

April 2022

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



**Volunteer Appreciation Month Thank you!**

Christie Ransom, President & CEO  
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

We are blessed with an amazing staff, but our staff is small and the work that we do is so big! Our success is a reflection of the ever-increasing dedication and enthusiasm our volunteers display on a continual basis. There is no way that we could accomplish the things that we do without an army of people that generously serve our mission and give of their time and talents to make things happen.

Our amazing Board of Directors sets the tone for the Chamber. They are the visionaries that see our organizational potential and encourage our success. Beyond them, we have 9 committees and several events made possible by volunteers. They bring passion. They inspire us. They bring diversity. They are our champions to whom no gratitude is ever enough.

**To the doers, the servant leaders, the amazing people that selflessly give their time to help get things done... THANK YOU! We appreciate you! The world needs so many more of you!**

**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 Soback  
Katrice Sisson  
Jared Literski  
Kendra Maggert

**Staff:**

Christie Ransom – President & CEO

Kay Mathews – Vice President of Finance and Operations

Amanda Steine – Director of Marketing and Communications

Ben Strand – Main Street Program Manager



**WINONA AREA**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

would like to extend a special

**THANK YOU!**

To all of our amazing volunteers, without YOU our organization wouldn't exist.

**Board of Directors Executive Committee**

**Board Chair** – Andy Puetz, Chrysler Winona  
**Past Chair** – Mike Charron, Hope Lutheran High School  
**Chair Elect** – Katrice Sisson, Winona Health  
**Treasurer** – Randy Skarlupka, Miller Ingenuity  
**At Large** - Kyle Rupprecht, Minnwest Bank

Dr. Marsha Danielson, MN State College SE  
Mike Dieter, Express Employment Professionals  
Jared Literski, Winona Heating & Vent  
Kendra Maggert, Gundersen Health  
Andrea Northam, Winona State University  
Dave Pederson, Dunlap & Seeger  
Kelly Pronschinske, Gundersen Health  
Dan Rivers, Rivers Hotel Group  
Ellen Smith, WNB Financial  
Janneke Soback, Winona Family YMCA

**Agri- Business Committee**

**Chair** – Kyle Rupprecht, Minnwest Bank  
Anne Schultz, HyVee  
Brady Boyum, Peoples State Bank  
Dan Kunst, Kohner Materials  
Dave Erickson, Northwestern Mutual  
Duane Klein, Minnwest Bank  
Duane & Liz Wirt, Wirtland Dairy  
Dustin Lano, WA Group  
Glen Groth, Winona County Farm Bureau  
Jill Swenson, S & S Dairy  
Jim Vrchota, Oakwood Bank  
Jon Marley, Merchants Bank  
Jordan Frederick, Merchants Bank  
Kaleb Storm, Minnwest Bank  
Michelle Woodard, F & M Community Bank  
Mike Stolpa, River City Ready Mix  
Ryan Grobe, Bremer Bank

**Business Education Network (B.E.N.) Committee**

**Chair** – Ben Adank, Itechra  
Brian Cashman, Perkins Consortium  
Calvin Clemons, MN State College SE  
Corey Hancock, Benchmark Electronics  
Dawn Lubahn, Career Force  
Dennis Pedrick, Saint Mary's University  
Heather Conley, MN State College SE  
Jeff Rogness, Benedictine Living Community  
Joanne Thompson, MN State College SE  
Kimmie Mungaray, Winona State University  
Madeline Hoesley, Home and Community Options  
Meg Krinke, MK Group Consulting  
Randy Skarlupka, Miller Ingenuity  
Shannon Schroetke, Affinity Plus  
Willie Lubahn, Fastenal

**Public Policy Committee**

**Chair** – Dave Erickson, Northwestern Mutual  
Andrew Guzzo, Merchants Bank  
Brandon Yates, Market & Johnson  
Dave Vaselaar, WNB Financial  
Dave Pederson, Dunlap & Seeger  
Jack Richter, WNB Financial  
John Eckerman, RSP Architects  
Linda Seppanen, Garvin Heights Vineyards  
Mike Charron, Hope Lutheran High School  
Ross Lexvold, Xcel Energy  
Dr. Scott Olson, Winona State University  
Steve Christopherson, Merchants Bank  
Tony Piscitiello

**Economic Development Committee**

**Chair** – Mike Dieter, Express Employment Professionals  
Amber Hamernik, Bremer Bank  
Chris Callahan, WNB Financial  
Conn Walters, WNB Financial  
Dave Pierret, Merchants Bank  
Janneke Soback, Winona Family YMCA  
Julie Kiehne, Winona State University  
Kelly Pronschinske, Gundersen Health  
Rick Jaacks, Merchants Bank  
Rick Pospichal, Career Force

**Ambassadors Committee**

**Chair** – Jordan Frederick, Merchants Bank  
Andrea Northam, Winona State University  
Al Mulyck, Retired  
Andy Puetz, Chrysler Winona  
Angela Bunke, Retired  
Antonio Pelaez, WinCraft  
Autumn Herber, Career Force  
Bev Keiper, Retired  
Bob Bambenek, Winona County  
Dan Weis, Retired  
Danielle Homola, WA Group  
Dave Jensen, Farmers Insurance  
George Cipov, Retired  
Jan Brosnahan, Winona Health  
Jessi Darst, Habitat for Humanity  
Jim Vrchota, Oakwood Bank  
Jose Pelaez, Pelaez Creative  
Julie Kiehne, Winona State University  
Julie Kosidowski, Engrav's Decorating  
Kaleb Storm, Minnwest Bank  
Katrice Sisson, Winona Health  
Ken Bittner, Retired  
Latoria Schmitt, WNB Financial  
Mary Ellen Erlandson, Family & Children's Center  
Pam Simon, Leighton Broadcasting  
Patrick Smock, WNB Financial  
Paula Beyer, Gerard's Small Engine  
Robin Erickson, MCC  
Sharon Davy-Gamer, Horihan Insurance

**Main Street Program Committees**

**Steering Committee**  
Pam Eyden –Chair, Winona City Council Downtown District Representative  
Anita Cisewski –Treasurer, Altra Federal Credit Union  
Christie Ransom –Chamber of Commerce  
Nick Larson –City of Winona  
Dan Rivers –Rivers Hotel Group  
Jessi Darst –Habitat for Humanity  
Dustin Sanborn –Bay State Milling Co.

**Downtown Development**

Steve Kovala – Merchants Bank  
Luke Sims –City of Winona  
Marisa Capezzuto – Colliers

**Beautification Committee**

Eileen Moeller –Frozen River Film Festival  
Carlos Espinosa –City of Winona  
Lew Overhaug –Winona County  
Dave Dicke –HBC Inc.

**Retail Committee**

Jose Pelaez –Pelaez Creative LLC  
Kris Hipps –Great River Shakespeare Festival  
Debi Wildenberg –Baker Shoes  
Anna Siebenaller –Merchants Bank  
Heather Peterson –Sugar Loaf Lane Resale & Boutique

**CHAMBER CHAMPIONS**

**- VISIONARY -**



**- PREMIER -**



**VITERBO UNIVERSITY**

**BREMER BANK**

**- EXECUTIVE -**



**BIZ BITES**



Certified Physician Assistant **Anna Smaron** has joined the **Winona Health** staff and is caring for patients of all ages in Urgent Care on the clinic first floor at Winona Health, 855 Mankato Ave., in Winona. "The Kindness and friendliness of everyone I met while interviewing at Winona Health made me feel at peace with my decision to join Winona Health," said Smaron, "I also appreciate that Winona Health is community focused. It provides the healthcare services people need while also being able to connect patients with other resources in the community."

Smaron, originally from Maple Plain, Minnesota, west of Minneapolis, earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology at Saint Mary's University in Winona. After earning her undergraduate degree, she spent a year at Holy Redeemer Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as a Redeemer Ministry Corp Volunteer. It was there that she began considering a career as a Physician Assistant. Smaron earned her Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies at The College of Saint Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota. She is certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). "I enjoy listening to and caring for people," said Smaron. "Unexpected illnesses and injuries can be challenging, scary and disheartening. I want to provide the kind of care and comfort I'd want for myself or a friend or family member." In her free time, Smaron enjoys swimming, hiking, canoeing and kayaking and she is happy to be back in the Winona area.



**Rihm Family Companies** is pleased to announce that its president and CEO **Kari Rihm** has been named the National Truck Dealer of the Year by the American Truck Dealers Association (ATD).

The ATD Truck Dealer of the Year is a national award that recognizes commercial truck dealers for business performance, industry and civic leadership, and service to their community. It is sponsored by ATD, Heavy Duty Trucking magazine and Procede Software. Nominees are selected by state, metro and national association leaders, and a panel of judges evaluate the nominees and select the winner each year. "I am so proud to represent all commercial truck dealers in this role as the 2022 ATD Truck Dealer of the Year," Kari said in her acceptance speech. "I am grateful and humbled to become a member of a class of truck dealers all with highly distinguished careers and contributions to the great trucking industry."

The award tops off an extensive list of accolades Kari received, as she continues to take her family business to new heights. In the past few years Kari was named the Most Admired CEO in Minnesota, received an award for being the #1 Women-Owned Business in the Twin Cities, earned a Kenworth Dealer Longevity Award, and was named both a Top Woman-Owned Business and Best Company for Women to Work for in Transportation by the Women in Trucking Association.

**NEW MEMBER**



**TINCTURE OF THYME HEALTHCARE CLINIC**

**Tincture of Thyme Healthcare** offers 21st century and time-honored treatments that are delivered by certified family nurse practitioner Donna Kamann, skilled in medicine and herbalism. Tincture of Thyme is offering live or virtual visits. Donna offers a unique model of care, combining holistic nursing expertise, medical assessment, and diagnosis with treatment in a safe, comfortable, soothing environment. Appointment times are scheduled to allow adequate time to discuss your healthcare concerns and explore lifestyle practices that support your wellbeing. Physical exams, lab work, and diagnostic testing are tailored to your specific needs. Tincture of Thyme Healthcare also has a nice selection of dry herbs & house made herbal tinctures which have been lovingly created from local & organically sourced herbs.

Healthcare treatment for: Individuals & families, general wellness exams, skin problems such as acne and eczema, illness (such as sore throat, ear ache, cough, sinus infections, etc.), disease (such as high blood pressure, cholesterol, type 2 diabetes, irritable bowel, arthritis), anxiety, depression, confusion, insomnia, menstrual, menopausal, prostate & sexual concerns, dsde effects of aging, weight concerns, and more are all provided at Tincture of Thyme Healthcare, along with prescription medication orders & refills, basic blood draws and laboratory services, and referrals for medical specialists, physical & occupational therapy, etc.

To learn more about Tincture of Thyme Healthcare contact Owner and Nurse Practitioner, Donna Kamann at 507.474.7015, visit them online at [www.tinctureofthymehealthcare.com](http://www.tinctureofthymehealthcare.com), or stop by Tincture of Thyme Healthcare at 53 East Third Street, Suite 201.

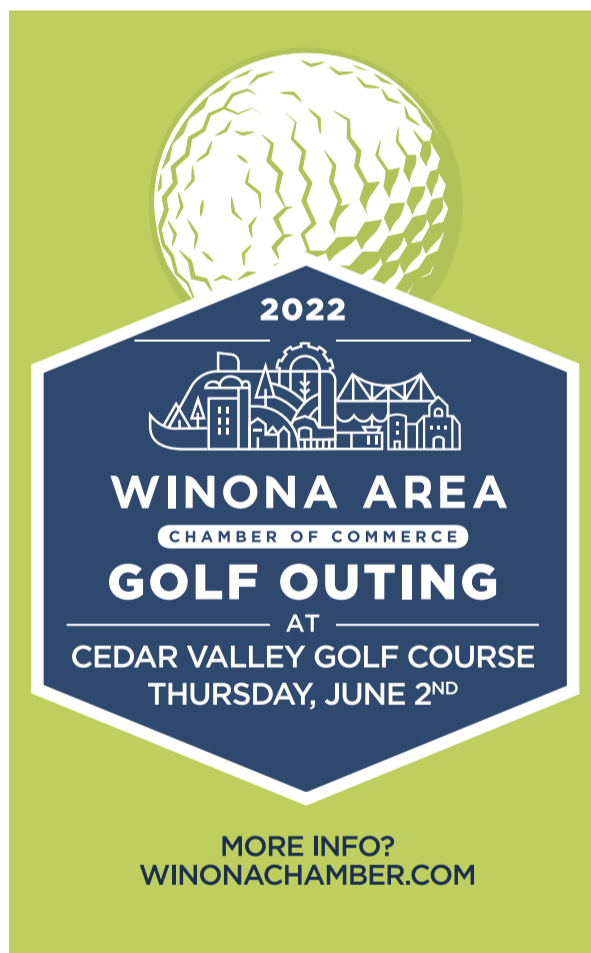
All Chamber Members are invited to join us at our next **NETWORK NITE**



902 Parks Ave, Winona, MN

**Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**from 5-7PM**

hosted by

2022  
**WINONA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GOLF OUTING**  
AT CEDAR VALLEY GOLF COURSE  
THURSDAY, JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>  
MORE INFO?  
[WINONACHAMBER.COM](http://WINONACHAMBER.COM)

**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.

If you are interested in leading the way with us, go to [www.winonachamber.com](http://www.winonachamber.com) and complete the online form.

To set up an appointment to explore the advantages of Chamber membership or to learn more about available resources at the Winona Chamber contact us at (507) 452-2272 or email [info@winonachamber.com](mailto:info@winonachamber.com)



**Main Street April Newsletter**

Ben Strand, Program Manager  
Main Street Program

We'd like to thank everyone who participated in our Shop Local Winter Edition campaign! Supporting local businesses in our downtown is essential to continuing the growth, development, and sustainability of the heart of our community. Without your patronage our downtown wouldn't be what it is today!

Even though the shopping initiative is over, you can still do your part in supporting local by engaging with social media posts and telling friends and family about that business (or the businesses) you love in our downtown. Every little bit helps, no matter how small!

Coming up next month we have Parade of Trucks on Saturday, May 21 from 9-Noon in downtown. We changed it up and went with a parade-style format last

year to fit the Covid-19 restrictions at the time. Since that format was so well-received, we're sticking with it moving forward, and we can't wait! Stay tuned to our website and social media pages for more information on the event in the coming weeks.

We've also got our annual Downtown Spring Cleanup happening on Earth Day Friday, April 22 from 4-6 p.m. If you would like to learn more about what we have planned and/or would like to volunteer and help spruce up our downtown email program manager Ben Strand at [bstrand@winonachamber.com](mailto:bstrand@winonachamber.com) or call 507-452-2272.

