

May 2020

www.winonachamber.com | (507) 452-2272 | 902 E. Second St., Suite 120, Winona, MN



Port Authority Loan Fund

Christie Ransom,
President & CEO

We hear from businesses daily who are looking for ways to stay afloat. There have been so many different opportunities over these past weeks and yet it has not been enough. With government loans depleting in a blink and limitations on the types of businesses that qualify, we are excited that the Port Authority of Winona stepped up to help!

The Port Authority of Winona, along with WNB Financial and Merchants Bank, have put together an Emergency Loan Fund to provide financial assistance to small local businesses that have been directly affected by the Governor's Orders during the COVID-19 Pandemic. While many of the government funds have been forgivable, the portions that are not will incur some amount of interest. The Port Authority of Winona wanted to ensure that these funds will be interest free for individuals that qualify.

This is an amazing opportunity and we are so proud of how our community has stepped up to help those in need.

While there are some terms and requirements, the funds are an amazing way to get the means necessary to keep our area businesses intact. Because they want no one to be turned away, they have partnered with us at the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce and our Chamber of Commerce Foundation to offer an opportunity for the funds to grow through philanthropic giving. Funds donated to the Chamber Foundation are tax deductible. We know that this community is filled with people ready and willing to help where needed. This is one way to do just that! If you would like to support this emergency loan fund and help more businesses have an opportunity to receive assistance, reach out to Kay Mathews at the Chamber 452-2272 or Lucy McMartin at the City of Winona 457-8250.

We are proud to continue to serve the business community and we will work diligently, alongside all of you, to make sure that we all come through this stronger!

About the Chamber

Our Vision:

To be the premier business advocate in Southeastern Minnesota.

Our Mission:

To provide value to our members through business advocacy, training, economic development and the support of tourism.

Officers:

Dave Jensen - Chair
Michael Charron - Chair Elect
Corey Hancock - Past Chair
Jolene Vaselaar - Treasurer
Scott Rodeghier - At Large

Retiring 2020:

Dave Erickson
Corey Hancock
Scott Rodeghier
Dan Welsh
Terry Klonecki

Retiring 2021:

Ben Adank
Joanne Thompson
Dave Jensen
Rebecca Lamberty
Jolene Vaselaar

Retiring 2022:

Michael Charron
Danny Rivers
Kyle Rupprecht
Randy Skarlupka
Ellen Smith

Staff:

Christie Ransom – President & CEO

Kay Mathews – Vice President of Finance and Operations

Amanda Steine – Membership Development and Programs Manager

Ben Strand – Main Street Program Manager

Nicole Schossow – B.E.N./REACH Program Manager

CHAMBER CHAMPIONS

- VISIONARY -



- PREMIER -



- EXECUTIVE -



REACH scholarships awarded

Nicole Schossow,
B.E.N./REACH Program Manager

The Winona Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that two REACH students have been awarded the REACH scholarship. Thanks to the generous support of Chamber businesses, seniors in the REACH program are offered the opportunity to apply for a scholarship for higher education. In order to be eligible, a student needs to continue in their REACH field of study at Minnesota State College Southeast, Saint Mary's University, or

Winona State University. This year, the scholarships have been awarded to Nathan Campbell and Nathan Wooden.

Both Nathan Campbell and Nathan Wooden have been involved in the health and human services cohort of REACH at Winona Senior High School. During their junior year, both were able to participate in immersions at St. Anne of Winona, Winona Area Ambulance Service, and St. Anne Training Center. In addition, Nathan Campbell went to Sauer Health Care while Nathan Wooden visited Sugarloaf Senior Living. Both have taken nutrition, medical terminology, anatomy and physiology I & II, and general organic biochemistry for college credit at Winona Senior High School.

Nathan Campbell will begin his pursuit of a social work career at Minnesota State College Southeast. Nathan Wooden will pursue nursing at Winona State University. The Winona Area Chamber of Commerce and its business partners would like to congratulate both Nathan Campbell and Nathan Wooden.



Nathan Wooden and Nathan Campbell



Main Street News May 2020

Ben Strand, Main Street
Program Manager

The Winona Main Street Program, in partnership with RETHOS: Places Reimagined, is proud to announce the five recipients of the Main Street Support Fund: Jovy Rockey Jewelry – Studio + Gallery, Yarnology, Pelaez Creative, Mulligan's Pub, and Nelson Travel Agency.

This support fund was created to "assist local businesses to operate through or reopen quickly following the COVID-19 pandemic."

You can stay up-to-date on all things Main Street by visiting our website at winonamainstreet.com or our Facebook page Winona Main Street Program, or emailing Ben Strand at bstrand@winonachamber.com



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JOIN THE CHAMBER!

May 2020



Biz Bites



Stephen Swenson has joined **Merchants Bank** as Senior Vice President/Chief Information Officer (CIO), according to Greg Evans, President & Chief Executive Officer. Swenson will replace current CIO, Rodney Nelsestuen, who will be retiring in May. "The expertise Stephen brings to Merchants as a technology thought leader will be a benefit to all of our stakeholders. The specific experience he has had in the ces industry will help ensure our digital banking services evolve with customer needs ons while also maintaining our disciplined focus on information security and customer Evans.



Merchants Bank Experienced Senior Lender/Commercial Banker, **Steve Christopherson** has been named Commercial Banking Manager in Winona and Senior Lending Officer for the Winona Region, according to Andrew Guzzo, Winona and Southern Region President. Christopherson will replace current Commercial Banking Manager/Senior Lending Officer, Randy Domeyer, who will be retired in April.

"We are thrilled to have Steve join our team to provide leadership for our Commercial Banking area and continue the personalized advisor approach we take in caring for our valued business clients," said Guzzo.



Leighton Broadcasting is pleased to announce **Jim Allgeier** as General Manager for Leighton Broadcasting, Winona. Allgeier will manage the community-focused, five-radio station cluster. He will be responsible for the administrative, technical, program, and sales aspects of the Winona market. Stephanie Theisen, VP of Sales and Marketing for Leighton Broadcasting said, "Jim is an accomplished media expert in radio and beyond. The addition of a radio veteran, like Allgeier, with over 19 years in the business will provide the direction and leadership we have been seeking for the market."



WNB Financial is pleased to announce the promotion of **David Vaselaar** to President and Chief Operating Officer. The promotion was made at a recent meeting of the Bank's Board of Directors. In his new role, Vaselaar will assume the responsibility of managing and directing the day-to-day leadership of the Bank and its various business lines. "Dave has been working toward this position for a number of years and

is uniquely qualified and blessed with the technical skills, experience, and leadership qualities that will ensure future success," said Jack Richter, Chief Executive Officer of WNB Financial. "I'm confident that under Dave's leadership, the Bank will continue to experience strong growth and continue to contribute to the success of our clients, coworkers, and the communities we serve." Richter will continue in his role as the Bank's Chief Executive Officer and also President of WNB Holding Company, parent company of WNB Financial. Richter's role will focus on the growth of the Holding Company, the Bank's culture, capital planning, shareholder communications, and community relationships.

CareerForce is pleased to announce the addition of two new staff members to the Winona office.



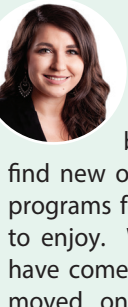
Autumn Herber was hired as a Workforce Development Specialist. She will be leading the WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker and State Dislocated Worker Programs for Winona County and providing career counseling services. Herber brings with her over 7 years of experience in the staffing industry working with the Winona community, as well as experience in volunteer management, fundraising, customer engagement, and business relations. She is a graduate of Winona State University with a B.A. in Mass Communications. She has been an active volunteer and proud resident of Winona for 10 years. Herber and her husband have two children and stay busy with their sports and



Kristin Jostad has been hired as a Workforce Development Representative. She will join the MFIP/DWP team, providing employment services. Jostad has a Bachelor of Science in Vocational Rehabilitation from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Jostad has been working in the field for over 10 years in the positions of Employment Specialist and Case Manager. She resides in a small, rural town in Wisconsin with her

husband and two small children. When she is not spending time with her family, she will likely be found reading and spending time with her animals.

COVID-19 UPDATE by Chamber Staff – Amanda Steine



I am the Membership Development & Programs Manager at the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce, so as you can imagine, I am generally busy visiting Members (and trying to find new ones to join us), as well as planning programs for our Membership and community to enjoy. With this pandemic in-person visits have come to a halt, our programs have been moved online, and I find myself trying to connect people with resources rather than other people. When the pandemic started, everything was moving so quickly; we as a Chamber were trying to find all the ways we could do our best to support our local businesses as government mandates started to shut them down. When this happened, I started calling all of our local restaurants (regardless of Chamber Membership status) to get an update on their hours and delivery/pick-up standings, they were the ones being hit the hardest right out of the gate and we wanted to be sure to help them as much as possible. On a weekly basis I take the time to edit this compiled list to share with the masses online to make sure the restaurants and food industry businesses being affected the most are still being utilized by our community. I also started a shop local BINGO initiative, sponsored by some of our wonderful Members, to help keep people shopping at our local businesses with a little extra incentive; 4 winners each week receive a gift card to a Chamber Member eatery to spend at a later date. Following the successful few weeks many of our area food industry business had given the circumstances, we asked them to take a photo of themselves or staff/their store with a word of thanks that went together in a collage to read "Thank you Winona for supporting local businesses like us. We will all get through this together. We appreciate you!"

Along with trying to keep people shopping local and supporting our local businesses during these trying time, I have been working closely with our Chamber President/CEO Christie Ransom, who has been a beacon of guiding light during these troubling times. With some guidance from her I have been able to put together relevant programing for our Membership, as well as the community on different loan options and other important topics (like working from home, social media posting during the pandemic, and more). During a crisis like the current one our community, and our country is facing, it is important that we band together and support one another. We at the Chamber are always here to help, whether it's a question you can't find the answer to, a person you can't track down, or simply needing someone to listen, we are here for you.



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It's not just business as usual in Winona. The potential dividends from an investment in the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce are unlimited, because what develops at the Chamber is everyone's business.

