

July 2023

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



### Here for Winona Area Businesses

Christie Ransom, President & CEO  
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

Over the past several months, we have been working hard at the State Capitol to fight for legislation that will be business friendly, knowing that many of the bills proposed would affect businesses in our region, as well as across the state of Minnesota. Now that the session is over, we have seen what has unfolded, and it is now our job to ensure that all businesses are prepared.

As with during the height of the pandemic, we are going to work on webinars and education to ensure that businesses understand the implications of the bills, how to implement them, the dates to be aware of, and the fines and regulations attached to them.

We realize that there are so many challenges ahead and while the work at the State Capitol is complete, the work

for businesses has only begun. Our concern remains steadfast that as the bedrock of our economy, businesses are critical to growth and stability for both our workforce and our communities.

As we work to help businesses through these next hurdles, we are also working toward some meaningful legislation in the US Congress. I was fortunate to spend several days in June in Washington, DC speaking to members of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation regarding permitting reform, the Farm Bill, the Tax Bill, Antitrust and Noncompete Agreements, comprehensive immigration reform to help meet the workforce needs of our businesses, and international trade.

As our political landscape ebbs and flows, so will we. We promise to be a nimble leader to help you navigate these changes. We will walk alongside you to support and assist you in learning and adapting to the new laws and regulations you face. Additionally, we hear your struggles and continue to fight for all of you to create a wonderful business climate. We see you. And we will be here for you.



### Main Street Corner July 2023

Anna Sibenaller, Director of  
Main Street Programs

Can you believe we're more than halfway through 2023? Time sure does fly. The good news is that there are so many exciting things still to come this summer in downtown Winona.

Make sure to visit your favorite downtown shops and discover something new during **Crazy Days, July 14-16**. There will be many specials and promotions to enjoy, and it's always a great time to shop small and show your support of our local businesses!

We've revamped Dine Out Downtown into our **Winona in the Street** series – one Friday a month from June through September, we'll close a few blocks of 3rd Street and have entertainment and curiosities for all ages to explore and enjoy (at a very affordable price – **free!**).

July 21, 5-8 p.m. – Books in the Street: Like the Scholastic Book Fair of your childhood – but with more excitement and variety.

August 18, 5-8 p.m. – Art in the Street: Try your hand at all kinds of crafts during an Art Crawl and check out other makers' wares.

September 22, 6-9 p.m. – Salsa in the Street: Learn to salsa (the dance) and get your swish on until the sun sets!

A of course, we're gearing up for **Big Muddy Brew n' Que** on Labor Day weekend – wrap up the summer with delicious food, refreshing beverages, and tons of fun! Check out the Best in Area Grilling Competition, the Bloody Mary Tasting, a cornhole tournament, and so much more!

**For all things downtown Winona, visit [winonamainstreet.com](http://winonamainstreet.com) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram!**



## ABOUT THE CHAMBER

### - OUR MISSION -

To Serve Businesses How and When They Need Us

### - OUR VISION -

Be the Foremost Resource and Advocate for Businesses in the Winona Area

#### Officers:

**Katrice Sisson** – Chair  
**Stan Breitlow** – Chair Elect  
**Andrew Puetz** – Past Chair  
**Amber Hamernik** – Treasurer  
**Andrea Northam** - At Large

#### Retiring 2023:

Andrea Northam  
Dave Pederson  
Kelly Pronschinske  
Andy Puetz  
Mike Dieter

#### Retiring 2024:

Dr. Marsha Danielson  
Janneke Soback  
Katrice Sisson  
Jared Literski  
Kendra Maggert

#### Retiring 2025:

Stan Breitlow  
Amber Hamernik  
Jason Gamoke  
Kevin Ritz  
Mandy Hansel

#### Staff:

**Christie Ransom** – President & CEO  
**Kay Mathews** – Vice President of Finance and Operations  
**Emma Ebbinger** – Director of Workforce and Business Development  
**Kateri Petry** – Director of Marketing and Communications  
**Anna Sibenaller** – Director of Main Street Programs

## CHAMBER CHAMPIONS

### - VISIONARY -



### - PREMIER -



### - EXECUTIVE -



Winona Health



# DAIRY BUCKETS

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sponsors!



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Ziebell's Hiawatha Foods, Inc.



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## BIZ BITES



**MWSCO** (Mississippi Welders Supply Company) is pleased to announce the appointment of **Troy Elmer** to succeed Scott Myran as President of the company. A rigorous internal and external search revealed that Troy was the right individual to carry the company's legacy forward. Troy has been in the industry for 33 years, the last 23 with MWSCO. He brings a wealth of industry knowledge and deep appreciation of the company's culture to the position. A transition plan will be laid out to ensure a smooth handover, the backfilling of Troy's previous roles, and the gradual ramp-down of Scott's involvement. MWSCO anticipates a formal handover in late Q3 or early Q4.



**Paul Forrester, LGSW, MSW**, a behavioral health therapist, joined the Behavioral Health team at **Winona Health**.

"When someone comes to see me, I want them to know that they are going to get the authentic me, and I want them to be comfortable being their authentic self, too. It's important to see the whole person and not just a diagnosis," said Forrester. "I also believe in being compassionate, understanding, and respectful. Mental health has always interested me and I want to help people succeed."

Forrester earned his bachelor of science degree in Social Work from Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and his master's degree in Social Work with a clinical focus from Winona State University. He's been serving as a social worker for Winona Health's Lake Winona Manor residents since 2018 and now, with his master's degree, he'll join the Behavioral Health team in providing mental health therapy in Winona Health's Intensive Outpatient Program.

"Winona Health is the first place I worked after earning my bachelor degree. I appreciate the flexibility and support I've received here – you don't get that at every job," Forrester noted.

For more information about Paul Forrester, LGSW, MSW, and Behavior Health Services, visit [www.winonahealth.org](http://www.winonahealth.org). To schedule an appointment, call Winona Health Behavioral Health at 507.454.2606.



Addiction Medicine specialist **Bruce Kerr, MD**, joined the Behavioral Health team at **Winona Health**.

"Addiction Medicine didn't use to be a subspecialty, but I've always been interested in it," said Dr. Kerr. "Prior to focusing on Addiction Medicine, my medical experience encompassed Internal Medicine, Emergency and Urgent Care – in all of those settings I've cared for people in situations where addressing addiction could play part in helping them get well."

Dr. Kerr said his patients can expect empathetic listening and the most up-to-date treatment for medical support. "The practice of medicine is all about communication. Tell me your story and we'll figure it out. If I can get to know my patients, I can better help them." He also noted that doctors are motivated by results, and said, "Medications can decrease relapse rates."

Dr. Kerr is board certified in Addiction Medicine (ABPM). He is also a board-certified Internal Medicine doctor and is a member of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). He earned his Medical Degree at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

For more information about Behavioral Health at Winona Health, visit [www.winonahealth.org](http://www.winonahealth.org). To schedule an appointment, call 507.454.2606.



The **Winona Area Public Schools** board unanimously voted to select **Brad Berzinski** as the district's next superintendent.

"The board is thrilled to have Brad begin as a superintendent in WAPS," chair Nancy Denzer said. "He did an exceptional job in both the first and second interviews. He is well prepared to help move our district forward."

Berzinski attended Winona Area Public Schools and is a Winona Senior High School graduate. He previously served as an athletic director, principal, and teacher in the district. He is currently the principal of St. Charles High School.

Berzinski officially began as superintendent on July 1, 2023.



The Board of Trustees of the **Minnesota State Colleges and Universities** has named **Kenneth Janz** to serve as interim president of Winona State University. The appointment becomes effective Aug. 1, 2023.

"Ken Janz is well regarded by faculty and leadership and has garnered the respect and trust of the broader Winona State University community during his time at WSU," said Devinder Malhotra, chancellor of Minnesota State. "Both Chancellor Designate Olson and I are confident that he will provide effective and strong leadership to the university through this transition period."

Dr. Janz has served WSU since 2008 as associate vice president for Academic Affairs and CIO and added the role of dean of the library in 2015. In these roles, he provides leadership and vision for the planning and implementation of information services that support the teaching, learning, and research mission of the University. Janz also leads university strategic planning efforts by working collaboratively with faculty, staff, students.

"I look forward to the opportunity to serve our students, faculty, staff, and greater Winona State community as interim president," said Janz. "Winona State University is a strong institution, and our current successes are just a starting point. I am grateful to help guide the University over this next year, as we approach the selection and appointment of our next president."

Janz's previous appointments include serving Indiana State University as the director of the Center for Instruction, Research, and Technology from 2003 to 2008, and as the director of information technology – College of Education from 1998 to 2003. He holds bachelor's degrees from Dickinson State University (ND), a master's degree from North Dakota State University, and a doctorate from Indiana State University.

Janz succeeds Scott R. Olson, who has served as president of Winona State University since 2012 and recently accepted an appointment to serve as the chancellor of Minnesota State.

The search for a permanent president of WSU will be launched in the fall.

## RIBBON CUTTINGS



On June 2, we celebrated **Champions Riverside Resort** with an Ambassador ribbon cutting! Champions opened their brand-new 'Legends Snack Bar' located next to Legends Lagoon. They offer ice cream, a full bar, snack food, and fun for the campers and community.

**To learn more about Champions Riverside Resort or to book your weekend getaway, visit Champion's Riverside Resort ([championsriversideresort.com](http://championsriversideresort.com)) or call 608.582.2995**



Congratulations on 76 years of **Steamboat Days**! It was an amazing week. Please join us in congratulating Jim Vrchota on his title of the 2023 Steamboat Days Harbor Master and the Winona Steamboat Days Committee on another successful event!



## 2023 CAR RAFFLE

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT:**  
**CHRYSLER WINONA • SUGAR LOAF FORD • WINONA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



**TICKETS**  
**\$20**

Presenting Sponsor

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## GRAND PRIZE

2023 White Jeep Wrangler 2-Door Willys Edition  
or \$20,000 cash

## OTHER PRIZES

Merrimack Canoe and Sanborn Canoe Paddles (2) \$1,000; (4) \$500; (8) \$250

**Drawing on Sunday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00PM**  
**during Big Muddy Brew 'n Que in Levee Park - need not be present to win**

For more info or to purchase tickets contact Winona Area Chamber of Commerce  
**507.452.2272 | [info@winonachamber.com](mailto:info@winonachamber.com) | [winonachamber.com](http://winonachamber.com)**

*Must be 18 or older to purchase ticket or win prize. Winner responsible for any applicable fees or taxes. 4,000 tickets being sold. Permit #: X-93936-23-007*



**WINONA AREA**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**AGRIBUSINESS COMMITTEE**

# FAMILY NIGHT ON THE FARM



**THURSDAY, AUGUST 3RD | 4-8PM | ALTURA, MN**

### EVENT INCLUDES:

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**FFA PETTING ZOO**  
**BOUNCE HOUSE**  
**KIDS' WAGON TRAIN**  
**ROOT BEER FLOATS**  
**FARM TOURS**  
**HAY WAGON RIDES**  
**FAMILY STYLE PICNIC**  
**MEAL TICKETS:**  
• ADULTS: \$10.00  
• CHILDREN UNDER 10: \$7.00  
• FAMILY UP TO 6: \$35.00  
(2 adults, up to 4 children)

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MORE INFORMATION AT  
**WinonaChamber.com**

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