



The **EXECUTIVE**

mcce

August 5, 2014

**2014 FALL CONFERENCE |
[Register now!](#)**

The 2014 Fall Conference will be September 24–26 at Breezy Point Resort in Breezy Point MN. To book a room in advance, [click here](#) and enter **86445** in the **Group ID** box. This will give you the room options available to book or call 800.432.377. Rooms are available at Breezy Point Inn & Suites and Breezy Center for \$95 (tax not included). [Click here](#) to view the resort map. More details on the program will follow. Two conference scholarships are available for Fall Conference. [Click here](#) to download the scholarship application.



Key topic areas for the conference will include tourism, leadership development, 2014 elections, and a wide range of issues. There will also be an auction to raise funds for MCCE scholarships. Mark your calendar today and plan to join us!

SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 Annual Meeting | January 28–30 - Metro Location TBA
2015 MACE Conference | May 6-8 - Sheraton, Sioux Falls, SD
2015 Mini Institute | June 4 - Holiday Inn & Suites, St. Cloud, MN
2015 America's Small Business Summit | June 10–12 - Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.
2015 Fall Conference | September 23–25 - Greater MN Location TBA

REMEMBERING DAVID OLSON

Ken Warner, president, Willmar lakes Area Chamber of Commerce

Where does one begin in writing a tribute to be shared with my peers and colleagues about a man who was admired by so many and one that many of us got to know a little bit better beyond our professional life. When I think of David I think of humor, humility, intelligence, honesty and commitment. I could go on with more but these are the ones that I think about in writing this that kept coming back to me.



His leadership was second to none and I am proud to have not only called him my friend and colleague, but a mentor whom I often looked to for advice, leadership and direction. I can honestly say that I know I wouldn't have been in this business for 29 years without David prodding me to always do the best I can, hang in there and with that look in his eye and his reassuring tone that said in a very subtle way, "suck it up and get over it". I know many of you have commented since this has all happened that you wouldn't be in the business if it hadn't of been for David. We all went to him with our issues, concerns, career opportunities, etc. and he was always there and always seemed to know the right things to say.

The fun side of David was a special thing to experience too. Whether it was receiving one of his special birthday cards that always made you laugh or getting that voicemail from him to just check-in and see how you're doing. As a lot of you know, David was a fan of pull tabs and a lot of times at conference he and I would sneak off to play some (OK a lot of them J). It truly was our time to just visit and catch-up to talk about work, wives, kids and whatever else we could conjure up about life in general. We often laughed if they ever caught up to us on this Chamber gig after being in for many years, we could always open our own pull tab booth somewhere. Lord knows we've paid for one or perhaps two in the many years we've been friends and colleagues!

Over the last couple of months, the talks were a little more intense but always hopeful, always determined and always looking forward to putting all of the health stuff in the rear-view mirror and looking forward to getting back to working hard and playing hard. His death was sudden and a shock to all of us especially with the all clear sign given just a couple of weeks before that. I take comfort in knowing that the when the end came David probably wasn't aware of what was going to happen and was just preparing to fight some more of which I'm sure he did. Knowing how hard and long he fought, how he followed the doctor's advice by the book and always remained the optimist, he was still taken away. In my book, that's just not fair. I'm confident that he could have that talk with me today while playing pull tabs, he would be venting on how mad as hell he is that it happened but it did and he would be telling all of us to get back to work as there's work to be done.

It's been a privilege and an honor to work closely with David on a variety of projects of mutual interest over the years. Rather it be as a member of the Minnesota Chamber or through our affiliation with MCCE, it has been tremendously satisfying to work with him and observe his exemplary effectiveness as Minnesota Chamber President. Thank you for your exceptional record of service to the Minnesota Chamber, MCCE and the entire State of Minnesota. It truly has been an honor to be part of David's life and part of an organization under his leadership. I will always appreciate your hard work and dedication to the Chamber and your commitment to our profession. Thanks for being a true friend, mentor and colleague. I will miss you but I also will be thinking what would DCO say or do when I'm in those situations

where I would have just had the chance to ask you the same question.

DAVID OLSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The David Olson Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established through the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Executives (MCCE). Contributions to the fund may be sent to David Olson Memorial Scholarship Fund, MCCE, 400 North Robert Street, Suite 1500, St. Paul, MN 55101.

2015 EVENT BID FORMS

Host a conference and showcase your region! MCCE is looking for a venue to host the following 2015 events:

- 2015 Annual Meeting - Open to Metro Area Venues | [Bid Form](#)
- 2015 Fall Conference - Open to Greater Minnesota Venues | [Bid Form](#)

Attendance at the conferences usually ranges between 60-80 individuals. Local chambers interested in hosting the conference should work with their local facilities to develop a proposal. Bids should be submitted to the MCCE by the local chamber of commerce. Please return the forms by e-mail to Leah Tomasetti at ltomasetti@mnchamber.com or mail to Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Executives, 400 Robert Street North, Suite 1500, St. Paul, MN 55101 by August 29, 2014.

TIPS FOR ENGAGING IN THE ELECTIONS

The Minnesota Chamber recently updated the "[Do's and Don'ts Guide](#)" for election activity. This guide is not intended to provide legal advice, but some guidelines for engagement in elections and political activity. We hope that your chamber will play a role to inform your members about candidates for office this fall. It is an important and critical role for your organization whether it is hosting candidate forums, interviewing candidates and publishing questionnaire responses in your newsletters. If you would like help in planning candidate forums for state legislative candidates, don't hesitate to contact Jennifer Byers at jbyers@mnchamber.com or 651.292.4673.

JOB OPENINGS

[I-94 West Chamber of Commerce | President](#)

Interested candidates should send a letter of introduction, resume, & salary requirements to jobs@i94westchamber.org or mail to I-94 West Chamber of Commerce, 21370 John Milless Drive, P.O. Box 95, Rogers, MN 55374.

[Minnesota Chamber of Commerce | Waste Wise & Energy Smart | Energy Smart Program Manager](#)

Contact Jill Curran for further information, jcurran@mnchamber.com, 651.292.4653.

[TwinWest Chamber of Commerce | Member Retention & Community Development Director](#)

Contact Brad Meier at 763.450.2222 or brad@twinwest.com for more information on applying for this position. Application deadline is Monday, August 11, 2014.

[Twin Cities North Chamber of Commerce | President](#)

Submit resume and salary requirements by August 15th, 2014 to Tom Sanvick at info@twincitiesnorth.org or Twin Cities North Chamber of Commerce 525 Main Street, Suite 200, New Brighton, MN 55112.

OUTGOING EXECUTIVES

Cindy Krankkala has submitted her resignation as the Executive Director of the Thief River Falls Chamber of Commerce. Her last day will be August 29, 2014. Cindy was a winner of the Idea Competition and won \$10,000 to help launch her small business.

JOIN OUR LinkedIn GROUP!

The MCCE now has a group on [LinkedIn](#). Search for the group by typing Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Executives into the search bar. Join to hear about the latest news and events and connect with your peers.

IN THE NEWS

[Commentary, John Herges and Teresa Bohnen, St. Cloud Chamber: Your Turn: Keeping coal in the mix makes sense for Minnesota](#)

The bitterly cold temperatures of the past winter and the associated high cost of heating homes and businesses have mostly faded into bad memories, so now it's safe to exhale, right?
Not so fast...

[Changing the rules on the river](#)

The St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, cities along the Mississippi River and other groups are scrutinizing new zoning and permitting rules the Department of Natural Resources is proposing for a 72-mile stretch of the river in the Twin Cities...

[Canadian ambassador addresses energy in keynote speech](#)

By working together, North America has the ability to become energy independent. Gary Doer, the Canadian ambassador to the United States, was the keynote speaker for a panel discussion addressing the Canadian and Minnesota Partnership of energy, economy and environment held at the Sawmill Inn in Grand Rapids Thursday afternoon...

[Commentary, Steve Blue CEO Miller Ingenuity: The value of asking why, Della Schmidt extraordinary CEO](#)

In 1902, a group of Winona area businessmen formed the Association of Commerce. Known today as the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce, it continues to play a key role in developing business, supporting education and facilitating the growth of tourism. Join my conversation with the Winona Chamber President & CEO, Della Schmidt, and learn what led her to this role...

[Leadership participants graduate](#)

The Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce joins Riverland Community College in congratulating the graduates of Leadership 2013-2014, a community-based leadership program for residents of Freeborn County...

[Chamber team to learn in Germany](#)

A group of Rochester city leaders soon will travel to Germany to look for work force

ideas that can be adapted for use here. Jessi Strinmoen, the director of education and workforce development at the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce, is also interested in the role businesses can play in education...

[Campaign to show we're 'Good to Grow'](#)

When the news first broke about plans for a new \$9.5 million hotel on the former Ogle's lot last fall, the naysayers had a field day. And the Hibbing Chamber of Commerce's Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Committee would like to see that negative perception disappear...

[Dakota County biz briefs: Chamber to hold trade seminar](#)

The Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce and Allthatstory America will host an exporting seminar for businesses interested in learning more about the South Korean market...

[Chamber of Commerce, partners want new pedestrian-safety steps](#)

When fall arrives, there may be a new colorful sight to accompany the changing leaves: volunteers in bright yellow shirts holding banners at intersections across Winona, to raise awareness of pedestrian safety...

[Preparing for the new normal: higher minimum wage may hurt Austin businesses](#)

Austin Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sandy Forstner expects the higher wages will make business owners hesitant to fill positions. "I think you're going to see people get a little bit more selective on hiring," he said....

[St. Peter Chamber criticizes electric rate increase](#)

The St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce complained Monday to the St. Peter City Council about last May's electric rate hikes for large commercial and industrial consumers. Chamber Executive Director Ed Lee said the hike is not "business friendly" and doesn't promote economic growth...

