

October 2021

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



Thank You to Our Farmers

Christie Ransom, President & CEO
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

Thank You. Two little words that mean so much yet are not said nearly enough.

I want to dedicate my article this month to thanking our ag producers and the businesses that support them.

Farmers have an extremely important job: feeding the world. Their jobs require them to work long, tiresome hours and battle tough economic and weather conditions, but most farmers and producers do not see it that way. They have a deep passion and commitment to their work, and most say they would not trade their jobs for anything.

It is so easy to take for granted the work and dedication that comes from a farmer that commits their life to growing crops, milking cows, raising livestock, and so much more. So, here's to the Farmers! From your farm to our kitchen, every day the results of all the work you do show up without question at our tables. Whether we are referring to a seed, some dirt, sunshine, and water...or a precious animal, sunshine, water, and lots of food; our producers are the ones who make it possible for us and those we love to thrive and flourish in health.

Next time you open the fridge or walk through a grocery store, think of the farmers who dedicate their lives to making sure there is ample food for the world.

Thank you, Winona County farmers, every day. We are wishing you a safe and bountiful harvest!

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:

- Michael Charron – Chair
- Andrew Puetz – Chair Elect
- Dave Jensen – Past Chair
- Jolene Vaselaar – Treasurer
- Kyle Rupprecht – At Large

Retiring 2021:

- Ben Adank
- Joanne Thompson
- Dave Jensen
- Rebecca Lamberty
- Jolene Vaselaar

Retiring 2022:

- Michael Charron
- Danny Rivers
- Kyle Rupprecht
- Randy Skarlupka
- Ellen Smith

Retiring 2023:

- Andrea Northam
- Dave Pederson
- Kelly Pronschinske
- Andy Puetz
- Mike Dieter

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

2022 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.



Dr. Marsha Danielson
President
MN State College SE



Janneke Sobeck
CEO
Winona Family YMCA



Kendra Maggart
Manager of Business Development & Marketing Promotion
Gundersen Health Winona Medical Campus



Jared Literski
Sales and Project Management
Winona Heating and Vent, Inc.



Katrice Sisson
Community and Donor Relations
Winona Health

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 October Board of Directors meeting.

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 2022.

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.

HAPPY MANUFACTURING & TECHNOLOGY MONTH WINONA!

Manufacturing is the backbone of Minnesota's economy, thanks to the sector's strength, versatility, and innovation. Winona itself is home to approximately 80 manufacturing companies, who employ 6,000+ people.

Governor Walz has proclaimed October as Manufacturing Month in Minnesota. The importance of this industry and the need for workers in this in-demand field are just a few reasons for this proclamation. So, please join us during the month of October as we highlight area manufactures and all they do. Due to COVID restrictions we can't do our traditional manufacturing tours, but we have digital tours on our YouTube channel.

tinyurl.com/ChamberYouTube



CHAMBER CHAMPIONS

- VISIONARY -



- PREMIER -



- EXECUTIVE -



Main Street October Newsletter

Ben Strand, Program Manager
Main Street Program

I know it's spooky season, and we have a great event at the end of the month that I'll talk about shortly, but first I want to highlight an awesome project we're working on at the Main Street Program.

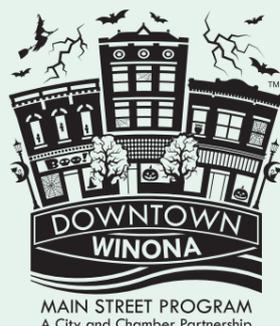
We've partnered with Minnesota State College Southeast's welding program to have a 14-foot-tall holiday tree constructed that will be up for the duration of the holiday season at Peter's Biergarten downtown. They started work on the tree in early September and are on track to finish construction by the end of October. For this project to be a success, however, we need support from the community in the form of donations and sponsorships from businesses.

Our goal is to raise \$5,000 to cover the cost of materials needed for the tree (steel for the frame, garland and lights to wrap the tree in, and other miscellaneous expenses). As of right now we're more than halfway to our goal, and we need your help to get there! This is a very special project to us because of the collaboration involved - working with a local college to build the tree (giving the students valuable experience in the trade they plan to work in down the

road) and a local business to house the tree for the holiday season (which will bring foot traffic to our beautiful and historic downtown).

If you would like to donate visit www.winonachamber.com and click on the "Light Up Downtown" image in the "Upcoming Events" section. You can also mail a check or cash to the Chamber (902 East 2nd Street, Suite 120, Winona, MN, 55987).

Another awesome thing coming up is **Streets and Treats on October 30 from Noon-3 p.m.** in the heart of downtown Winona! There'll be kids' activities, trick-or-treating, Trunk or Treat at The Edge Community Church, and much more! Make sure to follow the Winona Main Street Program's Facebook page for updates and more information in the coming weeks.



BIZ BITES



Charles (Chad) Kooiker, DO, joined the **Winona Health** medical staff and will care for people of all ages in the Emergency department. Dr. Kooiker (pronounced Koy-Ker) said he chose Winona Health because, "I liked the community feel and more personal connection that comes with being single hospital as opposed to the larger, multi-hospital system. With this being a smaller organization, it seems like there are less hoops to jump through and red tape, allowing decisions to be made and improvements to occur more quickly. I was impressed with the Emergency Department team and the focus on evidence-based medicine. I was surprised to learn that some treatment options are available here that some larger organizations don't even have yet." Another thing that made an impression on Dr. Kooiker when visiting Winona Health is, "The minute you walk in the door, everyone is super pleasant and helpful. I think we'll really like Winona as a community. I'm excited to see it as the seasons change!" In his free time, Dr. Kooiker and his wife like trying new restaurants and foods and taking walks with their son and dog. They also enjoy traveling. Growing up in Minnesota, Dr. Kooiker also enjoys ice hockey – both watching and playing.



Collin Coffield, CNP, a Certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, joined the **Winona Health Behavioral Health** team. He will provide counseling and mental health therapy for children age 6 through adults. "I've been interested in philosophy and helping people with mental health concerns for a long time, and these interests are what originally drove me to pursue nursing," said Coffield. "I believe that mental healthcare involves assisting people with the tools necessary to contend with life's inherent challenges. In my role as a certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, I want to help people believe in the innate value of their own life and their lived experience. When I can do that, that's a good day." Asked why he chose Winona Health, Coffield said, "I grew up in Caledonia, Minnesota, so I was already familiar with the area and with the services available at Winona Health. Plus, I've always had a soft spot for Winona and enjoyed coming up here and hiking. I also heard that Winona Health appreciates and respects the role of Nurse Practitioners in the healthcare team." In his free time, Coffield enjoys reading, hunting and hiking. He and his wife, Elissa, have a cat named Burt Macklin, FBI. "Macklin for short," laughed Coffield.



Bremer Bank is excited to announce **Amber Hamernik** has been named the Commercial Lender and Market Leader for Bremer Bank, Winona. In this role, Hamernik will work with the Winona team to live out Bremer's purpose of cultivating thriving communities. Amber has 25 years of financial services experience, spending the last 6 years as a Consumer Banking Director for Bremer Bank. Hamernik joined Bremer Bank in 2015 as part of the Eastwood Bank and Bremer merger. She has a passion for helping business owners grow and expand their organizations. As a Winona native, Hamernik is excited to continue her work in the Winona community.



Bremer Bank is also excited to announce **Lisa Stelmach** has joined its Winona branch as a consumer banker, where she will specialize in consumer and small business solutions. Stelmach has 17 years of banking and mortgage experience, most recently as a manager for Wells Fargo. Stelmach, also a Winona native, remains involved in her community, as a graduate of the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Winona program and as a past and/or present volunteer with Frozen River Film Festival, Winona Volunteer Services, Winona Area Public Schools, Habitat for Humanity, and Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Winona.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Hope Lutheran High School celebrated the grand opening of their new building late in August with an Ambassadors Ribbon Cutting. Phase one of the transformation has been completed and they are ready to welcome new students for the 2021-2022 school year! In phase two, the old school building will be torn down and replaced with a gym, cafeteria, and a fellowship hall that connects to the church.

Hope Lutheran High School would like to thank all of those who worked so diligently on this project, it is truly a labor of love.

Please join us as we congratulate them on the grand opening of their new building!

For more information on St. Martin's Lutheran School, contact their office at 507.474.7799 or visit them online at www.hopelhs.org.

Pictured with Chamber Ambassadors: Members of Hope Lutheran High School Staff

NEW MEMBERS



Lamar Advertising proudly serves the advertising needs of the La Crosse area. With their extensive inventory of Billboards and Digital Displays and the best team in the business, they will help you craft a campaign and successfully reach your target audience.

They provide advertisers with billboard coverage in Wisconsin, Northeast Iowa and Southeastern Minnesota. Displays are strategically located on high traffic Interstates, major highways and local surface streets in communities such as La Crosse, Eau Claire, Tomah, Winona, Merrill, Wisconsin Dells, Decorah, Prairie Du Chien and more.

Their La Crosse office has a full-service staff and team of account executives. They assist customers large and small, local and national, with their advertising needs. Offering both static and digital options, our assets are easily customizable and are a perfect fit into any media mix.

To learn more about Lamar Advertising contact their Account Executive Derek Kubicek at 608.784.8200 or visit them online at <http://lamar.com/lacrosse>.



Quali-Tee Screen Printing of Winona started when local owner and Winona native Robert Kowalewski (otherwise known as Kovie) set out to make quality designs and customized apparel the Winona area would be proud of. Quali-Tee's has been happily servicing the Winona area for 30+ years, the business has grown over the years, but always stays true to its local Winona roots.

Quali-Tee's mission is to provide quality designs at an affordable price. They provide personalized screen printing and embroidery design services for all your custom apparel needs. Whether you are looking to personalize a hat, T-shirt, bag, or other accessory, they can turn your vision into a reality with their prompt turnaround time and high-quality results.

For more information the Quali-Tee Screen Printing of Winona contact owner Bob Kowalewski at 507.474.1729 or visit www.qualiteewinonamn.com.



CAR RAFFLE WINNERS



PERMIT #: X-93936-21-005

GRAND PRIZE
BLACK 2021 FORD BRONCO SPORT
4WD OR \$20,000 CASH
Bill Hampel

MERRIMACK CANOE & SANBORN CANOE PADDLES
OR \$1,500 CASH
Dan Serfling

\$1,000
Darla Erickson and Karen Littlejohn

\$500
Gina McRae, Rich Bagniewski, Mark Swenson,
and Manyard Johnson

\$250
Dane Wunderlich, Dan Arnold, Jan Brosnahan,
and Sandy Koeller

