



The EXECUTIVE

mcce

**February 9, 2016**

#### **MCCE ANNUAL MEETING RECAP**

On January 27-29, over 65 chamber executives from around the state of Minnesota gathered in St. Paul for the 2016 MCCE Annual Meeting.

Attendees came away with tips and tactics from a variety of speakers. Keynote Kyle Sexton provided insights to the group on membership engagement and marketing. Other speakers included Chancellor Steven Rosenstone of MnSCU, as well as Doug Loon, President of the Minnesota Chamber. We also heard from fellow chamber executives Vicki Stute, Sandy Forstner, Pat MulQueeney, Amy Linde, Teresa Bohnen, and Brad Gruhot.

Thanks to our sponsors, we were able to have two unique Twin Cities experiences. Attendees went on a "Taste of St. Paul" tour on Wednesday, where the group visited the Salt Cellar and the Ox Cart – thank you Connolly Kuhl Group! On Thursday, attendees participated in a U.S. Bank Stadium Hard Hat Tour, followed by a reception, courtesy of the Minnesota Vikings. Thanks to our other sponsors, Aggregate and Ready Mix Association of Minnesota, Hunting Works, the National Chamber Program, and ChamberMaster.



#### **2016 DAYS AT THE CAPITOL**

The Minnesota Chamber is providing dual opportunities this year to meet face-to-face with your legislators about key legislative issues. Join the Minnesota Chamber for TWO Business Day(S) at the Capitol on either March 30 (focused on transportation) and/or April 20 (focused on business tax relief).

Both days will start with a luncheon and a moderated program to educate on the issues at hand. The Minnesota Chamber has secured buses to transport participants to the State and Senate Office Buildings to

visit with legislators while underscoring the importance of these issues to you and your members. Following the appointments, return to the DoubleTree by Hilton St. Paul Downtown where a reception will be held from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at the Rival House Sporting Parlour. This is a chance for participants to regroup and discuss the outcomes of the day while networking with business associates from around the state.

**Cost:**

Don't miss out on this day! Participate in the entire day or just a couple of hours to fit your schedule. Bring others from your community and receive a group discount. Minnesota Chamber member price is \$75 for the entire day, \$55 for lunch only and \$35 for networking reception only. Take advantage of the combo price and attend both days for only \$125. Four or more members from one organization receive a \$5 discount per registrant. To register, contact Allie Hancock at 651-292-4651 or [ahancock@mnchamber.com](mailto:ahancock@mnchamber.com).

**Overnight accommodations:**

The DoubleTree by Hilton St. Paul Downtown is offering our guests a discounted rate of \$145 night. Simply call 651.291.8800 and ask for "Minnesota Chamber of Commerce" group block rate. Or you can make your reservation on line. Check the Minnesota Chamber website [www.mnchamber.com](http://www.mnchamber.com) for details.

[Learn more here.](#)

**SPACE STILL OPEN AT SESSION PRIORITIES**

**If you haven't already, reserve your table at the Minnesota Chamber's biggest event of the year with Allie Hancock at [ahancock@mnchamber.com](mailto:ahancock@mnchamber.com).**

**LEGISLATIVE WEBCAST DATES**

Engage with the Minnesota Chamber 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. Many local chambers host their government affairs committee or key members for these calls.

Register today!

[March 18](#) | [April 1](#) | [April 15](#) | [May 6](#)

**BRAINERD BRIDGES CAREER EXPLORATION DAY**

Matt Kilian of the Brainerd Lakes Chamber invites you to join their career exploration day event.. The **Bridges Career Exploration Day** is Minnesota's largest hands-on career exploration day. This annual event brings together more than 2,400 high school students from 24 central Minnesota high schools, to experience over 200 career options, thanks to the support of more than 300 volunteer business, non-profit, and educational partners.

As a VIP guest, you will experience this amazing learning experience first-hand to better understand how high school youth are getting engaged in learning about careers in our region.

**Please RSVP your attendance** at this annual event by Feb. 26, or to learn more, call Deb Norlin at (218) 855-8156.

**SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING MCCE EVENTS**

2016 Mini Institute | June 2 – Holiday Inn & Suites, St. Cloud  
2016 America's Small Business Summit | June 13-15 – Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.  
2016 Fall Conference | September 28-30 – Holiday Inn & Austin Conference Center, Austin

**WELCOME NEW CHAMBER EXECUTIVES**

Jennifer Harmening, Burnsville | 952.898.5641, [jennifer@burnsvillechamber.com](mailto:jennifer@burnsvillechamber.com)  
Alexandra Leland, Windom | 507.831.2752, [director@windomchamber.com](mailto:director@windomchamber.com)  
Shawn Mason, International Falls | 218.283-9400, [chamberadmin@intlfalls.org](mailto:chamberadmin@intlfalls.org)

Samantha Zeitz, Olivia | 320.523.1350, [oliviachamber@tds.net](mailto:oliviachamber@tds.net)

### **STAFFING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[Brad Gruhot has assumed the new position of Director in the Marshall Area Chamber.](#)

### **JOB OPENINGS**

[Executive Director](#), Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce

### **IN THE NEWS**

#### [Chamber leaders tour Hormel Institute; Visit included stop at Hormel Foods site](#)

Members of Austin Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Austin and Minnesota Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Minnesota groups visited The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota recently. More than 60 leaders from throughout the community and state learned about The Hormel Institute's history, toured the world-renowned cancer research medical facility, and spoke with scientists about their cancer research. Hormel Foods Corp. sponsored the leadership groups that included a visit to Hormel Foods' R & D and other facilities.

#### [Carver County cities adding amenities to attract visitors](#)

Two Carver County cities are hoping to reel in more out-of-towners looking for a weekend escape. Victoria, a city of about 8,000 people, is transforming its downtown to attract visitors. Mayor Tom O'Connor said the city is embracing its small-town feel. "We're a residential community growing like crazy," O'Connor said. "People for years viewed Victoria as a traffic light. Now we've created a sense of purpose and place. ... People will want to come to downtown." ... About seven miles west of Victoria, Waconia has long been seen as a destination spot for tourists. "In the past five years, it's really exploded," said Kellie Sites, Waconia Chamber of Commerce president.

#### [Minnesota's Influencers: Ken Warner](#)

An interview with Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce's President.

#### [John Stanoch named interim president of Minneapolis Chamber](#)

The Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce, one of the state's best-known business advocacy groups, named an interim president on Thursday. John Stanoch, former president of Qwest Communications in Minnesota and North Dakota, will take over April 1. He currently is interim president of the Science Museum of Minnesota, a stint scheduled to end this spring. The leadership switch comes after longtime chamber CEO Todd Klingel [said last week](#) he would step down, citing ongoing cancer treatment.