

June 2025

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



Cheers to Dairy Month

Christie Ransom, President & CEO
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

A Toast (of Milk!) to Our Farmers

June is Dairy Month—a time to raise our glasses (of milk, of course) and give a heartfelt thank you to the hardworking dairy farmers who power our families, our economy, and our communities. Their early mornings, seven-day workweeks, and deep commitment to animal care and land stewardship create more than just milk, cheese, and butter—they create vibrancy and vitality in rural communities like ours.

At the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce, we believe in celebrating the people and industries that make our region thrive and there’s no better example than our local dairy farmers. Winona County is a proud agricultural powerhouse, consistently ranking among the **top 10 dairy-producing counties in Minnesota**. Our local dairy farms, many of them family-owned and operated for generations, are not only feeding us, they’re fueling economic growth and preserving a way of life that reflects hard work, innovation, and deep-rooted values.

The Impact of Dairy in Winona County

• **Winona County is home to over 100 active dairy farms**—each one contributing to the strength of Minnesota’s \$9.5 billion dairy industry.

• **Dairy is Minnesota’s second-largest agricultural commodity**, and Winona County plays a key role in that success.

• Dairy production supports **thousands of jobs across the region**, from the farm to the processor to the local grocery store.

• Many of our dairy farms use innovative technologies to ensure sustainability, improve animal welfare, and boost productivity, proving that tradition and innovation go hand-in-hand.

Our Chamber’s Agriculture Committee is proud to celebrate these contributions, and this year, we’re inviting the entire community to join in the celebration.

Get Your Dairy Bucket – Before They’re Gone!

Back by popular demand, our Dairy Buckets are filled with a delicious variety of local dairy products, curated to showcase the rich flavor (and even richer tradition) of Winona County dairy. These make perfect gifts, fun family treats, or simply a way to show support for our farming community.

Each bucket is more than a bundle of dairy, it’s a small investment in a local farm, a reminder of where our food comes from, and a delicious way to say “thank you” to the families who keep our refrigerators full.

But act fast—**these always sell out!**



Careers in the Classroom and Synergy Academy

Jacob Ransom – VP of Workforce
Strategy & Membership Development

That’s a wrap on our final two Careers in the Classroom days for the school year!

We had a fantastic time visiting Winona Middle School, connecting with students, and opening their eyes to the many career opportunities right here in our region. We’re already looking forward to returning next year!

Our third session spotlighted Manufacturing, a cornerstone of Winona’s economy. A huge thank you to Randy Skarlupka, VP of Operations at Miller Ingenuity, and Kattie Sacia, Opportunity Program Navigator, for sharing their insights and helping students understand the wide range of possibilities within the manufacturing industry.

We closed out the series on May 21 with Military Day, featuring recruiters from the National Guard and the Air Force. The military offers incredible pathways for nearly any career field, and we’re grateful these representatives could speak directly to students about their experiences and opportunities in service.

A huge thank you to Mr. Weadge, Mr. Sawyer, and Mrs. Gobler for allowing us to bring these opportunities to their classrooms—and to all the incredible speakers who helped bring careers to life for their students. Careers in the Classroom will return next school year—stay tuned! Programs like Careers in the Classroom and our high school-level Synergy Academy are key strategies in

building a stronger, more informed future workforce. Synergy Academy gives high school students the opportunity to explore local careers through real-world experiences, high level education at MSCS, and skill development. In the past year alone, nearly 300 students have participated, gaining valuable education and exposure to careers right here in Winona County.



To continue growing this impact, we invite business leaders and investors to join us. Your support helps us reach more students, expand programming, and prepare the next generation for success in our local economy.

Interested in investing in the future workforce? Let’s talk. Contact us to learn how your business can support and benefit from workforce development programs like Synergy Academy.



Parade of Trucks 2025

Travis Lybeck – Director of Main Street
Programs and Member Relations

A Rolling Success for Main Street!

The streets of downtown Winona roared with excitement during this year’s **Parade of Trucks 2025**, an event that brought families, community pride, and chrome-covered horsepower together in celebration of our vibrant Main Street district and those that keep it bustling.

All thanks to the incredible support of local businesses, volunteers, and our presenting sponsors **Rihm Kenworth** and **Allstate Peterbilt**. The parade trucks lined the streets, delighted spectators of all ages. From fire engines and semis and even a crane! The display of machinery was as diverse as the community it served.



We’re grateful to everyone who made this event possible, and even more thankful to the attendees who showed up with cheers and smiles. Events like this remind us why we love Winona—and why we work hard to make it even better.



See you next year—bigger, louder, and prouder!

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:

Jon Olson – Chair
Stan Breitlow – Past Chair
Crystal Hiatt – Chair Elect
Amber Hamernik – Treasurer
Jason Gamoke – At Large

Retiring 2025:

Stan Breitlow
Amber Hamernik
Jason Gamoke
Kevin Ritz
Mandy Hansel

Retiring 2026:

Jon Olson
Ross Lexvold
Tina Lehnertz
Mike Puetz
Shawn Beier

Retiring 2027:

Rod Baker
Anita Cisewski
Jennifer Shabel
Crystal Hiatt
Neil Wieser

Staff:

Christie Ransom – President & CEO
Kay Mathews – VP of Finance and Operations
Jacob Ransom – VP of Workforce Strategy and Membership Development
Travis Lybeck – Director of Main Street Programs and Member Relations

**CHAMBER
CHAMPIONS**

- VISIONARY -



- PREMIER -



- EXECUTIVE -



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BIZ BITES



Dahl Automotive has earned a number of prestigious awards from their franchise partners across multiple entities for 2024. They have recently announced that they have earned the Toyota President's Award at Dahl Toyota Winona, the Subaru Love Promise Customer and Community Commitment Award at Dahl Subaru La Crosse, and the Abra Auto Body & Glass President's Club for their La Crosse and Winona locations. These exclusive awards, given to only the top 25% in the US, are received by meeting the highest levels of criteria including strict training requirements, customer retention, sales excellence, complete guest satisfaction and giving back to the community. Whether it be in service, sales, parts or body shop, the team at Dahl Automotive is held in the highest regard and commitment from their franchise partners. Dahl's commitment to excellence ensures that each of their guests have a great experience.



Hiawatha Broadband Communications, Inc. (HBC) announced on that Dan Wigger has been appointed to lead the company following the retirement of President and General Manager Dan Pecarina, after more than 25 years of service with the company. As president and general manager, Wigger will lead HBC's operations and strategic initiatives. HBC is a Schurz Communications company that delivers industry-leading telecommunications services to communities in southeastern Minnesota and west-central Wisconsin. It is committed to innovation and investment in the communities it serves, and in 2025, HBC will continue to expand its offerings and fiber infrastructure.

PRE-SALE TICKETS
AVAILABLE NOW!

1-10: \$8.00 each
11-50 \$7.75 each
50+ \$7.50 each

Pre-sale tickets include: a brat, hotdog, or cheeseburger, chips, and a pop or water.



Tickets can be used any time during Steamboat Days at the Winona Chamber Ambassadors Food Trailer.

Purchase tickets in bulk for employees, friends, or family, or purchase individually!

To reserve tickets, contact Kay at 507.452.2272 or kmathews@winonachamber.com

Wednesday, June 11th
to
Sunday, June 15th

STEAMBOAT DAYS

OPEN DAILY
11AM-8PM

WEDNESDAY SPONSOR



THURSDAY SPONSOR



FRIDAY SPONSOR



SUNDAY SPONSOR



SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
SPONSORS

Acoustic Cafe
Avient Corporation
Bremer Bank
Engage Winona
Grover Properties
Gerard's Small Engine
Pelaez Creative
Sliced
Studio Humbl
Sunstone Management
Wagner Oehler

RIBBON CUTTING



Our Winona Chamber Ambassadors helped celebrate **Boat House's 12th anniversary** with a ribbon cutting! Congratulations and welcome to the Winona Chamber of Commerce! Stop into the Boat House Thursday-Sunday for delicious food, refreshing drinks, awesome staff, and a beautiful view as Winona's only Riverfront Restaurant at 2 Johnson Street!
To learn more, visit www.boathouse-winona.com

NEW MEMBERS



STUDIO HUMBL, LLC specializes in vehicle wraps and storefront window graphics, delivering high-quality visual solutions that capture attention and elevate your brand. With a deep commitment to the local community, HUMBL sources all materials from Minnesota-based suppliers and collaborates with Winona designers to bring unique visions to life. In addition to its core services, HUMBL is a trusted distributor of trade show and business printing solutions.
For more information, visit humblgraphics.com



MUDDY RIVER
PHOTOGRAPHY + DIGITAL ART

Muddy River Photography + Digital Art
Muddy River Photography is a small business owned and operated by photographer Al Mueller. Al is a passionate photographer with many years of experience. Although he has a fondness for nature and wildlife photography, he also enjoys portrait, product and commercial assignments. Al specializes in location assignments and can bring his skills to your home or business. He also utilizes his home studio for small product photography and for limited portrait sessions. Digital photo art is also part of his portfolio and he has many local landscape scenes and photo compositions available on his Art Gallery site where you can purchase images by themselves or matted and framed.
If you have a question or would like more information about a potential photo project, product or service, please contact Al at 507.459.2261, email muellera@charter.net or visit www.muddyriverphotography.com



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FREE Outdoor Dance Party ALL Welcome
Swinging in the Street Friday June 6
FREE Swing Dance Lesson 6-7pm & DANCE 7-10pm • LIVE Big Band Music
Seating Will Be Available
Swing Dance & Dine Out At 3rd & Center Streets In Winona

CHAMBER ATV RAFFLE

Tickets available at the Chamber Of Commerce - 902 E. 2nd, Ste 120 and Sugar Loaf Automotive - 1222 West Service Drive

Presenting Sponsors:



TICKETS ONLY \$20

Join us for a live drawing on Saturday, September 6 at 4pm at Big Muddy Brew 'n Que in Levee Park - need not be present to win. Must be 18 or older to purchase ticket & win prize. Winner responsible for any applicable fees or taxes. 4,000 tickets being sold. Permit #: X-93936-25-009



DAIRY BUCKETS

INCLUDES

1 lb barrel churned butter
1 lb block pepper jack
6 pack string cheese
4 oz goat cheese
8 oz sour cream
8 oz shredded mozzarella
8 oz French Onion Dip
8 oz block cheddar
8 oz block colby jack
5 oz plain cheese curds
5 oz flavored cheese curds
2 - 6.75 oz organic chocolate milk
Kwik Trip Ice Cream Coupon
2oz Snack Sticks

ONLY \$35

QUANTITIES LIMITED
PRE-SALE ONLY
PICK UP JUNE 24

To order: WinonaChamber.com or scan QR code



MAIN EVENT SPONSORS

