

Advocacy

The Chamber is in close communication with the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and U.S. Chamber of Commerce to ensure members are aware of the most recent updates on legislative issues impacting businesses.

Connecting Business

Sponsorships, advertising, volunteering and participating in networking programs like Breakfast before Business or Business after Hours the Chamber is helping create new marketing opportunities to help members find new customers.



January 2010 Breakfast before Business

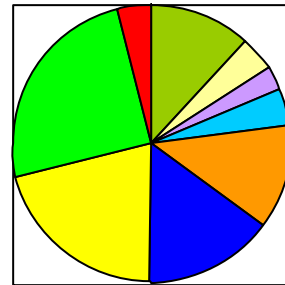
Member Education

The staff and directors of the Chamber are constantly improving programs and services and adding new programming to better educate members on a variety of business-related issues.

Membership Demographics

- 350 members in more than twenty different cities including Clinton and Davenport, IA.
- Members of the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce represent nearly 12,000 area full-time and part-time employees.

Membership Breakdown by Sector



- Insurance & Financial
- Agriculture
- Education
- Manufacturing
- Not For Profit
- Other
- Retail/Restaurant
- Service Businesses
- Healthcare

Board of Directors

- Jerry Binder ~ Sterling Public Schools
- Susan Boyd ~ The Fitting Room
- Jon Byar ~ Midland States Bank
- Sam Card ~ Samuel S. Card, CPA PC
- Tim Determan ~ Pinney Printing
- John Gvozdjak ~ Frantz Manufacturing
- Brian Hawkins ~ Hawkins Cassens Insurance
- Dana McCoy ~ CGH Medical Center
- Tony Miller ~ Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson
- Andy Neal ~ Wal-Mart Super Center
- Robert Reyna—Wal-Mart D.C. #7024
- Eric Shaffer ~ Sterling Federal Bank
- Pam Topper ~ Freedom Bank
- Karen Voss ~ Hospice of the RR Valley
- Mary White—Community State Bank

Staff

- Executive Director Kimberly Ewoldsen
- Executive Asst. Kande Chee
- Financial Specialist Ronda Borgmann

Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce

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Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

2012 Annual Report

To Enhance the Economic Climate and Quality of Life in the Sauk Valley Area

Events

- Annual Dinner
- Carnival
- Golf Outing
- Steak Fry in the Country
- Chamber Week Grill-Out
- Legislative & Economic Update
- Candidate Forum
- Seasonal Sights and Sounds
- Northwestern Illinois Farm Show
- Professional Women's Network (PWN) Quarterly Lunch Programs

Programs and Services

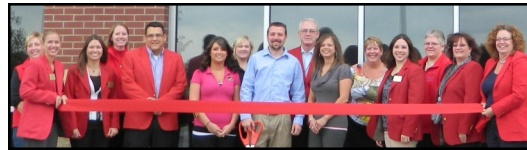
- Electronic Weekly Newsletter
- Electronic Ad Blast
- Customer Service Award
- Lunch & Learn Programs
- Members Only Programs
- Monthly Business after Hours
- Quarterly Breakfast before Business
- Scholarships

Accomplishments

In fiscal year 2012, 24 new members joined the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce and Chamber Ambassadors held 19 ribbon cuttings.



Ribbon Cutting for CGH Medical Center Ready Care Clinic (above)



Ribbon Cutting for Buffalo Wild Wings (above)

- The Chamber presented 12 local businesses with Customer Service Awards for their superior customer relations.



In 2012, the Chamber assisted the Greater Sterling Development Corp. in the development of



Accomplishments

- The Chamber supported the establishment of a Movies in the Park summer movie program to help bring people to downtown Sterling after 5 p.m.
- The Chamber's education committee is actively working with the Whiteside Area Career Center to help promote and establish a new program designed to help keep students in the area upon graduation. The CEO program should start in the next school year.
- Congressman Schilling's Office helped the Chamber secure the a Vice President with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago to speak to members at the August Economic & Legislative Update.



Members of the Agri-Business Committee made a donation to Whiteside County's Ag in the Classroom program (above) and to the Whiteside County 4-H Program (below).



Accomplishments

- Chamber members had an opportunity to participate in educational seminars and/or lunch and learn programs including Facebook 101—how to promote your business using Facebook, CGH Medical Center lunch and learns, Professional Women's Network lunch programs and more.
- The Chamber worked with the City to help bring Movies in the Park to Sterling this past summer.
- The Chamber held a candidate forum prior to the General Election which included nearly 20 local and state senate and representative candidates.
- The 2012 northwestern IL Farm Show, which the Chamber is an organizing partner, had more than 60 exhibitors, about 900 attendees and on-show sales in excess of \$300,000 for participating companies.

Please contact the office if you would like to present a seminar or if there is a topic you would like to see presented at a seminar or workshop.