

November 2022

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



A Season of Thanks

Christie Ransom, President & CEO
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

In this season of thanksgiving, I wanted to take some time to reflect on the things that I am so very thankful for. While family and health take precedence, this year more than ever, I began to take inventory of all the things that I am thankful for beyond that.

I spend most of my time at work and every day brings something new and challenging. I love that. For those of you who do not know me well, I enjoy the invitation to innovate, to create change, and to tackle new challenges. I have been in my role here in Winona for just over 3 years. In that time, I have experienced all of those things: innovation, change, and challenges.

Amid that, I have built amazing relationships with business owners, with staff, with local and civic leaders, and with the

amazing people of this area. I cannot reflect on thankfulness without these things being top of mind. I am beyond grateful to have an incredible Chamber staff, an amazing Board of Directors, many wonderful volunteers, and the collaboration of so many great people. I am humbled to be called to the table to work alongside people who want to make our region better.

I am honored to work on behalf of area businesses and fight for them, sometimes in small ways and sometimes in very large ways...both of which are equally meaningful. What our businesses of all types and sizes do for our region is so brilliant. The pieces of the puzzle that make this community special reside in each of them. They make what I do a gift and watching the community and region support them is something incredibly unique.

So, in this season of thanks, it warms my heart that I am trusted to lead the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce and be entrusted with the ideas and insight of so many who help to make what we do better every day. And I am so thankful to call Winona and Winona County my home.

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:

Andrew Puetz – Chair
Katrice Sisson – Chair Elect
Michael Charron – Past Chair
Randy Skarlupka – Treasurer
Kyle Rupprecht – At Large

Retiring 2022:

Michael Charron
Dan Rivers
Kyle Rupprecht
Randy Skarlupka
Ellen Smith

Retiring 2023:

Andrea Northam
Dave Pederson
Kelly Pronschinske
Andy Puetz
Mike Dieter

Retiring 2024:

Dr. Marsha Danielson
Janneke Sobeck
Katrice Sisson
Jared Literski
Kendra Maggart

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 -



VITERBO
UNIVERSITY



- EXECUTIVE -



Main Street Corner

Anna Sibenaller, Director of
Main Street Programs

It was a wonderful October full of Halloween fun! Thank you to our businesses that participated in the Halloween Window Walk and everyone who voted. We also held our Streets & Treats event – it was great to see families come out for an afternoon of treats, music, and magic! Of course, a special thank you to our participating businesses and sponsors for that event, specifically Sugar Loaf Ford Lincoln, Chrysler Winona, Peter's Biergarten, and Daven Jensen – Farmer's Insurance Agency. Without your support, events like Streets & Treats wouldn't be able to happen.

Now it's time to dive into spreading holiday cheer! We'll be hosting **Light Up Downtown at Peter's Biergarten on Thursday, November 17 from 6-7:30 p.m.** We're thrilled to once again be working with students from Minnesota State College Southeast; the welding, automotive, and transportation students are working together to build and bring Santa's sleigh to downtown Winona for families to enjoy! For more information and to support downtown Winona, as well as students at Minnesota State College Southeast, visit winonamainstreet.com/light-up-downtown. Our downtown businesses will also be decorating their windows and storefronts for the holidays as well – this year's



Welding students with the assembled sleigh before being painted by automotive students.

theme is "A Christmas Carol." A perfect time to see them and cast your vote will be **on Shop Small Saturday, which is November 26.** Come downtown to soak up the holiday season atmosphere and support our small businesses by shopping local!

Spread the Cheer this Holiday Season:

Light Up Downtown
Thursday, November 17; 6-7:30 p.m.

Shop Small Saturday
Saturday, November 26; Businesses Hours

Holiday Window Walk
November 25 – December 16



Light UP DOWNTOWN

Lighting Event
Nov. 17 | 6-7:30pm
Peter's Biergarten

Kick off the holiday season by bringing the kids down to visit Santa, sip cocoa, and delight in the holiday display, created by students of MN State College Southeast

Visit WinonaMainStreet.com for more info



Synergy Academy

Emma Ebbinger, Director of Workforce
and Business Development

Are you or someone you know interested in receiving a working credentialed certificate as a junior or senior in high school? Do they attend public, private, charter or homeschool? Then Synergy Academy is the program for you! A certificate can be earned in Engineering/CNC, Basic Electronics, or CAD Basic Drafting, and bundles can be earned in General Education, Construction, and Health & Human Services. To register today, call 507.452.2272, or

visit MSC Southeast - Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) (southeastmn.edu). To learn more about this program, email Emma Ebbinger at eebbinger@winonachamber.com or Christie Ransom at cransom@winonachamber.com



Learn Here. Work Here. Earn Here.

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BIZ BITES



General Surgeon **Kynan Trail, MD**, joined **Winona Health's** General Surgery department. "I feel like I didn't choose General Surgery, it chose me," said Dr. Trail. "I grew up on a farm in western Nebraska and was used to working long hours and working with my hands, so I wasn't afraid of the long hours required to become a surgeon." As a General Surgeon, Dr. Trail's approach to care is focusing on patients and their families. "I understand that having surgery is a stressful time for patients and their family members, and I enjoy trying to put them at ease and making things less stressful for them." Dr. Trail earned his medical degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha and completed his residency in the Department of Surgery, Summa Health Systems in Akron, Ohio. He also has a Master of Arts in Endocrinology. Dr. Trail is certified by the American Board of Surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS).



Behavioral Health Therapist **Elizabeth Martinka**, joined **Winona Health**. Elizabeth Martinka, MSW, LGSW, a behavioral health therapist, will provide psychiatric care for children age 8 and older and adults. "I believe each person is the expert in knowing their own truths," said Martinka. "I listen, ask questions and help them recognize different perspectives. Together, our goal is to discover and foster healthy ways to solve problems independently and to develop healthy coping strategies to improve their well-being and quality of life." Martinka earned her Master's in Social Work with a clinical focus from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. "I've lived in this community and have been doctoring at Winona Health for 20 years," she said. "I'm so looking forward to being able to support the community I live in and love."



In September, six new members were named to the board of directors of **Minnesota State College Southeast Foundation**. The new members are **Patty Brown**, Red Wing Chamber of Commerce (retired); **Andrew Kaiser**, Dahl Toyota, Winona; **Kevin Martin**, Winona Area Public Schools (retired); **Jerry Miller**, Miller Scrap, Winona; **Tom Pasch**, Merchants Bank, Red Wing; and **Katrice Sisson**, Winona Health. "We are deeply grateful to this group of community leaders for their enthusiasm and interest in actively supporting the work of the Foundation," said Josiah Litant, Executive Director of MSC Southeast Foundation and the college's Vice President of Strategic Initiatives. "They join an already tremendous team of individuals who are champions of our work, our students, and the college." The mission of the Minnesota State College Southeast Foundation is to support students and to sustain and grow the college through philanthropy, stewardship, and community development. The Foundation is a 501c(3) organization governed by an all-volunteer board of directors.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Sandbar Storytelling Festival celebrated the kickoff of its event with a Chamber Ambassador ribbon cutting! This was a two-day festival on October 14th and 15th. They provided performances that celebrated and preserved the power and pleasure of our varied cultural traditions and human experiences. It encouraged excellence in the art of storytelling for all and brought people together to share common humanity, in an inclusive and welcoming environment.

WINONA CHAMBER NETWORK NITE

All Chamber Members are invited to join us
Thursday, November 10th from 5-7PM

 **Merchants Bank**
102 East 3rd Street, Downtown Winona



BE SEEN • BE HEARD • BELONG JOIN THE CHAMBER!

It's not just business as usual in Winona. The potential dividends from an investment in the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce are unlimited, because what develops at the Chamber is everyone's business.

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