

LITTLE FALLS AREA



Proudly Serving Morrison County Since 1888

NEWS

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Volume 36 Number 2

February 2019

Annual Meeting

Thursday, February 28

5:00 - 7:00 pm ~ Social & featured entertainment: *Harper's Chord*

7:00 pm ~ Award Ceremony

Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy. 27, Little Falls

2018 Chair of the Board, *John Thielen*, **Thielen Meats** invites all Chamber Members and guests to the 2019 Chamber Annual Meeting, February 28 at the Falls Ballroom. In addition to John officially passing the gavel to 2019 Chair of the Board *Tim Matros*, **Five Pines Senior Solutions**, the evening will include an extended social hour with entertainment by Harper's Chord. The evening will conclude with the recognition of our 2018 Chamber Small Business of the Year, Chamber Large Business of the Year and Chamber Volunteer of the Year awards.

Our featured entertainment, Harpers Chord, is a four-member musical group led by vocalist, Jill Moore. Drawing from their love of folk, blues, roots, Americana and country music, Harper's Chord has been captivating audiences for the better part of a decade with their strong, three and four-part harmonies and easy-listening acoustic songs.

Individual tickets are available for \$30 each. Reserve your individual tickets by visiting our website by [clicking here](#) or email Gina at ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com or call the Chamber (320) 632-5155.

[Thank you to our corporate sponsors](#)



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From the desk of the CEO . . .

Debra K. Boelz



We are on the downhill side of winter as there should not be a big April snowstorm 2 years in a row! I am very aware of the calendar this year as we countdown to the "Big Dig" on highway 27 through Little Falls that is scheduled to start with prep work in March and shovels in the ground in April. I have a bad case of spring fever; the sooner the

construction starts, the sooner it will be completed!

In 2019, the Arts & Crafts and Market Place Fairs will be September 7th & 8th, which is as early as the Fairs can be following our "always the first weekend after Labor Day" dates. This will condense the time staff has for layout mapping and booth assignment time on our beautiful new streets and sidewalks. Watch for a call for volunteers to hold the end of a tape measure immediately after construction is completed as we layout out the booth grids.

Beside all the usual fun summer parades, festivals and community celebrations that happen annually in Morrison County, this year we are in the rotation to host the Sister City delegation from LeBourget, France in July. Commemorating the famous Charles A. Lindbergh flight from New York to LeBourget, Little Falls became an official Sister City in 1987. "Like" the Little Falls Sister City Facebook page to be current on all the details of the activities.

Morrison County will be the stop over for days 12 & 13 of a 100 day planned run from Itasca State Park to the Gulf of Mexico. Starting on the afternoon for Tuesday, July 23rd, 6 runners and a few support staff will be in the area to learn about what makes Little Falls such a great place to live, work and play. The event is titled "Relay of Voices" and includes runners who are also performance artists. There will be community events connected to this fun event as well. Add the Thursday night community events that the Downtown Council is planning and we have a full summer planned for everyone in Morrison County! "Like" the Big Dig Little Falls on Facebook to be current on location and activities each week starting June 6th.

The 2019 Legislative Session started on January 8th. Our elected officials, Senator Paul Gazelka and Representative Ron Kresha, welcome your comments and concerns. The Chamber is facilitating the annual legislative update on Friday, February 15 starting at 10:30 am at Little Falls City Hall. If you cannot attend and have an issue you would like addressed, please contact me at dboelz@littlefallsmnchamber.com or 320.632.5155.

In closing, our own Gina Vetter, Projects and Volunteer Coordinator, reached the milestone of 20 years with the Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce in January. Gina worked at the Chamber for a time during her high school years, went on to work at the Fargo and Dickinson, North Dakota Chambers, picking up their best practices, and came back to us. We are so glad she did!

Welcome New Businesses

Lindy Greeters Dore Arnold, **Schlenner Wenner & Co.** and Megan Kruse, **Morrison County United Way** welcomed the following businesses to the Morrison County and Little Falls business community and presented them with their First Dollars of Clear Profit. Welcome!

Entrepreneur Fund - Women's Business Alliance



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter Dore Arnold, **Schlenner Wenner & Co.**; Sandy Voigt, **Entrepreneur Fund -Women's Business Alliance**; Lindy Greeter Megan Kruse, **Morrison County United Way.**

The Women's Business Alliance program was launched by the Small Business Administration (SBA) with the mission to "level the playing field" for women entrepreneurs (existing or new ventures). Their mission is to improve outcomes for women in business and/or leadership

positions; increase economic opportunity; grow the network of women who support each other and change the narrative for women business owners. They offer support for Women Entrepreneurs through business advising in planning, leadership development, Master Mind/ Peer groups and Women's Business Conference. We offer technical assistance and workshops, specifically designed for women that cover a broad range of services including human resources, financial and marketing. For more information visit www.entrepreneurfund.org/womens-business-alliance/

KORA Solutions



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter Dore Arnold, **Schlenner Wenner & Co.**, Rob Lake, **KORA Solutions** and Lindy Greeter Megan Kruse, **Morrison County United Way.**

Kora Solutions are a family owned and operated IT Service who have spent their careers honing the skills required to help businesses make effective use of technologies to improve workflow effectiveness and stabilize your environment. For more information www.facebook.com/KoraSolutions/

February Employee of the Month

Nancy Smith, Marshik Insurance Agency



The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce our February Employee of the Month, *Nancy Smith*, Marshik Insurance Agency.

Nancy has been the Office Administrator for the past 5 years.

Rosi Przybilla states about Nancy: "I am very pleased that Nancy has been selected as the February Employee of the Month. She certainly has been an asset to the Marshik Insurance Agency team by her eagerness and willingness to take on most anything I put in front of her. She is a wonderful employee with a great attitude and her attention to detail in making sure anything she does is right and on time is so valuable. I very much appreciate her and so glad she is on our team."

Nancy states: "I am deeply humbled to be nominated and chosen as the February Employee of the Month. I moved to Swanville in 2013 and in April 2014 Rosi took a chance on me and invited me to join her team. With no insurance background experience, I found the job challenging, but stimulating. I have always had a love of numbers and accounting and there is no shortage of either here at Marshik Insurance Agency. I strive to provide excellent support for our whole team. Rosi and the team here at Marshik are first class and I am so proud to be part of it. I would also like to say a special thank you to all the contributors of the Employee of the Month program. Your generous gifts are very much appreciated. Thank you!"

Thank you to our February Employee of the Month sponsors: **Berg's Bug Removal, Bursch Travel Agency, Design Electronics, Domino's, Fitness Connection, Fresh Hair Professionals, Friends of Pine Grove Zoo, Linden Hill Historic Event Center, Johnny C's Sports Bar, Perkins Restaurant & Bakery, Subway Little Falls, Vacuum Cleaner Outlet & Service Center, West Side Bar**

Congratulations Nancy Smith!

Friday Morning Coffee

Friday, February 15

7:30 - 9:00 am

Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau,
606 1 St SE, Little Falls

sponsored by:



The Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) is the marketing power behind the region. Their staff works with group tour operators to provide a fun and interesting stay for all who stop in the area. It is their job to tell the world why Little Falls, MN IS the perfect place to visit, vacation and live

Networking is a powerful tool. After announcements, at 8:00 am, attendees will have the opportunities for 30 second testimonials for another Chamber Member business.

Lunchtime on Location (LOL)

Wednesday, February 26

noon

Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls

sponsored by:



Hands of Hope Resource Center advocates, educates, and promotes societal change for those affected by violence and abuse. Hands of Hope is a non-profit, 501(c)3, organization serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and general crime in the Morrison and Todd county area.

There is a \$5.00 fee to attend. Make your reservation by emailing Gina at ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com or call the Chamber (320) 632-5155 by Monday, February 25, to ensure we have enough food for all who wish to attend. Announcements at 12:25 pm.

MN Chamber Article

Please find MN Chamber President's Column, Doug Loon visit [www. Mnchamber.com](http://www.Mnchamber.com)

Thank you to our January Friday Morning Coffee sponsor Schlenner Wenner & Co.



Schlenner Wenner & Co.

Pictured left:
Brian Skluzacek,
Jon Archer,
Ashley Posterick,
Dore Arnold,
Alicia Noakes,
Julie Heinen
and Brian Mackinac,

Thank you to our January Lunchtime on Location (LOL) sponsor Purple Carrot Market



Pictured above from the left:
Jim Weiss,
Darlene Brand,
Susy Prosapio
and Jim Gehant,
Purple Carrot Market.



The next Downtown Council meeting will be Thursday, February 14th from 8:00 – 9:30 am at Great River

Arts. All are welcome to attend to hear what plans are in the works and bring new ideas to the table. No RSVP needed.

Recent Board Action

- Approved new committee members for 3 year terms January 2019 – December 2021
- Heard the 2019 Membership Directory was sent to print
- Were updated on Annual Meeting plans
- Heard a report on the highway 27 road construction project

Legislative Update

Friday, February 15

10:30 am - noon

Council Chambers, Little Falls City Hall,
100 7 Ave NE, Little Falls

Join Senate Majority Leader, Senator Paul Gazelka and Representative Ron Kresha in hearing about the 2019 legislative session. They will recap what has taken place to date and expand on what we can expect from the remainder of the session.

Chamber Member Directories

The 2019 Membership Directories are ready to hand deliver! This is a great opportunity to meet other Chamber members by volunteering to drop a few books. If you have some time to share with us, please stop by the Chamber office and pick up a bunch. Directories are sorted by area. Thanks for helping your Chamber save money on postage!

2019 Chamber Board & Staff

2017-2019

Tom Hoggarth, **Gofers Organized for Little Falls - GOLF**
Tim Matros, Chair of the Board, **Five Pines Senior Solutions**
Rosi Przybilla, Treasurer, **Marshik Insurance Agency**
Rob Ronning, **Pine Country Bank**

2018-2020

Steve Andres, **Design Electronics**
Dr. Allison Girtz, Secretary, **Allison Zak D.C., LLC**
Patrick Watercott, Vice Chair of the Board, **Vernon Sales Promotion**

2019-2021

Nancy Berg, **Berg's Bug Removal**
Brian Gapinski, **Rural MN CEP**
Pete Mooney, **The Source Computing**
Laurie Whitlow, **PrimeLending**

Non Voting Ex-Officio

John Thielen, Immediate Past Chair of the Board, **Thielen Meats**

Chamber Staff

Debora K. Boelz, President/CEO
dboelz@littlefallsmnchamber.com

Mary Bednarek, Office, Arts & Crafts Fair and Financial Coordinator
mary@littlefallsmnchamber.com

Gina Vetter, Project & Volunteer Coordinator
gnav@littlefallsmnchamber.com

Lindy Greeter Visits

Thank you for your membership! Lindy Greeters *Megan Kruse*, **Morrison County United Way** and *Deb Retka*, **ServiceMaster Clean by Retka** visited the following members to thank them for their continued membership. The businesses were treated to a Chamber mug full of treats.

Peterson Body Shop



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter *Megan Kruse*, **Morrison County United Way**; *Levi, Rachel, Jaydence and Cory Czech*, **Peterson Body Shop** and Lindy Greeter *Deb Retka*, **ServiceMaster Clean by Retka**.

Congratulations to the new owners of Peterson Body Shop! Peterson Body Shop is a full-service body shop for all your auto collision repairs. Cory has been an Auto Body Technician at Peterson Body Shop for 22 years. Rachel has worked in the accounting industry for 20 years and now handles all the insurance claims and office paperwork. Cory & Rachel have lived in Randall for the past 12 years along with their two children, 10 year old daughter, Jaydence and 9 year old son, Levi. Think of Peterson Body Shop for all your auto body, frame alignment, radiator and glass repair needs. For more information visit www.petersenbodyshop.com

RTO PA



Pictured the left: Lindy Greeter *Deb Retka*, **ServiceMaster Clean by Retka**, *Tina Nierenhausen, Rocky Thompson, Renee Miller, Denise Dempsey, Troy Olson, Vicky Niemann, Kyle Bednar*,

RTO and Lindy Greeter *Megan Kruse*, **Morrison County United Way**.

RTO PA (formerly Riitters Thompson & Olson) is a full-service accounting firm serving clients throughout the Central Minnesota area, dedicated to providing their clients with professional, personalized services and guidance in a wide range of financial and business needs. They have offices in Little Falls and Pierz. For more information visit www.rto CPA.com

Pizza Ranch



Pictured above from the left: *Belynda Schultz*, **Pizza Ranch**, Lindy Greeter *Megan Kruse*, **Morrison County United Way**; *Deb Retka*, **Service Master Clean** and *Keisha*

All their pizzas are hot, cheesy, and made the way you like it. You choose the crust (thin crust, original crust, or skillet crust), sauce (original or alfredo), and toppings (beef, Canadian bacon, Italian sausage, pepperoni, bacon pieces, chicken, black olives, mozzarella cheese, garlic sauce, pickles, green olives, mushrooms, onions, green peppers, tomatoes, cheddar cheese, pineapple, or sauerkraut). When you come to a list of choices like these, eenie meenie miney moe works real nice. For more information visit www.pizzaranchlittlefalls.com/

Super 8



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter *Megan Kruse*, **Morrison County United Way**; *Tammy Field, Wanda DeMarre*, **Super 8** and Lindy Greeter *Deb Retka*, **ServiceMaster Clean by Retka**.

Whether you are traveling to Little Falls or just passing through, Super 8 Little Falls provides everything you need to relax and recharge. Located off Highway 27 & 10, they offer easy access to the banks of the mystical Mississippi River, Charles Lindbergh Historic Site, golf, shopping and more. To make your reservation visit www.wyndhamhotels.com/super-8/little-falls-minnesota/super-8-little-falls/overview?CID=LC:SE::GGL:RIO:National:03656&iata=0065402

February Calendar of Events

The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce event and meetings are in bold. For an expanded list of community events, visit our website at www.littlefallsmnchamber.com

February

- 1, 15 - Friday Fun at the Creation Station, 3:30 - 5:30 pm, Carnegie Library, 108 3 St NE, Little Falls
- 1 ~ Galactic Cowboy Orchestra, 6:30 pm doors open, 7:30 pm show, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 2 ~ Petite Picasso Art Class, 10:30 - 11:30 am, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 2 ~ Mini Monet Art Class, noon - 1:30 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 2 ~ Soup Supper, 4:30 - 7:00 pm, Dining Room, St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls
- 5 ~ **Lindy Greeter Committee Meeting**, noon, Perkins Restaurant & Bakery, 201 16 St NE, Little Falls
- 6 ~ Little Falls Business Association, noon, Pine Country Bank, 1201 1 Ave NE, Little Falls
- 7 ~ Open Mic Night, 7:00 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 8 ~ Roaring 20's "Do" at the Mansion, 7:00 p.m., Linden Hill Historic Event Center, 608 Highland Ave., Little Falls
- 9 ~ Free Art 2nd Saturday, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 9 ~ FAB Bean Bag Tournament, 11:30 am Registration at Johnny C's, 108 E Broadway Little Falls, 1:30 pm event begins at Sobieski Community Center, 9092 Cable Rd., Little Falls
- 9 ~ Valentine's Show - Brothers Tone & the Big Groove, 6:30 pm doors open, 7:30 pm show, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 10 ~ Empty Bowls Fundraiser, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm, First Lutheran Church, 2100 Riverview Dr., Little Falls
- 14 ~ **Chamber Board of Directors**, 11:00 am, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls
- 14 ~ Sweetheart Dinner, 5:00 - 9:00 pm, Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy 27., Little Falls
- 15 ~ **Friday Morning Coffee**, 7:30 - 9:00 am, Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau, 606 1 St SE, Little Falls.
Sponsored by: **Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau**
- 15 ~ **Legislative Update**, 10:30 am - noon, Council Chambers ~ Little Falls City Hall, 100 7 Ave NE, Little Falls
- 16 ~ All City Pool Tournament, 9:00 am Registration at American Legion, 108 1 St NE, Little Falls
- 21 ~ Centering Prayer, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, Gathering Space St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls
- 23 ~ Growers & Makers Marketplace, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, SPROUT Marketplace, 609 13 Ave NE Ste. 8, Little Falls
- 27 ~ **Lunchtime on Location (LOL)**, noon, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls.
Sponsored by: **Hands of Hope Resource Center**
- 28 ~ **Chamber Annual Meeting**, 5:00 pm, Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy. 27, Little Falls