



WINONA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MEASURABLE RESULTS YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

NEWSLETTER & BUSINESS PAGES

January 2020

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

Meet the 2020 Board of Directors



**Dave Jensen, Chair**  
Farmers Insurance



**Michael Charron, Chair Elect**  
Saint Mary's University



**Cory Hancock, Past Chair**  
Benchmark Electronics



**Jolene Vaselaar, Treasurer**  
Altra Federal Credit Union



**Scott Rodeghier, At Large**  
Fastenal



**Ben Adank**  
Itechra



**Terry Klonecki**  
Formgraphics



**Rebecca Lamberty**  
Winona Health



**Dave Erickson**  
Northwest Mutual



**Dan Welsh**  
Winona Hy-Vee



**Dan Rivers**  
Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott



**Kyle Rupprecht**  
Minnwest Bank



**Randy Skarlupka**  
Miller Ingenuity



**Ellen Smith**  
WNB Financial



**Joanne Thompson**  
MN State College SE

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  
Cory Hancock - Past Chair  
Jolene Vaselaar - Treasurer  
Scott Rodeghier - At Large

Retiring 2020:

Dave Erickson  
Cory 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 -



Leadership Graduation

by Christie Ransom,  
President & CEO

Leadership is defined as “a process by which a person influences others to accomplish an objective and directs an organization in a way that makes it more coherent and cohesive.” Leaders build excellence and accomplish this by first building character. This year, 35 individuals, supported by their employers,

took a step in building their character by taking part in Leadership Winona. Some of these individuals are already recognized as leaders within their organization, some of them didn't know the skills they had within them, but ALL of them grew together and learned more, not only about themselves, but also about one another. We are so proud to support leadership and celebrate with all of these amazing and unique individuals who gave their time and made the commitment to be a part of this program. On December 11th, 35 people graduated from Leadership Winona. Help us in congratulating each of them!



Christine Anderson, Hal Leonard LLC  
Mike Anderson, DCM Tech, Inc.  
Tasia Barnes, Wells Fargo  
Matt Bauers, Benchmark Electronics, Inc.  
Brad Budnick, HBC, Inc.  
Brian Cossette, WNB Financial  
Jay Dureske, Benchmark Electronics, Inc.  
Jennifer Fruth, DCM Tech, Inc.  
Sarah Gieser, Hal Leonard LLC  
Austin Gluesing, Benchmark Electronics, Inc.  
Travis Gora, Benchmark Electronics, Inc.  
Megan Hanson, Home and Community Options, Inc.

David Hoover, WNB Financial  
Sondra Howard, HBC, Inc.  
Rick Jaacks, Merchants Bank of Winona  
Justin Kauphusman, HBC, Inc.  
Erik Lawson, DCM Tech, Inc.  
Nikki Mades, Altra Federal Credit Union  
Katherine Marquez, Altra Federal Credit Union  
Chris Mueller, Merchants Bank of Winona  
Samantha McCarthy, American Family Insurance  
Skyler Newcomb, Peerless Industrial Group  
Jessica Pearson, Winona Sign & Design  
Diana Roterling, Mississippi Welders Supply

Henry Schantzen, Bluffview Montessori School  
Latonia Schmitt, WNB Financial  
Shannon Schroetke, Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union  
Kelsey Scott Ocello, Winona Family YMCA  
John Smith, RTP Company  
Lisa Stelmach, Wells Fargo  
Ben Strand, Winona Main Street  
Tammie Townzen, Express Employment Professionals  
Denise Vaughn, Bremer Bank  
Chris Werner, Peerless Industrial Group  
Jessica Woxland, HBC, Inc.



Main Street News  
January 2020

Ben Strand, Main Street  
Program Manager

Winona Main Street is excited to announce the winners of the 2019 Holiday Window Walk: Walking in a Window Wonderland. Congratulations to Hardt's Music & Audio on winning the Main Street Window Wonderland Award and Baker Shoes on winning the People's Choice award! Home and Community Options gets an honorable mention as the runner up in the People's Choice award. They all did fantastic jobs sprucing up their window displays in wondrous holiday fashion.

We'd also like to thank all the Holiday Window Walk participants this year, as well as Allstate Insurance: Jen Crawford Agency for sponsoring. Downtown Winona just simply wouldn't have the same joyous holiday feel without your participation, and we can't wait to see what everyone comes up with next year!

Winona Main Street is also excited to announce the 2019 Downtown Main Street Award winners: Ted Wedul, Alexander & Associates, City of Winona – Levee Park, The Garage Co-Work Space and its founders, and Abramson Properties.

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Looking to support and contribute to a great community program? The Winona Main Street Program is looking for people to join our team! With 4 active committees there are several ways to make a positive impact.

Email Ben Strand [bstrand@winonachamber.com](mailto:bstrand@winonachamber.com) with questions and to learn more about what we do!







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### WINONA AREA CHAMBER'S ANNUAL BANQUET AWARDS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24TH  
= 5:30-9:00 PM =  
VISIONS EVENT CENTER  
*Business attire is suggested*

Reception 5:30 PM | Dinner 6:30 PM  
A program will follow dinner  
*Program: State of the Chamber, Re-brand Reveal, Volunteer Recognition, Dessert Auction, Business Awards*

\$50 per person | \$430 Corporate Table of 8  
RSVP by January 15th, 2020  
info@winonachamber.com | 507.452.2272 | winonachamber.com  
*To avoid charges cancellations must be made 48 hours in advance. Substitutions are allowed.*

#### 2019 AWARD WINNERS

CUSTOMER SERVICE

LOCALLY OWNED

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

#### EVENT SPONSORS

##### VISIONARY SPONSORS

##### MAIN EVENT

##### BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

##### DESSERT AUCTION

##### PRINTED PROGRAM

##### RECEPTION

##### AWARDS

##### REGISTRATION

##### VIDEO PRODUCTION

### New Members



**Aflac** is a Fortune 500 company, providing financial protection to more than 50 million people worldwide. When a policyholder or insured gets sick or hurt, Aflac pays cash benefits fairly, promptly, and often in one day for eligible claims, directly to the insured (unless assigned otherwise). For more than six decades, Aflac voluntary insurance policies have given policyholders the opportunity to focus on recovery, not financial stress. To learn more about Aflac visit them online at aflac.com or contact Joseph Gauthier today at (612) 806-9307.



**Treedome** is a production studio and record store in downtown Winona, making creative visions a reality through collaboration and a passion for music and arts. For artists, by artists. They are a one-stop-shop focused on servicing musicians, artists, and community organizations. You'll find them hanging out creating music videos, planning a festival, booking a local show, or branding promotions for an event. They love passion projects and are here to make them happen no matter the scale. For more information on Treedome check out their website treedomemn.com.

### Retired Board Members receive plaques of recognition

2019 Retiring Board Members received plaques of appreciation and recognition at the December Chamber Board of Directors meeting.



Retiring 2019 Board Chair Pictured: Corey Hancock and Chamber President/CEO Christie Ransom



Board members serving from 2017 – 2019 Pictured: Randy Domeyer, Mike Puetz and Dr. Scott Olson (not pictured Tyler Hoff)



A Special Recognition Award was given to Heidi Evenson for going above and beyond her term from 2016-2019 pictured with Christie Ransom



**REACH expanding to area schools**  
Nicole Schossow,  
B.E.N./REACH Program Manager

This fall, the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce partnered with Minnesota State College Southeast to apply for a grant through Minnesota State Colleges and Universities for Local Partnership Programs. We are proud to announce that we have received a grant for the 2019-2020 school year to expand the REACH program to both the Lewiston-Altura and Wabasha-Kellogg school districts. With the support of the businesses in these communities, we will be able to expand the partnership that makes REACH a success and support other students in our area that have a future in high demand careers.

According to Dr. Cory Hanson, principal at Lewiston-Altura High School, "The students that have the opportunity to participate in this program will be able to support our local industry needs. The majority of our graduates will stay in Southeastern Minnesota, so preparing them for the areas of job growth in our region is essential. This grant would allow for greater opportunity and meet a local need for industry preparation."



**REACH**  
YOUR FULL POTENTIAL