



The EXECUTIVE

mcce

March 16, 2015

SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING EVENTS

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 8-10 - Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.

2015 Fall Conference | September 23-25 - Best Western Premier Lodge on Lake Detroit, Detroit Lakes



GUEST COLUMN

Is MCCE Relevant?

Della Schmidt, president & CEO, Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

Relevant? Are you kidding me? I have built a 20+ year career in the Chamber industry rooted in the education and relationships gained from MCCE. If you are not engaging in the many opportunities offered by MCCE, you are doing yourself and your local chamber a disservice.

The MCCE conferences are a wealth of knowledge for any chamber executive, any size chamber, and length of tenure. The speakers are always top-notch. Not only have I learned things that I use back at the office, many times I have found my next featured speaker for a chamber event. My volunteers think I am great when I bring in someone from out of town; I met the new MN Secretary of State at the January MCCE conference and invited him to come to Winona to speak with my members. What could be easier? Budget friendly too!

I have learned over the years the value of our MCCE network. There is simply no better place to turn when you need to do some R & D (in the chamber world that looks a lot like Rip-off and Duplicate – best compliment that you can give to a fellow chamber is to borrow their ideas!) I have also found that no one at home

understands the unique challenges that I face as a chamber executives – volunteer challenges, staff situations, living in the fish bowl, working with public officials, the need to celebrate a big win after a challenging project is completed, etc. But the moment I step into an MCCE conference I am surrounded with colleagues who get it!

Yes, it is an investments of time and money to attend MCCE and your regional chamber meetings. Time is often more difficult to carve out than the money! But with the great technology that we all have at our finger tips, it has never been easier to invest in yourself while still keeping an eye on what's happening back at home. And, there are many scholarships available to make the conferences affordable. So, do something good for yourself today – pull out your calendar/outlook and save the dates – Mini Institute June 4 and MCCE Fall Conference September 23-25th. You'll see me there – I wouldn't miss it!

INSTITUTE FOR ORGANIZATION MANAGEMENT

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.

If you are interested in this scholarship opportunity, contact Leah, at ltomasetti@mncchamber.com by April 20. 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.

MINNESOTA GOES TO WASHINGTON

U.S. Chamber Small Business Summit

Join Minnesota business and local chamber leaders for the 2015 U.S. Chamber Small Business Summit. Annually, business leaders from across Minnesota travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in this high profile event, and meet with members of Minnesota's congressional delegation. The event provides attendees the opportunity to access high profile speakers, and network with business leaders from across the country. At the same time, Minnesota exclusive events also provide participants the opportunity to focus on important issues for Minnesota businesses. [Register now!](#)

MINNESOTA CHAMBER – PRESIDENT SEARCH

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce has launched its search for a new president. The process will be steered by the 48-member Board of Directors representing a cross-section of Minnesota businesses. The individual will succeed longtime president David Olson who passed away in July 2014. The president is responsible for leading and executing the strategic plan adopted by the Board of Directors. The Chamber Board of Directors will make the final candidate selection decision. The board of directors has retained Ballinger Leafblad of St. Paul to conduct a national search for candidates. Applicants should direct all inquiries to Marcia Ballinger, Marcia@ballingerleafblad.com, or Lars Leafblad, Lars@ballingerleafblad.com.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

On February 1, 2015, St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce Special Event Coordinator, Virginia “Ginny” Kroll, celebrated 50 years at the chamber. In 1965, she was one of only 4 employees, and started off providing secretarial services. “Between managing our special events and making delicate membership renewal calls, Ginny has made and saved literally millions of dollars for our Chamber during her 50 year tenure here. She is our valued historian and our master organizer. She will be greatly missed by members, volunteers and staff when she finally decides it’s time to retire,” said Teresa Bohnen, president, St. Cloud Area Chamber.

RECOMMENDED READING

What books/articles are you reading that will help advance your career and chamber? MCCE would like to add a section in the [New Executive Resource Guide](#) for recommended reading. Please send any ideas to Leah at ltomasetti@mncchamber.com.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE WEBCAST SERIES – REGISTER NOW!

Engage with our policy staff directly during this interactive webcast. The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce policy team will provide updates on the latest activity at the State Legislature, including the status of business community priorities during the Legislative Session. The webcasts include timely information about key legislators, key issues and calls to action.

Dates: March 27 | April 24 | May 8 | May 20

OUTGOING EXECUTIVES

At the February Board of Directors meeting, Richfield Chamber of Commerce President Angie Schaeffbauer announced her resignation after close to three years in the position. Although her end date has not yet been determined, the Board will begin the executive search process immediately. Read the full announcement [here](#).

Bill Corby, president of the Burnsville Chamber of Commerce, left the chamber effective Feb. 4, the business group announced. No reason for Corby’s exit was given in an email to chamber members. A search committee will be appointed to find his replacement, the email said. Corby came to Burnsville in September 2012 after serving for five years as president of the Hutchinson Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. Read the full announcement [here](#).

JOB OPENINGS

[Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce | Communications Manager](#)
Contact Todd Streeter at 651.439.4001 or Director@GreaterStillwaterChamber.com for more information or to apply.

[Hutchinson Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism | Bookkeeping and Membership Coordinator](#)

Please send your resume and salary requirements to Mary Hodson at mary@explorehutchinson.com.

IN THE NEWS

[Growing Perham with ‘Grow Minnesota! Perham chamber joins statewide group to support, connect businesses](#)

The Perham Area Chamber of Commerce is now taking part in a statewide program to help keep local businesses strong, competitive and growing...

[‘We intend to have a shovel in the ground late this year’](#)

A determined and optimistic CEO of the PolyMet copper/nickel/precious metals venture near Hoyt Lakes said final permits for the project should be in hand sometime in the fourth quarter of this year...

[St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce prepares for move](#)

After months of construction work, employees and members of the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce will soon have a new home...

[Letter, Bill Blazar, Minnesota Chamber, and Sandy Forstner, Austin Chamber: Use surplus, not new taxes, for roads](#)

Minnesota legislators have been asked by Gov. Mark Dayton to support \$11 billion in new taxes to improve our state's transportation system...

[Winona Chamber solving problems, protecting jobs](#)

Businesses across Minnesota continue to benefit from the personalized assistance of Grow Minnesota!, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce statewide economic development program carried out in partnership with local chambers of commerce, including the Winona Area Chamber...

