



The EXECUTIVE

mcce

July 16, 2015

MCCE 2015 FALL CONFERENCE

The 2015 MCCE Fall Conference will be held September 23 - 25 at the [Best Western Premier the Lodge on Lake Detroit](#) in Detroit Lakes, MN. We hope that you make plans today to join us at this terrific resort for what promises to be highly valuable conference. Take this opportunity to learn, relax and return to your chamber with innovative ideas and lots of energy! Book a room [online](#) or call 218.847.8439. Deadline to book is August 24, 2015. [Register now!](#)



WEBINAR: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Minimize the lawsuit risks to your business

Over the last several months, dozens of lawsuits have been filed against Minnesota businesses alleging violations of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Minnesota Human Rights Act (MHRA). Join us for an informative webinar to understand your responsibilities under the ADA and MHRA, and what you can do to minimize your risks. Everyone will be free of charge for this webinar. July 29, 2015 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM [Register now!](#)

In addition to the webinar, and our efforts to educate business and chambers about this issue, we also have a number of other efforts underway. We have been in contact with the Minnesota Attorney General's office, and are looking at legal and legislative remedies as well. We have been advised to direct complaints and concerns about these tactics to the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board (LPRB) at 651-296-3601 or <http://lprb.mncourts.gov/complaints>.

MINNESOTA MANUFACTURING WEEK | October 1-10, 2015

Minnesota Manufacturing Week for 2015 has been moved to October 1-10 (little longer than a week) to coincide with National Manufacturing Day on Friday, October 2nd. In addition, the Tour of Manufacturing, promoted via Dream It. Do It. MN will

also take place during these dates and throughout the month. The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce is planning to host the Manufacturing Summit on Friday, October 2. DEED's Communication's team will be updating the DEED website with new manufacturing facts as it gets closer to Manufacturing Week.

Jaimee Meyer, the Executive Director of Dream It. Do It. MN and her team have developed many marketing pieces which they are happy to share as well. Tours, both student and community tours can be held throughout the month. Transportation funding is available (to bus students from schools to manufacturing businesses) via Dream It. Do It. MN. DEED Business Service Representatives have been involved in reaching out to schools as well as community leaders and individual businesses. A list of BSR's and their contact information can be found at mn.deed.gov (<http://mn.gov/deed/business/help/workforce-assistance/business-services-reps.jsp>.) All tours will be promoted on the Dream It. Do It. MN website.

For more information, contact Jackie Buck, director of employer services, DEED, Jacqueline.buck@state.mn.us or Jamie Meyer, executive director, Dream It. Do It. MN at jmeyer@bemidjistate.edu.

MINNESOTA CHAMBER WELCOMES DOUG LOON

Greetings to my friends and colleagues across Minnesota who lead our vibrant network of local chambers of commerce. I look forward to listening to and working with all of you in my new role as president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce.

I have spent the past 20 years at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 17 of those in Minnesota. As the vice president for regional affairs and advocacy, I have managed the seven regional offices that provide political and grassroots outreach across the nation. I also managed the U.S. Chamber's Midwest Region that includes Minnesota. I've been intimately involved in supporting state and local chambers and businesses to move public policy in a direction that helps them be successful. That mirrors the work of the Minnesota Chamber and its local chamber partners. The specific issues are different, but the process for success is remarkably similar.



I am excited and humbled to start my new role September 8. I considered longtime Minnesota Chamber leader David Olson a mentor and a friend. It's also been my good fortune to know and work alongside Minnesota Chamber Interim President Bill Blazar for many years. They have built the Minnesota Chamber into a position of strength as the state's premier business advocacy organization.

It is my plan during the first year on the job to travel across Minnesota to listen and learn. While having lived in Minnesota, I know some, but not all, of what this great state has to offer. So, as I embark on my quest to gain knowledge and build relationships, I hope you will share your insights so I can best serve you and your members' interests at the Minnesota Chamber.

Thank you for your engagement and support. As a result, our local chamber network is stronger than ever. I look forward to renewing old and making new friendships as we advocate to make Minnesota a great place for businesses to start and thrive in a

global economy. Working together, our Minnesota Chamber Federation will grow in both size and effectiveness.

NEW EXECUTIVES

[Crookston Area Chamber of Commerce: Lien excited about the 'opportunities'](#)

Chat with new Crookston Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Amanda Lien in her Second Street office for a half-hour, and she uses the words "opportunity" and "opportunities" more than a dozen times...

[St. Paul's Midway Chamber of Commerce hires new director](#)

The Midway Chamber of Commerce in St. Paul has hired public affairs specialist Chad Kulas as its new executive director...

JOB OPENING

[Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce | Office Manager](#)

Please email your resume and ONE SHORT PARAGRAPH in the email text summarizing your skills and why we should interview you. Reply to Chamber President Ed Kearney at edkearney@applevalleychamber.com.

IN THE NEWS

[St. Paul a home to pro soccer stadium? The question is raised](#)

Matt Kramer, president of the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, on Wednesday broached the possibility of a Major League Soccer stadium in St. Paul, if discussions in Minneapolis peter out...

[Red Wing rallies around 'Hard Hat Thursday'](#)

The number of yellow construction hats increased exponentially as dozens of businesses embraced a new Red Wing Chamber of Commerce event dubbed "Hard Hat Thursdays" as a show of solidarity during tough financial times...

[St. Cloud lawmakers: Transportation, taxes will be back](#)

State lawmakers from the St. Cloud area expressed disappointment Friday that bills on taxes and transportation didn't pass the Legislature this year, but said they expect to take on both issues in 2016...

[Think tank predicts dwindling workforce in next 20 years](#)

Jennifer Libby, president and CEO of the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, said businesses already are looking ahead and seeing a future with fewer and fewer workers to go around...

[Local economy on the rise](#)

While the data shows Alexandria remains ahead of Fergus Falls, the Fergus economy has undergone some massive improvements. ... "It is beyond exciting," Fergus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lisa Workman said. "It is like Christmas for Fergus Falls. It is really exciting. I love the spirit of entrepreneurship."...

[Business Owners Question Motive Of Disabilities Act Lawsuits](#)

The Marshall Chamber attempted to partner with DSA to help it reach its goals and set funds aside to help businesses become ADA compliant. It says DSA declined the help. "It is our assumption that their motive for declining would be the fact that they would no longer get filtered any more money through these lawsuits," said Brad Gruhot, the chamber's membership coordinator...

