



Celebrating the Heart
of Our Chamber:
Our Volunteers

Christie Ransom, President & CEO
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, and we can’t let it pass without celebrating the incredible individuals who bring their time, talents, and passion to the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce. Their dedication fuels our mission, strengthens our community, and makes the impossible possible.

While we’re fortunate to have an amazing team, our small-but-mighty staff can’t do it alone. It’s our

volunteers—our army of doers—who step up, roll up their sleeves, and make things happen. From lending a helping hand at events to shaping the future through committee work, their impact is immeasurable.

At the heart of it all is our outstanding Board of Directors, setting the vision and paving the way for success. Surrounding them are nine dedicated committees and countless volunteers who bring energy, diversity, and innovation to everything we do. They are our champions—leaders who inspire, support, and drive our mission forward.

To those who show up, step in, and give selflessly—thank you! Your commitment does not go unnoticed, and our gratitude knows no bounds. The world needs more people like you, and we are beyond lucky to have you in our Chamber family!

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
Amber Hamernik – Treasurer
– 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
Jennifer Williamson
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

2025 CHAMBER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair – Jon Olson, Winona State University
Past Chair – Stan Breitlow, Watlow
Chair Elect – Jennifer Williamson, Behrens Manufacturing
Treasurer – Amber Hamernik, Bremer Bank

Rod Baker, Winona Health
Shawn Beier, Island City Properties
Anita Cisewski, Altra Federal Credit Union
Jason Gamoke, Morgan’s Jewelers
Mandy Hansel, Riverside Integrated Solutions
Tina Lehnertz, Lehnertz Family Farm
Ross Lexvold, Xcel Energy
Mike Puetz, Sugar Loaf Ford Lincoln
Kevin Ritz, WA Group
Jennifer Shabel, Wagner Oehler
Neil Wieser, Wieser Brothers

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair – Mike Dieter, Behrens Manufacturing

Chris Callahan, WNB Financial
Garrick Holey, Willet Studios
Julie Kiehne, Winona State University
Jennifer Olson, Minnesota State College Southeast
Jose Pelaez, Pelaez Creative
Katrice Sisson, Winona Health
Cory Tomesh, American Solutions for Business
Conn Walters, WNB Financial
Neil Wieser, Wieser Brothers

WORKFORCE COMMITTEE

Chair – Randy Skarlupka, Miller Ingenuity

Ben Adank, Itchra, Inc
Kerri Carlson Anderson, Saint Mary’s University of MN
Brian Cashman, MN State College Southeast
Calvin Clemons, MN State College Southeast
Dr. Marsha Danielson, MN State College Southeast
Mandy Hansel, RiverSide Integrated Solutions, Inc.
Medeline Hoesley, Home & Community Options
Dawn Lubahn, MN State College Southeast
Hana Moga, Benedictine Living Communities
Kevin Ritz, WA Group
Tyler Schulz, Market & Johnson
Tim Vodak, Benchmark

Ambassadors Committee

Chair – Jose Pelaez, Pelaez Creative

Al Mulyck, Retired
Angela Bunke, Retired
Autumn Herber, Career Force
Bev Keiper, Retired
Bob Bambenek, County Reporter
Conn Walters, WNB Financial
George Cipov, Retired
Jim Vrchota, Oakwood Bank
Julie Kosidowski, Engrav’s Decorating
Katrice Sisson, Winona Health
Martina Danielson, Express Employment Professionals
Mary Ellen Erlandson, Retired
Pam Simon, Leighton Media
Paula Beyer, Gerard’s Small Engine Service, Inc.
Sharon Davy-Gamer, Horihan Insurance
Dave Dicke, HBC, Inc.
Amber Hamernik, Bremer Bank of Winona
Anita Cisewski, Altra Federal Credit Union
Mohamed Ahmed, Winona State University

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Chair – Dave Erickson, Northwestern Mutual

Mike Charron, Retired
Steve Christopherson, Merchants Bank
John Eckerman, RSP Architects
Andrew Guzzo, Merchants Bank
Ross Lexvold, Xcel Energy
Dave Pederson, Dunlap & Seeger
Tony Piscitiello, Retired
Mike Puetz, Sugar Loaf Ford Lincoln
Linda Seppanen, Garvin Heights Vineyards
Jennifer Shabel, Wagner Oehler
Dave Vaselaar, WNB Financial

AGRI- BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Co-Chair – Kaleb Storm, Minnwest Bank
Co-Chair – Jordan Frederick, Merchants Bank

Brady Boyum, People’s State Bank
Nicole Cheney, Hy-Vee
Dave Erickson, Northwestern Mutual
Al Gathje – Bremer Bank
Dustin Lano, WA Group
Tina Lehnertz, Lehnertz Family Farm
Jared Literski, Winona Heat & Vent
Nikki Mades, Altra Federal Credit Union
Jon Olson, Winona State University
Kyle Rupperecht, Minnwest Bank
Dane Speltz, Modern Ready Mix
Jim Vrchota, Oakwood Bank
Kevin Walther, Consolidated Energy
Liz Wirt, Wirtland Holstein
Duane Wirt, Wirtland Holstein
Michelle Woodard, F & M Community Bank

MAIN STREET PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Steering Committee

Anita Cisewski, Altra Federal Credit Union
Dan Rivers, Rivers Hotel Group
Dustin Sanborn, Bay State Milling
Jason Gamoke, Morgan’s Jewelers
Kendra Maggert, Gundersen Health Systems
Nick Larson, Port Authority of Winona
Shawn Beier, Island City Living
Stan Breitlow, Watlow

Economic Vitality

Dustin Sanborn, Bay State Milling
Steve Kovala, Merchants Bank
Luke Sims, City of Winona
Chris Callahan, WNB Financial
Aaron Thurow, Continuum Financial
Michael Howell, WA Group
Aaron Perleberg, Real Broker

Design Committee

Chair – Dave Dicke, HBC, Inc.
Pam Eyden, City Council
Lew Overhaug, Winona County
Carlos Espinosa, City of Winona
Trinity Hugunin, Affinity Plus Credit Union

Promotion Committee

Jose Pelaez, Pelaez Creative
Ashley Harrison, Merchants Bank
Cory Tomesh, Sprint Graphics
Tim Vodak, Benchmark

NETWORK NITE

APRIL 10 5-7PM

NETWORK NITE IS OPEN TO ALL CHAMBER MEMBERS
AND THEIR EMPLOYEES

HOSTED BY

Winona Health

855 Mankato Ave. Winona



BIZ BITES



Winona Health welcomes Katrice Sisson in new, business development role

Katrice Sisson, who was with Winona Health from January 2020 to January 2024, first as community relations specialist then manager of community and donor relations, returns to Winona Health in the new role of business development strategist. In her new role, Sisson will focus on community partnerships, connecting with area individuals, businesses and organizations to learn about their challenges related to health and wellness and identifying opportunities for developing programs and services to better meet their needs. “This is a wonderful community and it’s even more so when we all work together. I’m looking forward to developing and strengthening our partnerships,” said Sisson. “I’m open to ideas, requests and feedback, and I welcome the opportunity to listen and collaborate.”



Alyssa Eich, CNP, joins caregivers in Pediatrics at Winona Health

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Alyssa Eich is joining doctors Heather Burton, Sarah Lallaman and Kelli Ostermann in the Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine department at Winona Health. “I consider caring for children a ‘team sport.’ Well-child visits are so important, and my role is to be a resource, to answer questions and provide information to help parents decide what is best for their child,” said Eich (pronounced ike). She added, “As a mom of two young children, I understand that feeling of wondering if something is normal or cause for concern. I want parents to know that I’ll listen and take every concern seriously.”

Eich noted that she is also interested in supporting parents in their effort to help their children develop good mental health when it comes to dealing with anxiety and stress. She said, “Learning to cope with struggles and emotions at an early stage can help set the course for positive mental health throughout the school years and beyond.”



WA Group Promotes Stephanie Wilson

Join WA Group in congratulating Stephanie Wilson on her well-deserved promotion to Personal Lines Manager! Stephanie’s dedication and expertise have been instrumental in serving our clients with excellence. We are thrilled to see her continue to shine in her new role.

NEW MEMBERS



DBS Group

Based in La Crosse, WI, and Rochester, MN, DBS Group comprises experienced design and construction professionals committed to providing exceptional customer service, creating value and providing a quality work product through design-build construction project delivery. DBS Group prides itself on being a true partner to their customers — from concept to completion — and are relentless in their efforts to contribute to their current and future success. To learn more, visit www.dbsg.com or call 608-881-6007



AFLAC

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M & M Lawn & Leisure

M&M Lawn & Leisure, where the variety of outdoor power equipment is second to none. They’re happy to help you find either the perfect outdoor power equipment or the parts you’ve been looking for. If you need help in making your selection, call or stop in—they’re always ready to help! M & M is family-owned and operated and conveniently located in Rushford, MN. M&M Lawn & Leisure Rushford can provide you with the latest and best in outdoor power products to make your outdoor living more enjoyable. Combine this wide array of selections with our friendly and knowledgeable staff, and we’re convinced M&M Lawn & Leisure Rushford will become your only stop for all of your outdoor power needs. To learn more about M & M Lawn & Leisure visit <https://mmlawnleisure.com> or call 507-864-7781



Boathouse Restaurant

Boat House Restaurant opened in 2013 in Levee Park in Winona Minnesota, the only riverfront restaurant in Winona. Boat House was formed out of a love for the Mississippi River, food, drink and everything that goes with that. Boat House serves traditional river inspired seafood dishes, steak, craft cocktails, and beers on our seasonally rotating menu. For more information and to view the menu please visit <https://boathouse-winona.com> or visit their Facebook page for specials

2025

WINONA AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

GOLF OUTING

ON THURSDAY,
JUNE 5TH

JOIN US AT
Cedar Valley

REGISTER AT WINONACHAMBER.COM

Come golf with us

For more information or to register contact the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce at 507.452.2272 | info@winonachamber.com | winonachamber.com



Chamber Membership:
A Catalyst for Business Growth
and Community Impact

Jacob Ransom – VP of Workforce
Strategy & Membership Development

Becoming a member of your local Chamber of Commerce isn’t just a smart business decision, it’s a powerful investment in your future. It connects you to a dynamic network of leaders, innovators, and changemakers, creating endless possibilities for growth, collaboration, and success.

Chamber membership instantly elevates your credibility. It shows your customers and peers that you’re committed to excellence, integrity, and supporting the community

you serve. It’s more than a badge—it’s a mark of leadership.

And the value runs deep. As a member, you gain a strong advocate at every level of government, ensuring your voice is heard on the issues that matter most to your business. You’ll also unlock access to exclusive resources: high-impact training, strategic marketing support, and programs designed to help you grow, adapt, and lead with confidence.

Most importantly, Chamber membership is about belonging. It’s about being part of something bigger...contributing to the economic vitality, resilience, and spirit of your community.

When you invest in the Chamber, you’re not just growing your business. You’re shaping the future.



Exciting Developments
and Events in Downtown
Winona

Travis Lybeck – Director of
Main Street Programs

As the Director of the Winona Main Street Program, I'm thrilled to share some exciting updates and upcoming events that highlight the vibrancy and growth of our historic downtown.

Main Square West Development

A significant development is on the horizon of downtown Winona. The proposed Main Square West project aims to introduce 100 residential units and commercial space, including a restaurant, at the southeast corner of Washington Street and West Fourth Street. This \$30 million-plus investment is poised to be another catalyst for revitalizing our downtown area, offering new housing options and enhancing our commercial landscape.



For more information on events and opportunities,
visit our website at winonamainstreet.com

Upcoming Events

Parade of Trucks: May 17th The event kicks off with a Parade of Trucks through downtown Winona. Then they park in the street and open their door for kids to get an up-close look and “touch a truck”. Emergency, utility, city, construction, commercial, & more vehicles will be there.

Big Muddy Brew 'n Que: September 5-6, 2025, at Levee Park, this free, family-friendly event will feature live music, a Best in Area Tasting Competition, Bloody Mary Tasting, food trucks, a cornhole competition, kids' activities, and more.

BIG MUDDY
BREW 'N QUE

SEPT. 5 & 6
2025