

November 2020

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



Great Opportunity for Existing and Emerging Leaders

Christie Ransom, President & CEO
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

For years, we have been cultivating leaders through our leadership program. There is a leader in all of us and our Leadership Winona program gives you the tools to fine tune your problem solving, team building and management skills and recognize your potential while offering experiential learning opportunities.

Leading by example allows Leadership Winona participants to directly impact the Winona and surrounding communities. A group of diverse individuals participate in this leadership development program which enhances personal and professional growth.

Participants are individuals seeking to enhance their leadership skills, involvement, and knowledge of the community. Leadership Winona is designed to utilize the unique perspective, experience and talent of its participants to identify, mentor and prepare the Winona County leaders of tomorrow with these goals:

1. Identify and motivate current and emerging leaders committed to the betterment of our area.

2. Provide a forum to promote, provoke, discuss, and resolve challenges with peers.

3. Encourage and promote active community involvement, whether it be strong business leaders, through public service, non-profit organizations, or volunteerism – persons who make a difference in the community.

4. Increase personal awareness and confidence.

This year looks a bit different as we navigate the changing world. Leadership Winona will consist of 4 full days of exciting and thought-provoking content, followed by graduation. It will kick off on November 11th and will finish in mid-December. Participants will be presented with a variety of topics that were designed to complement one another and support the idea of cultivating leaders. This year, our program will be a hybrid format with some participants able to attend in person with safety guidelines implemented, while others can join via Zoom to create a dynamic that will be fully engaging. Presenters are prepared to work with individuals participating in the class in both formats and we are excited to offer the program to more individuals through this hybrid medium. We are currently accepting registration for Leadership Winona and you will not want to miss out! Register yourself or a member or members of your organization today on the Chamber website winonachamber.com



Business Education Network Thanks You

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

With so many changes to both the business and education sectors, we have had to change what career exploration looks like for students in our region. The Chamber couldn't do this alone so we have a few people to thank.

In order to support our teachers and students, many local businesses and professional groups shared career exploration videos. The response to our ask was phenomenal and we have received hundreds of videos (and more every day.) All these videos have been added to the Educator Resource Page under the Business Education Network on the Chamber website winonachamber.com

As we created the Educator Resource Page, we noticed that we were missing representation from small businesses. Josh Ploetz with CareerForce MN, stepped into this void and is supporting our work with Winona State University film production students to feature fourteen of our local businesses in the creation of career exploration videos. In addition, CareerForce MN also offered membership to Road Trip Nation (roadtripnation.com) to all 11th grade students in Winona County for career exploration that is focused on the interests and questions of young adults.

Thank you to ALL our business and education partners for your support of the Business Education Network and workforce solutions in our area.

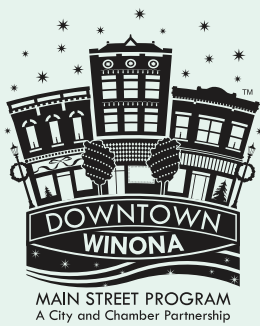


Main Street News November 2020

Ben Strand, Program Manager
Main Street Program

With our first ever Halloween Window Walk now over (and a huge success), keep your eyes open while downtown as the Holiday season begins. This year's Main Street Holiday Window Walk theme is "There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays." You'll see many of your favorite businesses featuring warm, homey, and inviting storefront windows! Public voting for your favorite storefront display, along with a list of participating businesses, will be available on the Main Street Program's website beginning Friday, Nov. 27 and will run through Wednesday, Dec. 30.

Additionally, the Main Street program is working on planning several winter and holiday events! You can stay up to date with all things Main Street by visiting our Facebook page or becoming a Friend of Main Street and getting added to our monthly newsletter mailing list. Contact program manager Ben Strand at bstrand@winonachamber.com or calling 507-452-2272 to learn more!



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 -



THANK YOU RAFFLE SPONSORS



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Beth Moe-Pampered Chef
Bremer Bank
Cedar Valley Golf Course
Chrysler Winona
Coffee Mill Golf Course
Drugans Golf Course
Enlightened Equipment

Fantastic Sams
Farmers Insurance- Dave Jensen
Fastenal Co.
Hwy 61 Liquor
HyVee
Island City Brewing Co.
Jade Acupuncture
Knitcraft
Luxury Nails
Midtown Foods
Minnesota Marine Art Museum
Northwestern Mutual- Dave Erickson

Pelaez Creative
River City Grill
The Bridges Golf Course
The Plaza
The Watkins Co.
Unique Communications
Walmart
Winona County Historical Society
Winona Health
Winona State University
Xcel Energy

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FARMERS APPRECIATION – HARVEST BUCKETS



We want to thank all of our producers for their hard work and dedication to support and feed our communities!

WE APPRECIATE YOU

The Winona Area Chamber of Commerce Agri-Business Committee is proud to thank all of the amazing sponsors that made the Harvest Buckets a success! Due to the gracious support of our sponsors, 50 Buckets filled with amazing items were delivered to area farmers during harvest!



BIZ BITES



Amanda King has been promoted to Assistant Controller at **Merchants Bank**, according to Sue Savat, Chief Financial Officer. “Amanda is a cornerstone of the Finance team and continues to grow in her role as our company grows. This promotion is a reflection of her expertise and dedication to serving our staff just as we would a Merchants Bank customer,” said Savat. King has been with Merchants Bank for more than two decades, beginning her career as a Teller in 1998. She joined the Finance Department in 2002 as a Reports Specialist and over the last 18 years she has been promoted to Accounting Specialist and most recently Senior Accounting Specialist. “I’ve really appreciated the opportunity to grow in my career over last 20 years at Merchants. We have a wonderful team and I enjoy supporting them, so they can support our customers,” King.



Rachel Larson has been promoted to Manager of Collections at **Merchants Bank**, according to Mark McGorry, Chief Credit Officer. “Rachel is the perfect fit to lead our Collections team. Not only does she understand the risk management side of our business, but as a 20-year veteran on the Merchants Bank team she knows our culture and understands that taking care of our customers is what makes Merchants Bank a great community bank,” said McGorry. Larson has been with Merchants Bank since 1999 and as an integral part of the Bank’s Audit/Compliance team for the past 16 years, most recently as a Risk Management Officer. Larson also graduated from Merchants’

home-grown leadership program, the I Believe Leadership Series, in 2019. In her new role as Manager of Collections, she will work with individual loan customers who are experiencing financial hardship and help them with an appropriate workout plan. As an area that affects the overall credit quality of the Bank, Larson and the Collections team will help maintain the asset quality of the Bank by finding workable solution for these customers. “This new role provides me with the opportunity to interact with customers in a much more personal way and provide the caring service approach that’s in alignment with the Merchants culture. I’m looking forward to assisting customer as possible with solutions for their individual needs,” Larson.



Kaleb Storm has been promoted to Assistant Vice President/Commercial & Ag Banker at **Merchants Bank**, according to Steve Christopherson, Senior Vice President & Commercial Banking Manager. “Kaleb has really earned this position. He has shown strong leadership skills, an understanding of our community and has been instrumental in our customers’ success as they grow,” said Christopherson. Storm has been with Merchants as a Commercial & Ag Banker since April 2018. Since coming to Merchants, Storm has served Winona in more ways than financing local businesses. He also contributes his time to the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce both as an Ambassador as well as serving on the Agri-Business Committee, teaching Junior Achievement classes for area schools and with community-focused causes like 10 Days of Giving. “It has been a privilege to serve the Winona community. I’m very fortunate to work with our wonderful customers and this incredible team. I look forward to continuing to be a trusted advisor and resource for businesses as we all work toward economic recovery,” said Storm.



Obstetrician/Gynecologist **Sonya Rice Thompson, MD**, has joined the Women’s Health team at **Winona Health**. Dr. Rice Thompson said, “The best part of my work is being able to help families grow, and being able to help improve my patient’s lives and quality of life.” Dr. Rice Thompson earned her Doctor of Medicine from the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University in Augusta, Georgia, and completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University in Augusta, Georgia. She is a member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. “OBGYNs have a special relationship with their patients, one which I greatly admired as a student, and I also knew I always wanted to be a surgeon while also having continuity relationships with my patients,” said Dr. Rice Thompson. “Women’s health advocacy has also always interested me. Becoming an OBGYN was a great fit!” In her free time, she enjoys traveling, being active including playing tennis and running, reading, baking, and spending time with her husband.

Minnesota State College Southeast announced two new positions in the Academic Affairs division of the college. “We are extremely fortunate to have these two deans joining MSC Southeast,” said MSC Southeast Interim President Larry Lundblad. “They bring the talent and breadth of experience that the college needs at this time to quickly expand existing programs and to create new opportunities for students.”



Heather Conley was named Dean of Academic Innovation. As Dean of Academic Innovation, Heather is focused on resource development and leadership for new and emerging career and technical programs. In this position, she will oversee MSC Southeast’s innovative advanced manufacturing, transportation, and Bicycle Design & Fabrication programs. She will also manage the college’s Customized Training and Continuing Education division. With an extensive background in grant development and oversight, Heather previously served as an Assistant Dean at Montana Technological University, where she was responsible for two-year health and career and technical programs, and was Director of Grants Development at Kirkwood Community College in Iowa. She holds a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Iowa.



Ann Deiman-Thornton was named Dean of Faculty and Operations and will provide oversight and support to the majority of college academic programs in Red Wing, Winona, and online, including: business and management, education and human services, health sciences, information technologies, liberal arts and sciences, and musical instrument repair and building. She will also serve as the lead Academic Administrator for the Red Wing campus. Prior to joining the administration of MSC Southeast, Ann was the Education Director at the Minnesota Department of Corrections-Stillwater facility, where she oversaw all educational programming. Additionally, Ann coordinated all post-secondary partnerships for the Minnesota Department of Corrections. She previously served as Dean of Liberal Arts at Inver Hills Community College and was Dean of Faculty at the Minnesota School of Business. She is currently earning her Doctor of Education in Leadership from Saint Mary’s University and holds a Master of Arts in English from the University of St. Thomas.

NEW MEMBERS



Continuum Financial Group
Ameriprise Private Wealth Advisory Practice

Continuum Financial Group’s Ameriprise financial advisors deliver personalized financial advice to help you achieve your goals, today and tomorrow. The advisors take the time to understand what is truly important to you. Together, they will document your goals, track your progress, and make ongoing recommendations to help you diversify your portfolio, and adjust to whatever life brings – both the expected and the unexpected.

Take the first step toward a more confident financial future by setting up an initial conversation with one of the advisors at Continuum financial Group. For more information or to schedule a consultation call them at (507) 289-0737.



Frickson Family Farms is a small farm run by Andy & Darienne Frickson, along with their 3 children, it is located just 13 miles outside of Winona. They specialize in raising all natural (antibiotic & hormone free), high quality meats. Their Angus Beef, Hampshire Pork, Pastured Chickens & Eggs, are all fed a NON-GMO diet. They offer meat in bulk, as well as individual cuts/packages, primal cuts, custom cuts, & specialty products, such as sausage, snack sticks, for retail and wholesale.

You can get Frickson Family Farms products at their farm store located at 40221 County Road 104 Dakota, MN 55925 on Tuesday’s from 4pm-7pm, Saturday’s from 9am-12pm or by appointment, as well as on their website at www.fricksonfamilyfarms.com. You can place orders for free home delivery within 30 miles; deliveries occur every Thursday afternoon, or schedule a time to pick-up at the farm!

GUNDERSEN HEALTH SYSTEM®

Gundersen Health System is bringing care closer to home for Winona area residents with a new, state-of-the-art campus.

Services now available in Winona: Audiology, Cardiology, Chiropractic, Dermatology, Ear, Nose and Throat, Family Medicine, Gastroenterology, General Surgery, Infusion Services, Internal Medicine Lab, Mammography, Neurology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Occupational Health, Oncology, Orthopedics/Sports Medicine, Outpatient Surgery Center, Pain Medicine, Pediatrics, Pediatric Asthma, Allergy, Immunology, Endocrinology and Gastrointestinal, Physical and Occupational Therapy, Podiatry, Retail Pharmacy, Rheumatology, Sleep Medicine, Urgent Care, Urology, and Vision Center.

For more information or to schedule an appointment today contact Gundersen Health at (507) 615-0600 or visit them at 1122 West Hwy. 61, Winona, MN 55987.



Peoples State Bank is a full-service community bank locally owned since 1925. Their mission is and always has been to provide customers with a more personalized customer service experience, backed by industry-leading products and services. Because of their commitment to always providing you with the most value, some of their state-of-the art offerings include: Kasasa Cash, Kasasa Cash Back & Kasasa Saver. You can get a whole lot more from your checking without paying for it: free checking, plus high interest, and nationwide ATM fee refunds. Member FDIC.

For more information on Peoples State Bank check them out online at <http://peoplesstatebank.com>



Cost Cutters is a full-service hair salon in Winona, MN that offers quality men’s and women’s haircuts, hair styling, and color services at an affordable price. Winona Cost Cutters has been locally owned by Brian Masyga for over 30 years. At Cost Cutters, you’ll be treated to a salon experience that is a step up from your regular hair cut routine, no matter if you’re there for a quick trim, a new, short hairstyle, or just a twist on your current look.

Services offered include: 7 Foils, Adult Cuts, Conditioning, Facial Waxing, Kid’s Cuts, Perms, Wedding/Updo, Haircuts, All-Over Color, Highlights, and Waxing.

They are open Monday-Friday 8AM-6PM and Saturday 8AM-3PM. To schedule your appointment, call the salon, located at 1215 Gilmore Ave, Ste. 2, at (507)454-6030.