



The **EXECUTIVE**

mcce

September 10, 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. Why attend? See Audra's column below! [Register now!](#)



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



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.



GUEST COLUMN

Audra Shaneman, president/CEO, New Ulm Area Chamber of Commerce

When growing up, I dreamed of being a mom, a teacher, a radio broadcaster, an advertising executive, a chef, well, you get the idea. What never made the list was Chamber executive.

If we spent a little time listing the things we love about our jobs, we'd talk about variety of activity, lots of influence, relating to people, organizing events, leading volunteers, taking on a cause, lots of writing and communicating, advocating for our members and the business community, lots of listening and brainstorming, board management, etc.

Most career paths have an association that provides a sense of camaraderie, networking opportunities and up to date information and training. Fortunately, we have the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Executives organization that provides these opportunities for us. This organization provides the above but also has introduced me to other executives that serve as mentors, cheerleaders and inspiration as I continue the work in New Ulm.

Every community is different and so are our actual duties. MCCE gives us the opportunity to evaluate our chamber with what others are doing across the state and see opportunities to bring more value to

our members. I encourage you to attend MCCE conferences, utilize the resources on the website and take the opportunity to meet with Chamber Executives whenever you can! Like Woody Allen says, "90% of life is showing up!"

MINNESOTA BUSINESS GIVES

As many of you are aware, the decision was made at the end of 2013 to discontinue Minnesota Business Gives as a formal program of the Minnesota Chamber. Declining participation of local chambers in both the workshop and the recognition program did not justify the ongoing resources needed to sustain the program at the Chamber.

Over the nine years of the program, 51 local chambers participated in Business Gives, either by sponsoring the workshop (*Strategies for Smart Giving*), the business recognition program, or both. More than 850 people participated in a workshop, either in their local community or through one of our five webinars. And more than 300 businesses were recognized by local chambers for their community contributions.

Information about Business Gives continues to be available on the Chamber's website under Corporate Social Responsibility. The Chamber highly values business recognition and the past participation in the program by local chambers. For any chambers interested in scheduling a workshop for their members, you can contact Jackie Reis, jreis@mnchamber.com or jreis@visi.com, who will talk with you about the fee for scheduling a meeting in your community. Jackie can also let you know the process for starting a recognition program for your members.

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 candidate 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.

HIRING MINNESOTA HEROES

Hiring Minnesota Heroes works one-on-one with Minnesota employers to develop and implement veterans hiring programs. It's a win-win proposition for businesses and veterans. Employers have another avenue to hire the qualified workers they need. This initiative also helps to shrink the disparity between the unemployment rates for the general population and veterans, and particularly for veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We've developed a stamp that you can place on your web sites to promote the program. [Download the image](#). You can link the image to the page on the Minnesota Chamber website:
<https://www.mnchamber.com/grow/hiring-minnesota-heroes>.

INSTITUTE FOR ORGANIZATION MANAGEMENT - PAY IT FORWARD

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Executives is proud to partner with Institute for Organization Management, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's professional development program for non-profit executives, and offer two \$500 partial tuition scholarships to one of Institute's 2015 sites. The two scholarships, available to our members, will be awarded to students attending Institute for the first time to assist with enrollment fees and cannot be combined with any other Institute scholarships.

For over 90 years, Institute has educated association and chamber leaders across the country through its national program, highly rated curriculum and high caliber instructors. Thousands of executives have attended Institute sites across the country to strengthen their management skills, learn industry best practices, and gain a broad national perspective from peers. Institute has helped them build stronger organizations, become strong business advocates and better serve their members. In addition, you will earn points towards your CCE certification as Institute's curriculum is directly tied to the CCE's body of knowledge.

Upon completion of the Institute program, graduates receive the IOM recognition which allows them to use the letters "IOM" in public mention and professional correspondence. The IOM recognition signifies the completion of 96 hours of course instruction in nonprofit management and commitment to the industry.

If you are interested in this scholarship opportunity, contact Jennifer Byers at jbyers@mnchamber.com or 651.292.4673 by November 17. Early registration deadline for Winter Institute is November 21.

For more information about Institute's curriculum, sites, and dates, visit the [Institute Web site](#) and [Prospective Student Toolkit](#) to help you gain insight into the program.

NEW EXECUTIVES

[Chamber hires new president](#)

Margaret Dillard has been hired to replace Bob Wallace as president of the Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce...

[Rochester chamber names new president](#)

The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce has hired [Robert Miller](#), the head of an Arizona business exchange group, to be its next president. Miller was formerly CEO

and president of the Arizona Trade Exchange in Mesa...

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

DJ Hartley has been named the new president. She can be contacted at 763.428.2921.



OUTGOING EXECUTIVES

[Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce](#)

Bob Wallace has been a resident of Fairmont for 43 years and was the President of the Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce for 18 years. With experience owning a retail business he was able to bring to the Chamber a management background and organizational skills. In his role as Chamber President, he became highly involved in making Fairmont greater. With his vision of helping create a more prominent Fairmont, he built a strong relationship with the City, County, Convention and Visitors Bureau, School District and State. He never overlooked the community as a whole. Bob believed that a strong workforce and education system comes from a strong community.

Over the years Bob received a nickname that fit him pretty well; "Mr. Fairmont". He led the Chamber for the last 18 years and will be retiring in a few weeks when Margaret comes on board. "Bob has been a great leader for our Chamber", said Jeff Schlomann Board Chair, "We are very fortunate to have someone with his skill, knowledge, and tenure. He is going to be difficult to replace."

JOB OPENINGS

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

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

[Executive Director | Lake City Area Chamber of Commerce](#)

Submit a confidential cover letter, resume, and requirements electronically to John Falvey at john.falvey.lqrd@statefarm.com by September 15.

[Cuyuna Lakes Chamber | Administrative Assistant](#)

Submit a cover letter, resume, & completed application to Jessica Holmwig, PO Box 23, Crosby, MN 56441 or jessica@cuyunalakes.com by September 15.

[Membership Service Coordinator & Membership & Events Manager | Southwest Metro Chamber of Commerce](#)

Please send your resume to Lori Anderson at lori@swmetrochamber.com by September 30.

IN THE NEWS

[Bill Blazar takes interim president role at Minnesota Chamber of Commerce](#)

Veteran executive Bill Blazar has been named interim president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, succeeding David Olson, who died of cancer earlier this month...

[Employers brace for minimum wage hike](#)

While the vast majority of Winona businesses pay well above the minimum wage, some business owners, especially owners of hospitality and grocery businesses, are concerned about the effect the increases will have, explained Winona Area Chamber of Commerce President Della Schmidt. She stated that the youngest workers will be negatively affected by this change. "I think it is going to be very difficult for an employer to justify paying \$9.50 to a 16-year old who has never worked before," she

said...

[Residents, business owners sound off on MnDOT's plan for Hwy. 169 detour from Le Sueur to St. Peter](#)

Reaction among St. Peterites has been mixed, said Ed Lee, St. Peter Chamber of Commerce executive director, adding that chamber members have talked to business owners and knocked on resident's doors to gauge reaction...

[Wage hike starts today](#)

With Minnesota's minimum increase set for Aug. 1, the biggest impact will be felt at the smallest level.

"The small businesses are going to take the brunt of this one," Red Wing Chamber of Commerce president Patty Brown said..

