



CHAMBER NEWS

A publication of the Waconia Chamber of Commerce

January, 2014

Many thanks to these businesses who have already made their membership commitment for 2014 as of 1/2/14!

9 Round Waconia	Edward Jones Investments	MidCountry Bank	Salon Trende
A-1 Electric Service	Elite Waste Disposal	Midwest Dental	Security Bank Waconia
American Thom Agency	Everson's Hardware Hank, Inc	Midwest Vintage Snowmobile Show	St Joseph Church & School
AmericInn of Waconia	HEI Collision Center	Milltronics Manufacturing Co	Statewide Gas Services, Inc.
Ameriprise Financial	Hopper's Bar & Grill	Mocha Monkey	The Jeff Schulz Team
At the Farm	Interlaken Place	Mount Olivet Rolling Acres	Town & Country Glass
Carver County Fair	Island View Golf Club	MRCI WorkSource-Chaska	Transport Security
Casualty Assurance of Chaska	James J Maiser CPA	Neubauer Chiropractic Health Center	Travel Easy
City of Waconia	KleinBank	Oakwood Community Church	Waconia Deputy Registrar
CenturyLink	Koch Bus Service, Inc	Pemtom Land Company	Waconia Dodge Chrysler Jeep
Creature Works Labs	Laketown Electric Corporation	Peterson Company Ltd	Waconia Ford
Crown College	Laketown Gym	Precision Eye Care	Waconia Inn & Suites
Dave Philp-Coldwell Banker Burnett	Langemo Law, PA	Ridgeview Foundation	Waconia Public Library
DMA Dentistry-Dungey, Menser & Assoc.	Legacy Wine & Spirits	Ridgeview Medical Center	Waconia Theatre
Dojo Karate	Lindemeier Heating & Cooling	Ridgeview Rehab Specialities-Waconia	Weinzierl Jewelry
Double "A" Trucking	Locher Bros.	Rising Star Dance Academy	Westview Acres/Good Samaritan Soc.
Drazan, Henke & Associates, PLLC	Melchert Hubert Sjodin, PLLP	Safari Island Community Center	Willems Cabinetry & Woodworking

If you haven't yet paid your tax deductible, membership investment for 2014 you have until January 31st to save \$35 and make sure your business is listed in our 2014 Membership Directory! We appreciate referrals too! Please see Kellie's article on page 2 for some reasons why businesses join the Waconia Chamber of Commerce...

Welcome New Members:

The Natural Family Center

**Sara Gustafson*

210 W 1st Street
Waconia, MN 55387
952-442-3234
thenaturalfamilycoach@gmail.com
www.thenaturalfamilycenter.com

Education, Health & Wellness

West Side Carpet & Upholstry Cleaning

**Mark Karsten*

Serving the West Metro Area
Of the Twin Cities
952-220-3069
mark@westsidecarpetcleaningmn.com
www.westsidecarpetcleaningmn.com

Carpet Cleaning Services

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES
STILL AVAILABLE on the

Planning Commission, Parks Board, and Commission on Aging

This is a great opportunity for Waconia Business owners who are residents to make an impact.

www.waconia.org Click on Recruiting Members for info!



Picture Yourself in Cuba 2014

Travel to Cuba with Chamber Explorations & Travel Easy this fall!

Inside this issue:

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Why join the Chamber....

By Kellie Sites, President

Photo by Taylor Hubbard



What do you say when someone asks you why you belong to the Waconia Chamber?

Here's what I say when someone asks me why they should join:

First thing? I ask this question:

1. What is it that matters to your business?

Less expensive advertising and media exposure? *We offer cooperative advertising opportunities as well as ribbon cuttings, Ambassador visits and more!*

Help with finding employees? *Your membership includes free job posting on our website*

Establish your reputation in Waconia? *Having the Waconia Chamber Logo on your door is the best thing you could do to show your involvement and dedication to this community as a first impression.*

Gain access to business owners? *With over 240 members, we work with every business sector in the area and strive to build relationships that will help you.*

Meet a variety of business people? *We provide opportunities for you to network and find new customers and suppliers... people do business with people they know.*

Work through red tape? *We have connections with local, state and federal governmental agencies and strive to find solutions that help you.*

Someone to refer your business? *We do that! Chamber staff refers chamber member businesses on a daily basis as we field phone calls, email, walk ins, requests for relocation packets... we are an extension of your staff!*

Want to be listed on our brochure—which we distribute 5,000 of? *Be a member!*

Want to be a sponsor at Chamber events to get your name in front of the business community? *Think about all the opportunities with the Chamber! EXPO, Golf Tournament, Nickle Dickle Day, Scarecrow Tour and more!*

Want to support the Waconia Area's Premier Business Membership Organization?

There are as many reasons to be a member of the chamber as there are members... shoot me an email if you'd like to share why you are a member! ksites@destinationwaconia.org Please also let me know if you have any questions about your membership ~

Please plan to join us for the annual Meeting on January 23rd as we review 2013 on the big screen, elect our new Directors and get a City of Waconia update from Mayor Nash. Meanwhile, think about how fun it would be to go to Cuba in the fall! Stay tuned for more details!



Why the change in economic development strategy?

By David Olson, President, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

MINNESOTA
CHAMBER of
COMMERCE

The good news keeps coming on Minnesota's economic front. Unemployment is dropping. The December forecast for the state budget shows a projected \$1.08 billion surplus for the two-year cycle that began July 1.

That makes our work at the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and our local partners easier, right? Findings from Grow Minnesota!, our distinctive private-sector economic development program, might say otherwise.

Conversations with business owners and managers early in the year showed Minnesota continuing its recovery from the 2008 recession. But key indicators trailed off as the year ended, leaving a wait-and-see approach as we turn the calendar. The change in attitude parallels the findings from the Minnesota Chamber's annual Minnesota Business Barometer Survey conducted midsummer – the same time that our state's job-creators were facing the reality of some dramatic changes in public policy at the Capitol.

Elected officials from both sides of the political aisle can take credit for the state's flush pocketbook today. We're likely seeing the fruits of actions beginning with Gov. Tim Pawlenty's administration in 2008 when he worked with a DFL legislative majority. Witness a recent report that showed spending on medical care in Minnesota has slowed considerably, due in part to Chamber-led bipartisan health care reforms enacted in 2008. Progress on other business priorities – principally K-12 reform and the streamlining of environmental review and permitting – was also made during Gov. Mark Dayton's first two years.

Enter 2013, and key policy decisions affecting the development and growth of our economy took a 180-degree turn. The Legislature imposed \$2.3 billion in taxes which fell disproportionately on businesses. Financial investments in education were overshadowed by several K-12 reforms that stalled, and others that were unwound – all to the detriment of strengthening Minnesota's workforce. The rocky implementation of MNsure, the state's health care exchange, is raising a host of concerns about cost and coverage among small and mid-sized businesses.

The governor and legislative leaders tout an expanded toolkit of economic incentives for businesses enacted in 2013. Many of those, however, were targeted and benefited a very tiny slice of the state's 100,000-plus businesses.

Policy-makers should ask themselves, and then reach consensus: Do we have more ammunition to sell Minnesota if we focus on the overall business climate or if we offer a variety of incentives aimed at specific companies and/or industries?

To answer this question, our elected officials should, first and foremost, seek out and listen to our state's job-creators. They aren't shy about saying what's needed for their businesses to change and grow in Minnesota.

David Olson is president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce – www.mnchamber.com.

Ambassador Visits

freshwater
WACONIA



Pastor Steve accepting their first dollar of clear non-profit from the Ambassadors! Welcome to Waconia and the Chamber!

Freshwater Community Church

138 West 1st Street Waconia

Pastor Steve Erickson 952-446-9090

Steve@FreshwaterChurch.org

www.FreshwaterChurch.org

As part of the Evangelical Christian Alliance, Freshwater Church is excited to be in the heart of Waconia. They welcome everyone to come and check out a service. You can enjoy the service in the large foyer area next to their full service coffee bar or seated in the main hall! Their building has state of the art technology which allows them to do so many things. Their doors are open to everyone!

West Metro Shuttle

Josh Guetzkow Owner/Operator

Phone: 952-843-8558

westmetroshuttle@gmail.com

www.westmetroshuttle.com

Airport Shuttle! Josh is glad to be serving the west metro area and would appreciate your business. Check out the website for zones and pricing. He can accommodate 4 people and luggage. A 24 hour notice is preferable, by text/cell or website booking reservations. Spread the good news!



Josh with his wife Lyndsay and daughter Autumn accept their First dollar of clear profit from the Ambassadors. Welcome to the Chamber!

Waconia VFW Post 5462

125 West 1st Street

Art Bollmann Manager

Phone: 952-442-4820

The Waconia VFW Post 5462 is your go to place for fun! They have a great space in the basement for you to use for your next gathering. You can use their kitchen and bring in your own food. If you are hungry for steak—they have steak frys! If you like a good meat raffle, they have one every Friday night! If you like bands, they have that too... as well as a free juke box! And don't forget BINGO; every Saturday you can test your skills.

The Waconia VFW is very active in giving back to the community. Welcome to the Chamber!



Art Bollmann with the 2014 Ambassadors! Front row: Wendy Petersen-Biorn, Darla Holmgren, Joyce Willems, Back row: Jenny Hissam, Jeff Schulz, Amanda Planting, Cathy Nielsen, Terri Dammann and Gerry Kirby (not pictured Blake Pool, Laura Cowley, Kody TeSlaa)

Member News & Happenings

Free Admission to the Arboretum in January

Start off the New Year with a visit to the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, a place for inspiration in all seasons.

As an added incentive, the Arboretum is offering free gate admission to all visitors during the entire month of January 2014! (This is a \$12 value per person) Get in – or out of – the cold this winter at the Arboretum. Stay warm and enjoy a 25' tall tree covered with orchids in the Visitor Center Great Hall, sip hot chocolate or try a warm bowl of soup in the Arboretum Restaurant and check out the expanded clearance area in the Gift Store and save 40% on select items. For outdoors enthusiasts, the Arboretum boasts 16 miles of snowshoe or cross-country ski trails.



University of MN Arboretum-3675 Arboretum Drive, Chanhassen, MN www.arboretum.umn.edu

Carver County Offers FREE Radon Test Kits to Are a Homeowners in January

Carver County will offer radon test kits at no charge to homeowners in Carver County during January which is "Radon Action Month". The MN Department of Health recommends all homes be tested for radon. Radon is colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that occurs naturally in MN soils and enters through cracks and openings in basements or foundations. Radon is the second leading cause of cause lung cancer and more than 21,000 deaths are attributed to radon each year. Visit the Carver County Environmental Center (116 Peavey Circle, Chaska, MN) Hours: Wednesdays: Noon-7pm, Thursdays: 11:00am-5:00pm and Saturdays: 8:00am-Noon. The facility is closed all other times. Questions: 952-361-1800 or visit recyclecarver.org



Memorial Blood Center Blood Drive at American Legion Post 150- Wednesday, January 15 Noon-7:00pm

January is National Blood Donor Month For an appointment, call Beth at 952-913-6624 or memorialbloodwaconia@gmail.com. Walk-ins are welcome. Memorial Blood Center is the official blood provider of Ridgeview Medical Center. Consider making donating blood your New Year's Resolution in 2014!

American Legion Post 150-233 South Olive Street, Waconia



13th Annual Rotary Wine Dinner Saturday, January 18, 2014 @ Island View Dining

5pm-Social Hour & Silent Auction

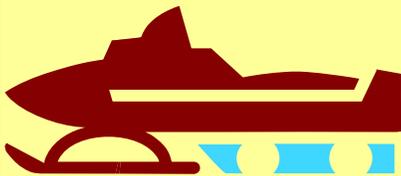
6pm-Dinner followed by Live Auction

Enjoy a delectable five course meal, prepared by top area chefs with each course paired perfectly with a fine wine. Proceeds support local Rotary service projects as well as world-wide outreach programs.

Tickets: \$85/person (\$50 Tax Deductable) Reservations required. Pre-payment encouraged. RSVP-Chuck Dueber 612.281.0093 or dueberscd@embarqmail.com or Doug Morey 952.835.7445 or dmorey@mtifinancial.com



23rd Annual Midwest Antique & Vintage Snowmobile Show-January 24-26



Lake Waconia - Lake Waconia Event Center

This year *Ride In*-featured sled: Yamaha & Yamaha Powered Sleds. Come see the world's largest vintage & antique snowmobile show. Check out races, demonstrations and so much more. On the southeast shores of Lake Waconia.

For more info, see www.mwvss.com

Chamber Annual Meeting

Thursday, January 23, 2014

11:30AM registration/networking

Noon-1:00PM program



Location: Muller Family Theatre-Waconia

Address: 101 West 1st Street

RSVP by January 17th

- ◆ *“The Year in Review” on the big screen*
- ◆ *State of the Chamber from President Kellie Sites*
- ◆ *Installation of the 2014 Board of Directors*
 - ◆ *City of Waconia Mayor Jim Nash*
 - ◆ *Delicious healthy lunch from Subway*
- ◆ *You do not want to miss this! Bring a potential member...*

\$25 per person RSVP Required!

**Please RSVP by Friday, January 17 17952-442-5812 or
online www.DestinationWaconia.org**



Chamber Calendar-January 2014

- 2 Coffee Connection at HomeTown Bank (641 Marketplace Drive) 7:30-9:00AM
Tourism Committee Meeting-HomeTown Bank 9:15AM
- 8 Chamber Board Meeting-Maple Conference Room, City Hall 11:45am-1:00pm
- 12 Retail Marketing Planning Meeting- AmericInn Conference Room 6:30PM potluck
- 16 Ambassador Meeting Ribbon Cuttings! Chamber Office Time 8:45 am
- 23 Chamber Annual Meeting at Waconia Theatre 11:45-1:00 **RSVP to Chamber by Friday, 1/17/14**