

September 2022

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



Main Street Revitalization Grants

Christie Ransom, President & CEO
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

Winona's downtown district is a place where we have seen so much vitality and growth over the past few years. It is a place where people can go to gather, eat, shop, and work. Its economic vibrancy is imperative to the economic growth of our entire community. Together with the City of Winona, the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation applied for a grant from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). The Main Street Revitalization Grant was a legislative and DEED initiative to grow and develop downtown district in communities. We were blessed to be awarded this grant as a tool to help with development projects in the downtown area.

Unlike the COVID related grants that people are used to, this is not grant money for pandemic losses. These grant dollars are to be used as leveraged grants for qualified development projects. What does a leveraged grant mean? Grant awards can cover up to 30% of an

eligible project cost, up to \$750,000. Projects must demonstrate that they have outside funding from sources such as public or private grants or loans, developer equity, or insurance proceeds. All Main Street grants must be matched with non-state and non-federal funds (70% of project costs).

Those who qualify would be businesses, property owners, non-profits, and developers if they are located in the designated area from Huff Street to Franklin Street and Fifth Street to the Riverfront. The applicant must meet all Winona Main Street Revitalization criteria and must demonstrate site control of the property where the project will take place, whether that's through ownership, a purchase agreement, or approval from a landlord.

We are extremely excited about this grant opportunity for businesses to utilize in a variety of ways. The grant cycle is currently open and will close on October 17, 2022. The cycle may reopen depending upon funding.

If you would like to learn more about this program, visit www.winonachamber.com and click on link for Main Street Revitalization Grants, or register to attend one of the scheduled learning sessions on Thursday, September 15th 7:30am – 8:30am and 5:30pm – 6:30pm at the Chamber. Call (507) 452-2272 or email info@winonachamber.com to register.

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

2023 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE OF NOMINEES

On behalf of the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce, we are pleased to announce the slate of nominees to terms of governing service on the Chamber Board of Directors.



Stan Breitlow
Watlow



Amber Hamernik
Bremer Bank



Jason Gamoke
Morgan's Jewelers



Kevin Ritz
WA Group



Jill Swenson
S & S Dairy Systems

In accordance with Chamber bylaws, the slate is hereby presented to the Chamber membership. If no additional nominees are received by Chamber-member petition process (contact the Chamber office for details) the slate will be declared elected by the Board at the end of September.

The new board members will participate with the Chamber Strategic Planning day in and will officially begin their three-year terms of office in January 2023.

The Winona Area Chamber of Commerce is governed by a 15 member volunteer Board of Directors. Board members serve for three year terms, with five board members retiring each year. Governance is the ongoing process of due diligence whereby the board assures the legal, financial and moral health and effectiveness of our organization. The board is legally and ethically responsible for the health and effectiveness of the organization and the fulfillment of the organization's mission.

CHAMBER CHAMPIONS

- VISIONARY -



- PREMIER -



VITERBO
UNIVERSITY



- EXECUTIVE -



LEADERSHIP WINONA 2022

MEET THE DEMANDS AND NEW DYNAMICS OF TODAY'S DIVERSE & CHANGING BUSINESS CLIMATE

REGISTRATION OPENING SOON!

SESSIONS IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

\$800 MEMBERS | \$1,000 NON-MEMBERS

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

- Navigate ethical challenges
- Prioritize possibilities
- Create confidence & credibility through communication
- Build inter-office relationships
- Understand current issues & impacts on business
- Develop skills to avoid hidden land mines in the workplace
- Strengthen communication about challenging topics
- Solve problems before they grow

NAVIGATING CHANGE & PERSONAL GROWTH

- Advocate for your club or business
- Identify critical abilities for real leaders
- Explore how to implement new skills for long-term results
- Understand your personality & communication style
- Identify the impact personality & communication styles have on group dynamics
- Navigate generational experiences and the impact on the workplace, the customer, and communications



PRESENTED BY
Ben Adank, President & CEO of Itechra



Managed IT Services

WINONA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCHTIME LEARNING

Cybersecurity in Business

Staying secure and protecting your business

1 in 3 businesses were infected by a ransomware attack last year. Join us for an informative discussion about cybersecurity and technology trends that will help protect your business from emerging cybersecurity threats.

Topics include:

- How to defend your business from ransomware and other threats.
- How to address increasing complexity with cybersecurity insurance and regulation requirements.
- Simple strategies for implementing an effective cybersecurity program:
People + Process + Technology = Success.

REGISTRATION \$15 MEMBER, \$25 NON-MEMBER; LUNCH INCLUDED

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH, NOON-1:00PM
WINONA CHAMBER CONFERENCE ROOM

REGISTER AT WINONACHAMBER.COM

September 2022

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BIZ BITES



Greg Evans, President & CEO for **Merchants Bank and Merchants Financial Group, Inc.** has been elected to serve on the Minnesota Bankers Association Board of Directors representing District 1. Board members are elected by community bank peers, Association members within the geographic district, with one representative from each district in the state of Minnesota in addition to several at-large Directors. Each member serves one three-year term. The Minnesota Bankers Association Board is the governing body responsible for overseeing the advocacy work the Association does on behalf of its more than 120 community bank members. The Minnesota Bankers Association works to champion community banks and provides education, legal, legislative and insurance resources for its members. "I am grateful for the opportunity to support the amazing work of community banks like Merchants as the representative for this district," said Evans. "It's humbling to serve alongside such a dedicated and knowledgeable group of community bank leaders from across the state."



Hawkins Ash CPAs, named a Top Accounting Firm in the Great Lakes Region by Accounting Today, recently promoted several outstanding employees. This year's promoted employee from the Firm's Winona office includes the following: **Hunter Drake**, CPA, is promoted to senior associate. Hunter focuses on employee benefit plan audits, corporate taxes, individual taxes, and bookkeeping/consulting services for several different industries. Hunter is a Certified Public Accountant and graduated from Winona State University with two Bachelor degrees. Hunter has provided exceptional client service and is a true team player.



Ophthalmologist **Jerald Cundiff Jr.**, is joining optometrists Stephanie LaLiberte and Scott Pastryk in the **Winona Health Eye Care Center** and will begin seeing patients in September. Dr. Cundiff has been providing ophthalmologic care for nearly 25 years. He said, "I chose ophthalmology because I thought it would be an interesting and rewarding way to positively affect a person's life in a short matter of time. Preserving and restoring vision and having happy patients has been and continues to be incredibly gratifying and fulfilling. Dr. Cundiff earned his Medical Degree from Loyola University of Chicago Stritch School of Medicine in Maywood, Illinois. He then did a transitional year internship at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin. He completed his residency through the Mason Institute of Ophthalmology at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. Dr. Cundiff is certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology.



The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program (Aspen) announced Monday that **Dr. Marsha Danielson**, President of **Minnesota State College Southeast**, is one of 26 leaders selected for the 2022-23 class of the Aspen New Presidents Fellowship. This program, made possible with support from JPMorgan Chase, supports community college presidents in the early years of their tenure as they work to achieve higher and more equitable levels of student success. This class of fellows represent the diversity of our nation's community colleges, collectively serving over 250,000 students at colleges across the nation, in urban, suburban, and rural areas. "I am honored and humbled to be named an Aspen Institute New President Fellow. I look forward to learning and collaborating with other forward-thinking college leaders from across the nation as we work to achieve higher and more equitable levels of student success," said Dr. Danielson. "The resources provided by the Aspen Institute and the network will go a long way to advance Minnesota State College Southeast in its growth."



Riverway Learning Community moved to Minnesota State College Southeast's Winona Campus. This fall, the students of Riverway Learning Community will enjoy a new environment as the PreK-12 school moves to Tandeski Center on the Winona campus of Minnesota State College Southeast. Riverway Learning Community is a public charter school district with a strong 20-year history. Riverway currently serves approximately 130 students with a staff of 35, resulting in a very low 1:5 student-staff ratio. It is divided into a Pre-K-Grade 6 Montessori primary school and a Grade 7-12 secondary school. At all grade levels, Riverway emphasizes environmental learning and outdoor experiences. "We are tremendously excited about making the move to Tandeski," said Riverway Director **Kevin Krieg**. "Our students will thrive by having improved classroom space and being co-located on a college campus. Plus, we are excited about the opportunity to create a natural playground, build outdoor covered structures for shelter and classroom use, and start a variety of different gardens." "We are delighted to welcome Riverway's staff, students, and their families to the MSC Southeast Winona campus," said MSC Southeast President Marsha Danielson. "We are looking forward to the educational opportunities this partnership will offer to the Winona community and beyond."

NEW MEMBERS



Basement Dwellers is a local video production company, based out of Winona Minnesota. They provide businesses and organizations a roadmap to define their story and deliver value to their target audience through curated content. They also specialize in story-driven Wedding Films curated to you and your partner. Basement Dwellers handles wedding videography, video advertising, and even help you film your own projects.

To learn more about Basement Dwellers check out their website at www.basementdwellersproductions.com, give them call at 507.858.1444, or send an email at Basement.Dwellers.Production@gmail.com



Do you have a computer that's broken and needs fixing? Then, **Eyes Open Computer Repair** is the place for you! They fix computers, wi-fi or security cameras and will give you a free estimate of repair before they get started. They believe it is important that your technology is in good hands. They provide high quality business grade services that won't break the bank. Eyes Open will help you handle the complex tech problems that you might face and will support the people in businesses in our local community with patience, grace, and education while building genuine lasting relationships.

To learn more about Eyes Open Computer Repair, visit www.Eyes-open.net, call or text Brian at 507.458.8007 or send an email to Brian@eyes-open.net



UPCOMING NETWORK NITES

THURSDAYS 5-7PM



526 ORRIN STREET



103 EAST THIRD STREET

Networking, food, and beverages... Don't forget your business cards!
Network Nite is open to all Chamber members & their employees.



204 MAIN STREET



855 MANKATO AVENUE



WINONA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGRIBUSINESS COMMITTEE 2022 FAMILY NIGHT ON THE FARM THANK YOU LEHNERTZ FAMILY

EXHIBITORS, SPONSORS, AND VOLUNTEERS

Ag Partners
Altra Federal Credit Union
Bremer Bank
Chrysler Winona
CHS
City of Goodview
Coulee Region Bobcat
Culvers of Winona
Dahl Auto
Elba Coop Creamery
Ellsworth Creamery
Fleet Farm
Gundersen Health System
Hammell Equipment
Hart Country Market & Meats
Harter's Quick Clean-Up
HBC
Hy-Vee, Inc.
Kalmes Implement Co.
Kiwanis Club of Winona
Kronenbusch Waste Haulers
Lehnertz Family Farm
Lehnertz Waste Hauling
Leighton Broadcasting
Lewiston FFA
Lindstrom Equipment
M&M Lawn & Leisure
Merchants Bank
Midwest Machinery
Miller Ingenuity
Miller Scrap
Minnesota State College Southeast
Minnwest Bank
Modern Ready Mix, Inc.

Mount Vernon Beacons 4H
Northwestern Mutual - Dave Erickson
Oakwood Bank
Peerless Industrial Group
Peoples State Bank
Promoting Modern Ag
Rollingstone Community School
Rollingstone First Responders
Saint Mary's University
Speltz Concrete
Sugar Loaf Ford Lincoln
Visit Winona
Viterbo University
Wagner Oehler
Watlow
Westfield Insurance
Winona Chamber Ambassadors
Winona Chamber Board of Directors
Winona County American Dairy Assoc.
Winona County Commissioners
Winona County Dairy Princesses
Winona County Extension Office
Winona County Farm Bureau
Winona County Highway Department
Winona County Planning & Environmental Services
Winona County Sheriff's Mounted Posse
Winona County Sheriff's Office
Winona FFA
Winona Health
Winona State University
Winona Steamboat Days Assoc.
Wirtland Holsteins
WNB Financial



Thank you

The Winona Area Chamber of Commerce and the Lehnertz Family can't thank you enough for all of your support and hard work that made the 2022 Family Night on the Farm event a huge success. Without you it wouldn't have been possible!



Special Thanks to the 2022 Agribusiness Committee and Family Night on the Farm Planning Team

Kyle Rupprecht - Chair, Brady Boyum, Emma Ebbinger, Dave Erickson, Jordan Frederick, Ryan Grobe, Dan Kuntz, Tina Lehnertz, Kay Mathews, Christie Ransom, Anne Schultz, Kaleb Storm, Jill Swenson, Jim Vrchota, Duane Wirt, Liz Wirt, Michelle Woodard