

January 2023

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



2022 Retiring Board Members

Christie Ransom, President & CEO
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

Thank you so much to all our retiring Board Members! You have given countless hours of your time and talents, and we could not be more appreciative.



Mike Charron – Hope Lutheran High School

Mike has been an amazing part of our Board of Directors over the past three years. He served as the Chair of the Board of Directors in 2021. Mike has also been a part of our Public Policy Committee for several years, serving as a Chair of that committee in the past. As a member of the Public Policy committee, he helped to facilitate our candidate information and education session for those interested in running for office, attended the Session Priorities Dinner, and helped with local, state, and federal issues related to businesses through the Public Policy efforts. He also helped with our Leadership Winona program facilitating our Civic Leader panel and speaking to the class on civic engagement. Mike has been a wonderful part of our Board and we know he will remain a champion of the Chamber.



Ellen Smith – WNB Financial (retired)

Ellen has been a very valuable member of the Board of Directors. During her time on the Board, she assisted in so many of our initiatives. Ellen played a key role in supporting the Chamber through three grant cycles for small business grants totaling \$4.5 million dollars through the pandemic. Additionally, Ellen was a champion in supporting initiatives that were birthed out of the pandemic, such as our Dairy Buckets and car raffle. She helped with Big Muddy Brew 'n Que with behind the scenes set up/take down and assisted in registration and setup for our Golf Classic, as well. Ellen retired from WNB Financial in October of 2022. We wish her all the best in her retirement and will certainly miss her on our Board of Directors.

Dan Rivers – Rivers Hotel Group

Dan has been a wonderful addition to our board of directors. During his time on the Board, Dan served on the Winona Main Street Steering Committee. His creative thinking helped in promoting our downtown district during the pandemic with ideas like Streets and Treats, which was initiated in 2020 and is a favorite event that will continue for years to come. He has also helped with events, such as

Touch-a-Truck Parade, assisting staff with prep work for Big Muddy Brew 'n Que, putting up holiday lights at Levee Plaza, and more!

Kyle Rupprecht – Minnwest Bank

Kyle has served for many years as a member of the Family Night on the Farm committee. In 2019, we created the Winona Area Chamber Agri-Business Committee, in which he has served as the Chair since its inception. He has led initiatives such as our Dairy Buckets, Family Night on the Farm, Harvest Buckets, and farmer workshops to bring speakers relevant to our area farmers. Kyle has served as the At Large member of our Executive Committee during all 3 years of his term on the Board of Directors. Beyond all of that, Kyle served as our resident "truck guy", helping us to haul things for many different events.



Dan Rivers, Kyle Rupprecht, Randy Skarlupka

Randy Skarlupka – Miller Ingenuity

Randy has been an active participant in the Chamber of Commerce for several years. He has served on the Business Education Network Committee and been a champion of our workforce initiatives, starting with REACH and now with our new Synergy Academy. Randy has also been involved with Manufacturing and Technology Month, helping to plan and schedule tours and celebrate our amazing Manufacturers in the area. Randy served on the search committee following the resignation of the past Chamber President/CEO Della Schmidt. Over the past year, Randy also served on the Executive Committee as the Board Treasurer. Beyond these roles, Randy has volunteered at Steamboat Days in the Food Trailer, at Family Night on the Farm, at Big Muddy Brew 'n Que, with our Car Raffle, and so much more. We know that Randy will remain involved in the Chamber, but we will certainly miss him on the Board of Directors.

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:

Katrice Sisson – Chair
Stan Breitlow – Chair Elect
Andrew Puetz – Past Chair
Amber Hamernik – Treasurer
Andrea Northam - At Large

Retiring 2023:

Andrea Northam
Dave Pederson
Kelly Pronschinske
Andy Puetz
Mike Dieter

Retiring 2024:

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

Retiring 2025:

Stan Breitlow
Amber Hamernik
Jason Gamoke
Kevin Ritz
Mandy Hansel

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 -



- EXECUTIVE -



MEET THE 2023 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Amber Hamernik
Bremer Bank



Andrea Northam
Winona State University



Andy Puetz
Chrysler Winona



Dave Pederson
Dunlap & Seeger, P.A.



Janneke Soback
Winona Family YMCA



Jared Literski
Winona Heating and Vent, Inc.



Jason Gamoke
Morgan's Jewelers



Katrice Sisson
Winona Health



Kelly Pronschinske
Gundersen Health



Kendra Maggart
Gundersen Health



Kevin Ritz
WA Group



Mandy Hansel
RiverSide Integrated Solutions



Dr. Marsha Danielson
MN State College SE



Mike Dieter
Express Employment Professionals



Stan Breitlow
Watlow

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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NEW MEMBERS



Lyle's Flooring America is a one-stop-shop for all your floor covering needs, offering in-home service and experience in the commercial area. The company is more than just a flooring specialty store, they are experts trained in flooring sales and design, and will help you find the perfect floor for the way you live. As a part of America's leading flooring retail group, their 500-store nationwide buying power guarantees low prices on thousands of carpet types and other flooring options, backed by the most solid warranties in the floor covering industry. "When you visit us, you are sure to find home flooring that matches your stylish rooms with guidance from our team of knowledgeable and friendly sales associates."

To learn more about Lyles' Flooring America, visit www.lylesflooringamericamncity.com, call 507.454.3105 or visit the store at 17900 Highway 61 Minnesota City, MN. Hours of operation: Monday-Friday 9AM-5PM, Saturday 9AM-1PM.



Studio 24 is a videography and photography business making an astounding visual impression backed by 15+ years of experience. The business launched with a mission to capture messages in cutting-edge quality with an introductory standard for video in 4k, simply 4 times the quality of high-definition video or photo. Studio 24 is based in Rochester, MN and serves a client base throughout the Midwest: Minneapolis, Wisconsin, and Iowa, plus the West Coast and beyond. They have removed the overhead of a physical studio to bring their unique and compact mobile shooting platform to a location of the clients' choice.

To learn more about Studio 24, email jason@studio24now.com or call 507.722.2405

RIBBON CUTTINGS



We helped welcome a new chamber member, **Lyle's Flooring America**, with a ribbon cutting! Lyle's Flooring America is a one-stop-shop for all your floor covering needs, offering in-home service and experience in the commercial area with a high attention to customer service. They focus on creating client relationships from the minute you walk through their door, until the flooring is in your home, and even 10 years down the line. "When you visit us, you are sure to find home flooring that matches your stylish rooms with guidance from our team of knowledgeable and friendly sales associates."

To learn more about Lyle's Flooring America, visit www.lylesflooringamericamncity.com, call 507.454.3105, or visit the store at 17900 Highway 61 Minnesota City, MN. Hours of operation: Monday-Friday 9AM-5PM, Saturday 9AM-1PM.



The Value of Membership

Emma Ebbinger, Director of Workforce and Business Development

What is your membership worth? While a membership with a Chamber of Commerce has a price, there are many benefits to joining! Business owners and entrepreneurs wear many different hats, and that is why we are here: to help your business grow and thrive. Being a member of the Chamber gives member businesses access to resources they might not otherwise have, such as numerous promotional perks, exclusive advertising and networking opportunities, and additional exposure for their companies or organizations. We are here to listen to your business plans and needs and connect you with the information and organizations that can assist you in the perfect solution.

Chambers offer the opportunity to network among local business owners, operators, and industry movers, including collaboration and partnerships. One way we promote networking amongst our local members is through Winona's own Network Nite event. We also focus heavily on advocacy, giving each business a voice and advocating for your business or organization on local, state, and federal issues. Each member of the chamber joins for a different reason, and we are here to serve businesses how and when they need us.



We celebrated a Chamber member with a ribbon cutting! Doma helps real estate professionals, attorneys, and homeowners experience an unforgettably positive closing experience. Backed by the local team of experts and patented machine intelligence technology, Doma delivers the title, escrow, closing, and underwriting services you need to close fast and accurately. They are invested in fundamentally changing the future of real estate closings and are invested in you!

For more information, visit the Winona branch office at 122 West 2nd Street, Suite 12 or call at 507.205.4211 Pictured with Chamber Ambassadors: Sheila Thorson, Tonja Colsch & Trisha Johnson



WINONA CHAMBER NETWORK NITE

All Chamber Members are invited to join us
Thursday, January 12th from 5-7PM

WINONA ORC

1053 E. Mark St., Winona, MN



Main Street Corner

Anna Sibenaller, Director of Main Street Programs

Last year was a wonderful one for downtown Winona. There's a distinct energy and excitement surrounding our beautiful, historic downtown district. The heart of Winona is filling out with delicious restaurants and all kinds of fun shops to frequent.

We'll have our usual fun to look forward to in 2023: Parade of Trucks, Big Muddy Brew n' Que, Streets & Treats, and other plans for downtown activities. The Main Street committees will be convening to establish a strategic plan for the program and work behind the scenes to make downtown a great place for residents and workers to enjoy.

If you'd like to know about and provide feedback on what improvements are coming up for Winona, make your voice heard regarding the City of Winona's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is an essential tool for guiding the City's growth over the next

20 years. It is a guide for residents, property owners, business owners, elected and appointed officials, and developers as they make decisions about the future of Winona. Attend one of January listening sessions:

Wednesday, January 18, 4:30-6:30pm
Winona Senior High School, 901 Gilmore Ave.

Tuesday, January 24, 5-7pm
City Hall, City Council Chambers on third floor
Spanish and Hmong interpretation available at this session

We are all the Winona community – and your voice deserves to be heard!



JOIN THE CHAMBER!

If you are interested in leading the way with us, go to 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