

Columbia Bridal Associates

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Columbia Bridal Associates (CBA) was founded in 1996 by a small group of businesses in the Columbia area that provide wedding related products and services. CBA was incorporated as a non-profit trade association in 1997. Membership in CBA is limited to those established businesses that can demonstrate that they provide the highest quality and value to their customers. Membership may be revoked should a member fail to maintain appropriate business and ethical standards.

The Application Process: Upon receipt, a completed application is presented to the general membership at the next regular meeting for a thirty (30) day comment period. A final vote is cast at the next regular meeting following the comment period. The application process may take up to 90 days. The Board of Directors reserves the right to reject an application without presentation to the membership if the applicant does not meet the basic requirements of membership. In order to meet the basic membership requirements, your business must have had a Columbia business license for the period of one (1) year, be located within a 50 mile radius of Columbia, and have a current CBA member as sponsor. In addition, there are only seven (7) members in each service category accepted. For additional information, contact Richenda Batson, Membership Coordinator, at (803) 933-9580 or applausecatering@gmail.com

Meetings: Members are encouraged to attend meetings as well as participate in the CBA-sponsored bridal shows and other special events. Membership meetings are generally held on the second Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 pm. The meetings are held at member businesses that have space and are interested in hosting. The host provides snacks and beverages. Hosting a meeting is a great way to introduce your business to other CBA members. Meetings are a great networking opportunity. To host a meeting, contact Michael or Angela Koska, Executive Directors at (803) 865-9497 or mail@michaelkoska.com.

Dues: New members are charged a one-time application fee of \$100.00. Annual dues (January-December) are \$500.00. First year dues are prorated from the month following membership approval to the end of the calendar year. In addition, members are required to purchase an ad in the CBA Bridal Guide. Contact Angela Koska, Executive Director, with any financial questions at (803) 865-9497 or mail@michaelkoska.com.

Leads: Members are encouraged to provide leads as frequently as possible, understanding that the nature of the business may allow some members to produce more than others. These leads should be brought to the meetings or sent directly to Trevett's Mailing Service for addition to the CBA bridal database. Members in good standing have access to the list. For more information, contact Lynn Trevett at (803) 781-3150 or mail@trevetts.com. Members are also asked to refer business to other CBA members as often as possible.

Bridal Shows: CBA sponsors two bridal shows per year. Participation in these shows is limited to CBA members in good standing. Michael & Angela Koska are the Bridal Show Coordinators and can be reached at (803) 865-9497 or mail@michaelkoska.com. In addition, CBA sponsors a booth at all area bridal shows to distribute CBA Bridal Guides, collect leads, and further promote member businesses.

Web Site: CBA has a fantastic web site (www.columbiabride.com) that consistently ranks among the most popular wedding-related sites in the Midlands. Membership includes a business listing and a hotlink to your website. For more information, contact web liaison Holly Boozer at (803) 230-2000 or holly@hospitalityamerica.com

Bridal Guide: CBA publishes an annual membership directory/bridal magazine in September that is distributed at all member businesses and bridal shows throughout the Midlands. Copies are mailed to all brides on the lead list. This publication (10,000+ annual circulation) is an excellent marketing tool and also serves as a helpful guide for all newly engaged brides. All members are required to purchase an ad in the bridal magazine. Contact Walter Caudle, Bridal Guide Coordinator, at (803) 730-8815 or wfcaudle@aol.com for information on content, ad pricing, and production deadlines. To request bulk copies of the current Bridal Guide, contact Lynn Trevett, Trevett's Mail Service, at (803) 781-3150 or mail@trevetts.com.

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