

December 2020

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



### Chamber Honors Retiring Board Members

Christie Ransom, President & CEO  
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

At the Board of Directors meeting in December, we will have the pleasure of honoring five directors who are retiring from the board: Corey Hancock, Terry Klonecki, Dave Erickson, Dan Welsh, and Scott Rodeghier. We are grateful for the directors' dedication to the Chamber and their support of the business community. Please join us in reflecting on their contributions and thanking them for their time and talents.



Corey Hancock, Benchmark Electronics – Corey has been a champion of the Chamber during his time on the Board, serving as the Board Chair in 2019 and serving for 3 years on the Chamber Executive Committee. Corey has been an active volunteer serving as the Chair of the Golf Classic committee, Chair of the Big Muddy Brew & Que Committee and giving countless hours of his time to make that a success, he chaired the Membership Committee, served on the REACH Manufacturing committee and Business Education Network, and volunteered at Family Night on the Farm. Corey is a very passionate supporter of the Chamber.



Terry Klonecki, Formgraphics and Winona Sign & Design – Terry has been an active supporter of the Chamber. She served as the Board Chair in 2018 and served on the Executive Committee. She has also served on the Annual Banquet committee as well as the Business Awards committee. Terry has served on the Chamber Foundation Board and is a Chamber Ambassador. She has volunteered at several events, including Big Muddy Brew & Que and Family Night on the Farm, just to highlight a couple.



Dave Erickson, Northwestern Mutual – Dave has been a long-time member of the Public Policy committee, chairing the committee for a few years. He was also pivotal in Family Night on the Farm and developing the newly formed Agri-Business Committee. His work with the ag committee this year has helped to bring about programs like the dairy buckets in June and harvest buckets to thank producers during harvest this fall. Dave has been an advocate for the Chamber as well as a strong voice for businesses.



Dan Welsh, HyVee, Inc. – Dan's support of the Chamber and Chamber events has been instrumental. He has been an active participant in the Big Muddy Brew & Que committee and has volunteered and supported Family Night on the Farm. Dan has donated annually to the Chamber Annual Banquet dessert auction. Dan has been an active Chamber supporter with some of his staff also serving on chamber committees.



Scott Rodeghier, Fastenal – Scott was one of the founding members of the REACH Manufacturing committee and has also served on the Business Education Network committee. He has served as an at-large member of the Chamber Executive Committee for 3 years and has volunteered for Family Night on the Farm. He also helped, through donations, in making our harvest buckets amazing.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with each of these talented individuals. Getting to know them over the past year has been a true highlight. I certainly appreciate all that they have done and continue to do for our organization and thank them for their time on our Board of Directors. I will miss them but know that they will remain involved in their commitment to the success of the Chamber. Again, thank you all!

## 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 continues to meet student's needs

Mikaela Mohr, Chamber Intern  
B.E.N./REACH

The students in our communities have been hit hard by our response to the pandemic. The REACH program has been accelerating and creating opportunities and connections for the dedicated students involved, with its appropriate precautions, through bi-weekly updates, one-on-one student meetings, paid membership to RoadTrip Nation for every student, and virtual workshops.

As our school year has been a mix of hybrid and completely virtual, we realized early in the semester that open communication with our REACH students and faculty was going to be crucial. As a way to engage and show appreciation to our students, we will start promoting our "REACH student of the week" in our new student newsletter.

Immersion was a core part of the program to help our students experience, first-hand, what a future career could look like. Due to current safety precautions for both schools and businesses, we have been unable to provide

this for students. In place, our students have had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with our staff to help talk through their thought processes with their future careers. Based on these conversations, the students were connected virtually with professionals in their areas of interest. This has allowed our students to explore their chosen career fields safely.

We are very grateful to the CareerForceMN center here in Winona for their support of REACH through access to the platform, "RoadTrip Nation." This website allows our students to watch educational yet engaging videos aligning with tons of careers as well as workbooks to help students with future career decisions.

Lastly, not being in the classroom has been tough all around, however, we still want our REACH students to feel connected. A virtual REACH workshop for REACH students will be held this month and we are having several students help with the entire process. In addition to connecting with other students, post-graduation plans and preparation will be the hot topic.



### Main Street News December 2020

Ben Strand, Program Manager  
Main Street Program

### The Importance of Shopping Local

There are two things I consistently mention to people when I talk about the importance of shopping local – 1.) Every time you make a purchase from a small business someone does a happy dance. 2.) For every dollar spent shopping at a local business, nearly 70 percent of it stays within the community.

Our small businesses in the Winona community need our support now more than ever, especially during the busiest shopping time of the year. The small business community in Winona is one of the greatest assets we have in this town. Chances are you'll be able to find much of what you're looking for while completing your holiday shopping this year.

Many of our small businesses have websites and online stores that you can browse and make your purchases from if you plan to limit your in-person interactions this year due to COVID. You can also call many of them and ask about their products, and if they can accommodate curbside/contactless pickup.

There are other ways you can support our small businesses, such as leaving them good reviews, sharing their social media posts, and telling your friends and family about quality experiences you had with them.

The most important thing we can do this holiday season is support our local small businesses. 'Tis the season of giving, and the best thing you can give to small businesses is your support.

### 2020 Main Street Holiday Window Walk

There's just no place like home for the holidays, especially during a year like this. The Winona Main Street Programs annual Holiday Window Walk runs from November 27 to December 30, and this year's theme is "There's No Place Like Home For The Holidays." While you're out and about getting some of your holiday shopping done downtown make sure you take a look at the storefront windows! There's more than 15 participating businesses this year, which means there's plenty of homey storefront windows for your eyes to see.

You can vote online for your favorite Holiday Window Walk storefront decoration at [www.winonamainstreet.com/holiday-window-walk](http://www.winonamainstreet.com/holiday-window-walk). One vote per person, per day, so make sure you show your support for the window display (and business) you like most!



YOU CAN'T BUY *happiness*  
BUT YOU CAN *buy local*  
& THAT'S KIND OF THE SAME THING



**WINONA AREA**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**RIBBON CUTTING**



Mid-November Winona Chamber Ambassadors and Winona Chamber Ag Committee members held a ribbon cutting for **Frickson Family Farms** to honor them joining the Chamber of Commerce! Frickson Family Farms is a small farm 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](http://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!

*Pictured L-R: Amb. Kaleb Storm, Andy & Darienne Frickson, along with their 3 children, Amb. Jim Vrchota, and Ag Committee Chair Kyle Rupprecht.*

**NEW MEMBERS**



**Payroll Vault** is a boutique-style local payroll service provider that designs payroll for your small business. Their payroll experts fully handle the compliance-driven payroll tasks to better enable you to focus on managing your workforce. Whether you have one employee or 100, you know that every year the demands by the government for complex reporting grows, while your time shrinks.

At Payroll Vault, they customize and personalize your service. They offer you the experience, cutting-edge technology, and suite of workforce management services to navigate the complexities of business. Most importantly, allowing the freedom for you to concentrate on what you do best, running your business.

For more information contact owner Kathy Rollinger at 507.335.2625 or [kathy.rollinger@payrollvault.com](mailto:kathy.rollinger@payrollvault.com). Or visit their website [www.payrollvault.com](http://www.payrollvault.com).



**Elder Network** serves Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona counties with their direct service programs. Their mission is to serve individuals impacted by the limiting effects of aging to have an optimal quality of life. They consider serving those who are directly impacted, as well as those that are surrounding that person, to be within their scope of service. Individuals that are 55 or better are their primary target; however, caregivers are often much younger, and they serve them as well. They have a variety of programs, and the best option is to give them a call and describe your needs, so they can help fit a program to those needs.

Contact Elder Network of Winona County at 507.452.0580 or visit them on the web at [www.elder-network.org](http://www.elder-network.org).



**Envisioneering, LLC's** owner Heather Christensen is a licensed civil engineer seasoned through leadership roles in private consulting, municipal engineering and manufacturing. During her 25 years as a professional she has turned failing businesses and struggling teams into high performers. She is driven to equip others with the tools to achieve more personally and in their businesses. She does this by improving team health, working with leadership to develop simple strategies and plans to execute effectively.

To learn more about Envisioneering and Heather contact their office at 307.272.6920 or [heather@envisioneeringllc.com](mailto:heather@envisioneeringllc.com). Or visit their website at [www.envisioneeringllc.com](http://www.envisioneeringllc.com).



**Hart Country Market** is a small business located just outside of Hart, MN at 27579 Hartwood Drive in Rushford, MN. They see goods from Pretty Rusty Things by Rae, Heiden Century Farms Beef & Pork, Lyza Lou's Farm Fresh Eggs, Baked Goodies by Real Farm Kids, Produce and so much more!

For more information contact owner, Jessica Heiden at 507.951.1643, [hartcountrymeats@gmail.com](mailto:hartcountrymeats@gmail.com), or visit them on Facebook at Hart Country Market!



**Port 507** is a full-service bar that opened in March 2017. They are located just two blocks south of the mighty Mississippi River near the heart of downtown Winona. They have daily drink specials, darts, pool, an outdoor patio, Port 507 merchandise, and so much more!

For more information contact owner, Chad Brink at 507.474.7007, [chadbrink@gmail.com](mailto:chadbrink@gmail.com), or check them on Facebook at Port 507.

**JOIN THE WINONA MAIN STREET PROGRAM FOR SOME HOLIDAY CHEER AS WE SUPPORT AREA BARS!**

Join the fun by pre-ordering your drink chip package today at [winonachamber.com](http://winonachamber.com). This is a perfect stocking stuffer or gift for someone looking to support local small businesses this holiday season. For just \$40 (or buy 2 for \$75) you will get 12 drink chips to use anytime to:

929 BEER HOUSE & GRILL  
BLACK HORSE BAR & GRILL  
BROKEN WORLD RECORDS  
BUB'S BREWING CO.

EAGLES CLUB #1243  
ED'S NO NAME BAR  
GABBY'S BAR  
HEI N LOW  
ISLAND CITY BREWING CO.

MARKET STREET TAP  
MULLIGAN'S PUB  
THE OAKS (COUPON)  
VFW POST 1287



**SPREAD SOME holiday cheer!**

WE ARE PLEASED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT OUR SPREAD THE HOLIDAY CHEER, SHOP LOCAL GIFT CARD SALE THIS PAST WEEKEND WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.

WE SOLD 578- \$25 GIFT CARDS TO ALMOST 60 AREA BUSINESSES FOR A DISCOUNTED PRICE OF \$15.

WE WERE ABLE TO DO THIS THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS PROGRAM SPONSORS:



**Order Winona Bucks for Staff Bonuses, Incentives and Gift Giving!**

Winona Bucks are the perfect gift. They can be spent at any participating member business and there are no fees to give or use them. Help support local business and give a gift that everyone will love!

Winona Bucks are universal gift certificates good at any Winona Area Chamber of Commerce business. Anyone can purchase Winona Bucks and they come in increments of \$5 and \$10.

**Our chamber member businesses have purchased the Winona Bucks for:**

- Raffle drawings at an Open House
- Area Retailers purchase them as bonuses for their sales staff
- Organizations pay their youth with Winona Bucks
- Manufacturers award Winona Bucks to their staff for safety records and incentives
- Members purchase them for gifts and bonuses for their employees
- Businesses purchase them to reward their employees for years of service

**Keeping the dollars in the Winona area is good for business!! To order, or for more information, call Kay at 452-2272 or e-mail [kmathews@winonachamber.com](mailto:kmathews@winonachamber.com).**



**WINONA BUCKS**  
REDEEM HERE  
Remember to shop local and look for the Winona Bucks Redeem Here decals at your favorite retailers.