Save the Date

Outword is Celebrating 30 years of LGBTQ+ storytelling, advocacy, and community with Outword Magazine's 30th Anniversary Party, **and you're invited!**



Welcome New Members

- Kathy Toschi, Edward Jones Investments
 - WellSpace Health
 - SacGeeks
-

August Member Highlight



"Tell us who YOU are and what is your business—how did it start, and what makes it unique?"

My name is Abigail Little, aka Abby, and I'm the owner of **Happy Home Pest Prevention**. I got started in the pest control industry 16 years ago as an escape from furniture sales. For decades, I denied being my true self, for fear of what my coworkers or customers might say or do, along with my self doubt and insecurities. Two years ago, I finally decided to start my journey of transition and build something where I could feel safe and supported. On September 15, 2024, I launched Happy Home Pest Prevention!

My mission is to provide a safe and friendly service for the LGBTQIA2S+ community and someday have the opportunity to hire and provide a working environment for others. In this male-dominated industry, my company isn't the first women or queer-owned pest control company, but to my knowledge, Happy Home Pest Prevention is the only trans-women-owned pest control company in the United States!

"What has been your proudest moment or biggest accomplishment in your business so far?"

In less than one year of being in business, I went from getting a business loan to having a full schedule of customers! Joining the Rainbow Chamber has made the biggest impact on my growth, with their networking and public-facing opportunities, as well as boosting my confidence.

"What challenges have you faced as a business owner, and how have you navigated them?"

Finding the resources to start up a business from scratch was challenging. Not knowing what and where I needed to go to start the company, how to do things in each city and county, and waiting on licensing were the biggest obstacles. Finding ways to get exposure for the business became the hardest hurdle when winter came, and networking has helped while I build my business to the point of being able to do more advertising.

"What's something exciting coming up for your business that we should keep an eye out for?"

Looking ahead, I will have a vendor booth at the River District's Coming Out Day on October 11 this year, where I will have special discounts on pest service! This is a public event at Township Park in Sacramento.

In 2026, I plan to launch a termite monitoring and prevention system for customers and to hire my first employee!

"What made you decide to join the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber, and how has it supported your business?"

I joined the Rainbow Chamber on the advice of a friend who was a member. I was looking for exposure for my company and for help from other business owners, and it has been beneficial for me personally and professionally. I have helped with their booth at Pride and plan to join a committee to contribute to an excellent organization.



If you would like to be featured as "Member of the Month" contact Julie Ebe at Julie.Ebe@RainbowChamber.com



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