

February 2020

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

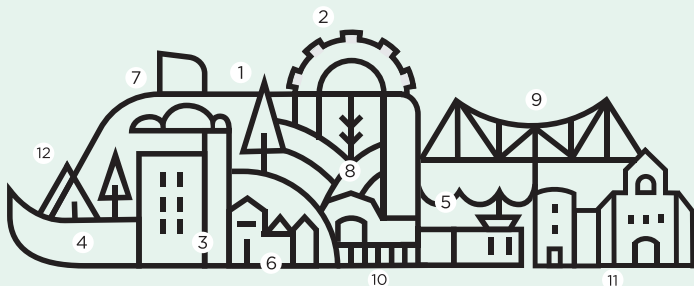


Winona Area Chamber of Commerce New Logo

Christie Ransom,
President & CEO

In November, the Chamber Board of Directors came together for their Board Retreat with energy and enthusiasm for the Chamber and its direction. When one of the Board members spoke up and said, "What about our logo?", it heralded a myriad of conversation, and so began the birth of the rebranding process. While this progression encapsulates a lot of different pieces, the logo and new tagline stand at the center of it all. Working on this process

to create a fresh, new logo that represents much of what Winona stands for and the industries we work hard to support, was so much fun. It came together more quickly than we expected and the life and vivacity that was created when the Board was first introduced to the final product ensured that we hit the nail on the head! This new design is coupled with the tagline, "In Business for Business", which simply put, is precisely who we are and what we do. The logo is very different from what you have come to know, but we hope that you embrace the new look with as much exuberance as we have! In the coming months, as we continue this rebranding evolution, you will see a new website, updated mission, and updated vision as well! Stay tuned!



INDUSTRY ICONOGRAPHY

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Lumber Industry | 4. Canoes | 7. Sugarloaf | 10. Rail Transport |
| 2. Manufacturing Gear | 5. Barge/River Transport | 8. Agricultural Industry | 11. Higher Education |
| 3. Industrial Stacks | 6. Downtown | 9. Bridge/Connection | 12. Camping Supply |

(Overall) Stain Glass Production

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 -



First REACH Immersions of 2020

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

For the juniors in REACH at Winona Senior High School, January is the first month they are able to participate in an immersion. During a REACH immersion, students visit local businesses to "see, touch, and do" parts of different careers available in that business. This may be the first time that a student learns what actually is involved in a number of jobs – an important part of determining which careers they truly are interested in.

For the January immersion, manufacturing students visited Composite Products Inc. (CPI) to learn more about core molding technologies. Students interested in construction visited the Page Theater at Saint Mary's University to experience stage design and construction techniques. Finally, all the students in healthcare and human services visited Saint Anne of Winona where they were able to lead a casino day activity with the residents.

Many of the REACH students state that the immersions are their favorite part of REACH. With all the hands on learning and personal interactions with employees and

customers, it's easy to see why this is a popular learning experience for REACH students.



Touch-A-Truck

Yes we're still in the midst of winter, but before you know it May will be here, and so will Touch-A-Truck! If you'd like to learn more or get involved with this year's event as a sponsor, participant, or volunteer, please contact Ben at bstrand@winonachamber.com or call 507-452-2272.



Main Street News February 2020

Ben Strand, Main Street
Program Manager

Friends of Main Street

Interested in becoming a Friend of Main Street? We've been reworking the program for 2020 and will be sending out asks to join (or renew if you were a 2019 Friend) in February! If you'd like to learn more about the benefits of supporting the Main Street Program ahead of time email Main Street Program Manager Ben Strand at bstrand@winonachamber.com or call 507-452-2272.



Chamber Welcomes new Intern

Kaila Rondorf, Winona Area Chamber of Commerce Intern

Kaila Rondorf, Winona Area Chamber of Commerce Intern, is preparing to graduate in May 2020 from Winona State University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a minor in Coaching. During her years at WSU she has been involved in officiating intramural

volleyball games among the college students. Kaila has also coached different sports throughout the years in her hometown of Marengo Illinois for a variety of ages from children and young adults. That is one reason that drew Kaila to intern with the WACC along with the fact that she heard many good things from the previous intern about the Chamber of Commerce and what they do with their programs. She is excited to work with Nicole and the rest of the staff at WACC to help organize events, work with the B.E.N. and REACH Program, and to be able to see the students succeed within school and the workforce.

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Biz Bites



Courtney Beyer, CNP, joins **Winona Health** Urgent Care team. “I’m excited to return to Winona Health as a nurse practitioner where I’ll be able to use the full scope of my skills and continue to grow as I care for people in our community,” said Courtney Beyer, CNP, about joining the Winona Health Urgent Care team. Beyer cared for moms and newborns as a labor and delivery nurse in Winona Health’s Family Birth Center from 2011 to 2015 and as a childbirth educator in the clinic when she decided to pursue her degree to become a family nurse practitioner. Beyer also worked at Mayo Clinic in Rochester in the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit), where she cared for their smallest patients. In working with these very small patients and their families, reinforced her goal of becoming a family nurse practitioner. “I’ve always wanted to take care of people,” said Beyer. “As humans, we all go through personal and health issues, and it’s important for people to receive care from someone who is compassionate. My goal is to create a trusting relationship with each person, and I want them to know I will always have their best interest in mind.”



Michael Kroening, Minnesota State College Southeast Chief Financial Officer, was one of five Minnesota State employees who were recognized for outstanding work at the 2019 CFO Annual Conference held at the Minnesota State system office in St. Paul. The Outstanding Services Award recognizes individuals and/or teams that provide outstanding services to colleges and universities in the Minnesota State system. Bill Maki, Interim Vice Chancellor for Finance and Facilities of Minnesota State, said, “Mike Kroening is an exceptional CFO who provides outstanding service both to the college and to the Minnesota State system, where he serves on various committees and mentors new chief financial officers,” said Larry Lundblad, MSC Southeast Interim President. “Under his leadership, the college’s finance and facilities departments do stellar work.”



Certified Physician Assistant Lynsey Laxton has joined the **Winona Health** staff and is caring for patients of all ages in Urgent Care on the Winona clinic first floor at Winona Health. “I knew I wanted to live in this area, and when I was interviewing, the people at Winona Health were very supportive and welcoming. It’s important to me to be able to make connections with people and help them feel comfortable – my goal is always to explain things so they understand their issue and their treatment plan.” Laxton grew up in Holmen, Wisconsin. “I’ve always been interested in the medical field, and during high school, I became a certified nursing assistant. Being a CNA for four years was an opportunity to learn from the doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and the residents I worked with. Taking care of patients and residents just felt natural to me. I really enjoyed it,” she said.



Miller Ingenuity was recently selected to supply ZoneGuard, their electronic roadway worker protection system, to two California transit agencies, San Diego Trolley and San Francisco Municipal Railway (MUNI). Additionally, ZoneGuard has been deployed on a track rebuild project in Lafayette, CA by a general engineering contractor, based out of the San Francisco Bay Area, to warn track workers and equipment operators of trains approaching on adjacent tracks.



St. Croix clothing-line manufacturer **Knitcraft** in Goodview has announced the appointment of a new vice president. **Josh Harrison**, a Hope Lutheran High School graduate who joined Knitcraft in 2017 as accounting manager and became IT manager in 2019, was selected because of his leadership and willingness get involved wherever he is needed, according to Knitcraft. Harrison said he also received extensive tutelage from retired and former Knitcraft vice president Mary Bergin. “I give her the most credit,” Harrison said in reference to those he feels gave him the credentials necessary to become vice president of the organization. With its notable brand being the St. Croix clothing-line, Knitcraft prides itself on making high-quality clothing material, with Harrison going as far to call the sweaters the “best sweaters in the world.” Despite Knitcraft now having a new vice president, Harrison does not intend on straying from the path the company is on. “Long-term goal is to continue to push this company forward and to continue to making the best sweaters in the world,” Harrison said.

Ribbon Cutting



Bluff View Estates held a ribbon cutting to honor the opening of their new facility in December. A carefree life is what you’ll find at Bluff View Estates. Featuring spacious, well-appointed apartments with luxury finishes, secured entry, and onsite concierge services. Bluff View Estates is the perfect choice for premier retirement living, it provides exceptional 55+ independent living.

*Pictured with the Chamber Ambassadors:
Maggie Modjeski, Marketing Director and Alyssa Renk, Executive Director*

New Members



IPS Solar (Innovative Power Systems, Inc.) is a leading provider of solar power solutions, who is focused on the development, installation and management of solar power systems for commercial, community solar, and residential customers. IPS Solar is one of the fastest growing solar providers in the United States, delivering everything from 5 kilowatt arrays to multi-megawatt community solar gardens. Their company’s mission is to lead the transition away from fossil fuels toward renewable power while saving money for their customers. If you’d like to learn more about IPS Solar please contact Ilan Klages-Mundt at 612.554.7618.

Winona Area Chamber’s Annual Banquet & Awards



Business of the Year

The Business of the Year for 2019 was awarded to Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center for demonstrated success in economic development, a quality workplace, environmental stewardship, community engagement, and overall business success.



Locally owned business

The Locally Owned Business Award was presented to WA Group for exemplary business practices and success.



Customer Service

The Outstanding Customer Service Award was presented to Altra Federal Credit Union for their outstanding customer service practices.



Honorary Lifetime Members

The Chamber awarded their Lifetime Honorary Member Awards to four individuals who have passionately served the community and the chamber for decades. Pictured L-R: Tony Piscitiello (Saint Mary’s University), Syd Smith (Hoff a Celebration of Life), Randy Domeyer (Merchants Bank), and Dan Weis (Bremer Bank).



Volunteer of the Year

Jim Vrchota was honored with the Winona Chamber’s Volunteer of the Year Award. He has worked closely with the chamber on numerous committees, including the Economic Development Committee and the Chamber Ambassadors Committee. He also was the Chair of the Family Night on the Farm task force and the Chair of the Chamber Ambassadors and the Ambassadors Brat Booth in 2019.