



The EXECUTIVE

mcce

March 24, 2016

UPCOMING MCCE EVENTS

2016 Mini Institute | June 2 – Holiday Inn & Suites, St. Cloud - [REGISTER TODAY](#)

2016 America's Small Business Summit | June 13–15 – Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. – [REGISTER TODAY](#)

2016 Fall Conference | September 28–30 – Holiday Inn & Austin Conference Center, Austin



MINI INSTITUTE KEYNOTE SPEAKER ANNOUNCED

2018 Super Bowl Host Committee CEO Maureen Bausch will speak to attendees at 2016 Mini Institute on how the Super Bowl will impact Minnesota's economy. Don't delay – [register today](#) for a day's worth of networking and knowledge sharing!

LEGISLATIVE WEBCAST DATES

The 2016 legislative session has begun! In order to keep up with the activities in St. Paul, sign up to 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

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

NOMINEES SOUGHT FOR MINNESOTA CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITIONS

Many of the Minnesota Chamber Board members, including a great majority of our past chairs, have served on the boards of their local chambers of commerce. Nominations are currently being accepted for board of director positions for the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce.

The principal role of the board is to deliberate and approve legislative policies and the strategies necessary to advance these positions through the Legislature. The board begins formulating the initiatives at its planning conference in August and meets once per month in October, November and December where policies are discussed and approved prior to delivery to the Legislature. The board may meet once midway through the legislative session to receive an update on the initiatives.

Board members are expected to participate in Chamber events/activities and assist with membership recruitment and retention. Nominees must be Minnesota Chamber members.

View the nomination form [here](#). Deadline for nominations will be May 1.

REPRESENT YOUR CITY THROUGH MINNESOTA SINGS

Minnesota Sings is a competition between cities throughout Minnesota that is designed for amateur vocalists ages 15 to 25. The prizes are as follows:

- 1st prize - \$2500, recording session at Wondertone Productions valued at \$1,500 complete with studio musicians and producer, and a \$1000 for their favorite hometown charity
- 2nd prize - \$1000
- 3rd prize - \$500

The cost for a city to participate is \$60. The organization/sponsor that pays the \$60 will win \$500 if their contestant takes first place, \$250 for second, and \$125 for third.

Contestants sing to a CD backing track which cannot exceed 5 minutes. The song has to be memorized. Contestants are welcome to sing any kind of music as long as there isn't any profanity in the words. Please refer to the [website](#) for more information. View the application [here](#).

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.

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 for details.

[Learn more here.](#)

MARCH GUEST ARTICLE

Bob Harris, CAE of Harris Management Groups has shared an article on strategic planning. Check it out [here](#).

IN THE NEWS

[Fergus Falls Chamber Director to lead state professional association in 2016](#)

The executive director of the Fergus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce was elected the chairwoman of

the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Executives at its annual meeting in St. Paul on Jan. 28. Lisa Workman has been the director for nine years. "MCCE is critically important to the success of every chamber and is one of the reasons our chamber has grown and become more meaningful for our members," she said. "One of my goals is to enhance the connections among chambers of all sizes."

MCCE is the state professional association for local chamber of commerce executives in Minnesota. The association advances the effectiveness of chamber professionals by providing career development, communications and networking to ensure professional and organizational growth.

Workman said she hopes to bolster chambers through such means as providing ideas for speakers, understanding best practices, overcoming obstacles in the community.

Whitcomb elected to state chamber executives board

Angie Whitcomb, president of the Shakopee Area Chamber of Commerce, was elected to the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Executives Board of Directors at its annual meeting in St. Paul on Jan. 28. MCCE is the state professional association for local chamber of commerce executives in Minnesota. The association advances the effectiveness of chamber professionals by providing career development, communications and networking to ensure professional and organizational growth.

Sandpiper crude oil pipeline project may be threatened by Bakken bankruptcies and Saudi Arabian oil production

Last week Enbridge Pipeline, now operating as North Dakota Pipeline Company in the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) pipeline permitting process, filed a motion for reconsideration of the Jan. 11 Order by the PUC. The only part of the order Enbridge seeks to be changed is to "require issuance of the draft EIS prior to the contested case hearing [instead of a final EIS prior to intervenors' direct testimony as ordered], and issuance of the final EIS prior to the close of the contested case record." The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, the United Association (of plumbers and pipe fitters) and the Laborers of Minnesota and North Dakota supported Enbridge's challenge for delays of benefits, complaining that "the process that the Commission established here, if not invalidated by a court, will likely be the foundation for future environmental review and permitting for pipelines."

MN Chamber working to repeal business property tax

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and the United for Jobs Coalition are asking legislators to use part of the \$2 billion budget surplus to lower the fixed cost of doing business in the state. That surplus will shrink to \$1.2 billion after legally required savings are set aside. "We think the projected surplus is a great opportunity for strategic business tax relief," said Jim Pumarlo, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce director of communications. "The whole effort of the Chamber and the United for Jobs Coalition is to really improve the business climate – improve the competitiveness for Minnesota businesses." Legislators reconvene March 8 for a short eight-week session — due to ongoing renovations at the state Capitol — and Pumarlo said his organization is pushing legislators to get rid of the automatic tax inflator and ultimately phase out the statewide property tax levy.

State chamber president visits Rotary

OWATONNA — Noon Rotary members heard about the present and future prospects for the state economy straight from the top of the Minnesota business community. Minnesota Chamber of Commerce President Douglas Loon was the speaker at Monday's Rotary meeting. Accompanying him was Mike Milstead, co-owner of Ag Power and a member of the Minnesota Chamber board of directors. Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism President Jennifer Libby introduced Loon, who has been in the position for about six months, and commended his efforts to connect with and interact with local chamber groups around the state.

Commentary, Todd Bornhauser, Northfield Chamber: Advocacy takes center stage at Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism

As the Minnesota Legislative session starts up on March 8, it highlights one of the important roles of the Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism – advocacy. The mission of the Northfield Area Chamber is to lead in the creation, promotion and enhancement of a healthy business environment for the

Northfield area. Our vision is to be the business community resource. One of the goals to accomplish our mission is advocacy: influence and shape public policy to reflect business priorities while enhancing the climate for our member's growth by monitoring and educating members and the community on business related issues, utilizing the resources of the Minnesota and U.S. Chamber, and facilitating candidate forums. ... We are also members of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, and utilize its products and services in helping our members, since all Northfield businesses are impacted at the state level as well. We utilize its lobbying staff, take advantage and offer its educational programs to our members, and participate in its group programming. Programs such as Business Day at the Capital, Sessions Priorities Dinner, seminars, webinars and forums all add value and educate members on topics that impact business.

[Local businesses hope for tax relief this year](#)

WORTHINGTON — Tax relief may come to businesses across Minnesota in the upcoming legislative session. The session starts March 8, and Minnesota congressional leaders are split on what to do with the state's \$900 million surplus. The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce hopes legislation will be passed to permanently fund transportation in the state and to reduce taxes on businesses — an issue facing Worthington. "That's the disadvantage of Worthington: we have Iowa and South Dakota as neighboring states, and some businesses might decide to build just over the border," said Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Darlene Macklin. On average, the controversial statewide levy comprises about a third of the total property taxes businesses and cabins pay every year. The tax increases automatically each year by the rate of inflation. It is projected to increase by \$45 million annually, according to the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. It was implemented in 2002 and raised \$585 million; in 2015, it raised \$856 million.

