

Annual Meeting

Thursday, February 22

5:00 pm - Social

6:15 pm - Dinner

7:00 pm - Program

Falls Ballroom, [15879 Hwy. 27, Little Falls](#)

Join us in celebrating a successful 2017 with Chair of the Board, *Steven Andres*, **Design Electronics** and officially welcome 2018 Chair of the Board *John Thielen*, **Thielen Meats**.

Included with this meeting is the awarding of our 2017 Chamber Small Business of the Year, Large Business of the Year and Chamber Volunteer of the Year, the official passing of the gavel and we will wrap up the evening with some fantastic entertainment by **The Sound Exchange**, a cappella group.

The Sound Exchange is a five member a cappella group based in the Twin Cities. They bring dazzling harmonies, great stage presence and wise-cracking audience interaction together in a whirlwind a cappella experience that is not to be missed!

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

[Thank you to our corporate sponsors:](#)



From the Desk of the CEO

Debra K. Boelz



As I write my column this month, we are just days away from Super Bowl LII hosted in our own US Bank Stadium. Congratulations to **Trobec's Bus Service** for being awarded the charter bus contract by the Super Bowl planning committee. Hope that more outstate companies, especially our own members like Trobec's, are able to realize an influx of revenue from this event.

It may not be the Super Bowl, but you are invited to the 129th Annual Meeting of the Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, February 22nd at the Falls

Ballroom starting at 5:00 pm with social time. Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors, who are listed with their logos in this newsletter.

A perk of being a Corporate Sponsor is having a display table at the event that often includes a door prize drawing. I encourage you to arrive early and make your way around the room to not only network, but see what our sponsors have to offer in terms of goods and services. You may be surprised at what you learn! Plus the back bar will also be available!

The findings from the 2017 financial review that was completed by **Schlenner, Wenner & Co.** will be included in the Annual Meeting program. As I write this, the Board of Directors has not officially approved the report, but I will leak out that we were at 91.8% of projected income and spent 101.2% of budgeted expenses. The income projection fell short in the Fair line item due to only 50% of the budgeted corporate sponsorship realized, fewer commercial food vendors and additional private property funds due to the Government Center lawn parking lot construction.

The financial review also noted good news in the Chamber Bucks line item. In 2017, the Chamber sold \$10,950 in Chamber Bucks, and redeemed \$10,374. This is real money that goes into the coffers of our members. Thank you to those businesses and individuals that purchase Chamber Bucks that keep dollars local.

The last figure I will leave you with is the membership dues line item. Of the total income for the Chamber, 23.3% comes from your membership dues. The other 76.7% is income from the Arts & Crafts and Market Place Fairs and event revenue. Many chambers would love to be able to offer membership at the low rates that we are able to and have the attendance at events that cash flow the bottom line.

At a time when the cost of doing business seems to be skyrocketing, remember that many insurance companies offer a discount to Chamber members. Be sure to ask your agent if this is a possibility for you. You may be pleasantly surprised!

In closing, February 4th is Charles Lindbergh's birthday. How are you celebrating this noteworthy occasion?

You can find Doug Loon's, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce article at www.mnchamber.com

Recent Board Action

- Heard an update from Morrison County Commissioner Mike LeMieur on happenings at the County
- Approved committee appointments for 2018
- Opted to not sponsor a candidate forum prior to the primary election for District 5 County Commission race

Congratulations to our February Employee of the Month

Anthony Kula, Little Falls Community School



The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce our February Employee of the Month, *Anthony Kula, Little Falls Community Schools*. Anthony has been a High School Math

Teacher for the past 25 years.

Tim Bjorge states about Anthony: “Anthony Kula is the consummate professional educator. His passion for teaching and learning cannot be overstated. We are extremely proud of him for receiving this recognition.”

Anthony states: “I love my job! I love the people with whom I work the students, staff and administration. What a great life, to teach young people in a supportive environment. Thank you”.

Thank you to our February Employee of the Month sponsors: **Bursch Travel Agency, CHI St. Gabriel’s Health at Home, Coborn’s, Dominos, Fitness Connection, Fresh Hair Professionals, GoldSmith Jewelers, Great River Arts, LeBlanc’s Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation, Minnesota Fishing Museum Hall of Fame & Education Center, Pizza Ranch, ServiceMaster Clean by Retka, Silker Studio, Spectrum Marketing Services.**

Congratulations Anthony Kula!

Friday Morning Coffee

Friday, February 16

7:30 - 9:00 am

Diamond Willow Assisted Living, *St SE, Little Falls*

sponsored by:



Diamond Willow
ADVANCED CARE ASSISTED LIVING

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

Lunchtime on Location

Wednesday, February 28

noon

Chamber of Commerce, *200 1 St NW, Little Falls*

sponsored by:



Lunchtime on Location (LOL) is sponsored by a member. Our sponsor provides a light lunch, information about their business and one to one networking. 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 26.

Thank you to our January Friday Morning Coffee (FMC) sponsor CHI St. Gabriel’s Health Foundation



Pictured above from the left: *Kathy Lange and Patrick Rioux, CHI St. Gabriel’s Health.*

Thank you to our January Lunchtime on Location (LOL) sponsor Horizon Health



Pictured above from the left: *Kristine Hoheisel, Bridget Britz and Melissa Prozinski, Horizon Health.*

Chamber Board / Staff Listing

2016-2018

Cindy Brey, **SweetWater Resort**
Pete Mooney, **The Source Computing**
John Thielen, Chair of the Board, **Thielen Meats**
Laurie Whitlow, **PrimeLending**

2017-2019

Tim Matros, **Five Pines Senior Solutions**
Jill Moore, Vice Chair of the Board, **Great River Arts**
Rosi Przybilla, Treasurer, **Marshik Insurance Agency**
Rob Ronning, **Pine Country Bank**

2018-2020

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

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
ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com



FALS

(Falls Area Leadership Series)



Pictured left are the FALS participants with their narrowed down list of project ideas.

The January 10 **FALS** session was

focused on K-12 education and the selection of the group's community service project. They kicked off the morning with **Little Falls Community Schools** Superintendent, *Stephen Jones*. Then toured the Royalton Schools with Royalton School Superintendent, *John Phelps*. The group spent the afternoon at **LeBlanc's Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation** and narrowed down their community service project ideas. Thank you to our day chair, *Linda Meemken*, **Royalton Lumber and Hardware** and our session sponsor **LeBlanc's Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation**. Our next session will be February 14.

Welcome New Businesses

The following Lindy Greeters *Sheila Avenson*, **The Office Shop, Inc.**; *Chris Kruschek*, **ReMax Central MN** and *Deb Retka*, **ServiceMaster Clean by Retka** welcomed our newest business to the Little Falls and Morrison County business community. Welcome!

Caribou Coffee



Pictured left: Lindy Greeters *Deb Retka*, **ServiceMaster Clean by Retka** and *Chris Kruschek*, **ReMax Central MN**; ???, **Caribou Coffee** and Lindy Greeter *Sheila Avenson*, **The Office Shop**.

Here at Caribou Coffee, we believe this to be true: that if passion, hard work and excellence go into an endeavor, the outcome will be a quality experience, and therefore rewarding. Find Caribou Coffee at 1101 2 Ave NE, Little Falls (*inside Coborn's*). For a full menu visit www.cariboucoffee.com

Pure Massage



Pictured left: Lindy Greeters *Chris Kruschek*, **ReMax Central MN** and *Sheila Avenson*, **The Office Shop, Inc.**; *Vanessa Strahl*, **Pure Massage** and Lindy Greeter

Deb Retka, **ServiceMaster Clean by Retka**.

Pure Massage is located at 62 Broadway, in the same building as Red Door Yoga. Vanessa offers 30, 60 and 90 minute massages to enhance circulation, reducing muscle tension, improve sleep quality, boosting your immune system and more. Schedule your next massage by calling (320) 733-0322.



Monday, February 19
 Your Chamber Office will be **OPEN**

Lindy Greeter Visits

Thank you for your membership! Lindy Greeters *Sheila Avenson, The Office Shop, Inc.*; *Chris Kruschek, ReMax Central MN* 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.

Arthur Bernard Johnson VFW Post #1112



Pictured left: Lindy Greeters *Deb Retka, ServiceMaster Clean by Retka* & *Chris Kruschke, ReMax Central MN*; *Janis Kunkel and Dennis Colombe, Arthur Bernard Johnson VFW Post #1112* and Lindy Greeter

Sheila Avenson, The Office Shop, Inc.

VFW is one of the oldest fraternal and charitable organizations in our country. Formed in 1899 to help veterans of the Spanish-American War obtain assistance for wounds and disabilities. All members have served "in" military conflicts overseas.

The Arthur Bernard Johnson VFW Post #1112 offers a banquet hall for wedding receptions, business meetings, school functions, family gatherings, holiday parties and more. With seating up to 250, full service bar and food availability. They can meet all your event or meeting needs. For more information call [\(320\) 632-6598](tel:3206326598).

Jordan Hansel State Farm Insurance



Pictured left: Lindy Greeters *Deb Retka, ServiceMaster Clean by Retka* and *Chris Kruschek, ReMax Central MN*; *Korleen Edmond and Amber Peterson, Jordan Hansel State Farm*

Insurance and Lindy Greeter *Sheila Avenson, The Office Shop, Inc.*

Amber & Korleen are the first people you will see at **Jordan Hansel's State Farm Insurance Agency**. Along with Jordan, they are in the office Monday-Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm assisting new and existing customers with all of their home, auto and life insurance need. For more information visit www.statefarm.com

Coborn's



Pictured left: Lindy Greeters *Deb Retka, ServiceMaster Clean by Retka* and *Sheila Avenson, The Office Shop, Inc.*; *Greg Zylka, Coborn's* and Lindy Greeter *Chris Kruschek, ReMax Central MN*.

Coborn's is still your local go-to for groceries and more. They are encompassing many changes, expanding their offering to include a sushi bar, Caribou Coffee, smoked meats counter and more. In addition to the new flooring, coolers and display cases, their floral department is expanding. With our busy schedules Greg is encouraging guests to try **Coborn's Click and Collect** online shopping feature. Stop by and check out the many new changes at **Coborn's** and remember to visit <http://www.coborns.com>

Thielen Meats



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter *Sheila Avenson, The Office Shop, Inc.*; *Mike Thielen, Thielen Meats*; Lindy Greeters *Deb Retka, ServiceMaster Clean by Retka* and *Chris Kruschek, ReMax Central MN*.

Thielen Meats has replaced their complete line of full service meat cases with more efficient modern cases. Even though the cases are new their excellent customer service has remained the same. With over 40 varieties of home smoked sausages, delicious home smoked bacon, specialty cheese, specialty coffees and candies and 24 hour locker access **Thielen Meats** is your full service market. For more information visit www.thielenmeatslf.com.

February Calendar of Events

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

February

- 1 ~ Taize Prayer, 6:00 pm, Gathering Space St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls
 1 ~ Open Mic Night, 7:00 pm Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
 2 ~ **Outstanding Service Committee Meeting**, noon, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls
 3 ~ Petite Picasso Art Class, 10:30 am, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
 3 ~ Mini Monet Art Class, noon, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
 3 ~ Soup Supper Fundraiser, 4:30 pm, St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls
 6 ~ **Lindy Greeter Committee Meeting**, noon, The Royal, 120 W Broadway, Little Falls
 6, 8, 13, 15~ Creature Banks Workshop, 4:00 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
 6, 8, 13, 15 ~ Wheel Boot Camp Adult Clay Class, 5:45 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
 6 ~ MN Caucus – check party website for details
 7 ~ Little Falls Business Association, noon, Pine Country Bank, 1201 1 Ave NE, Little Falls
 7 ~ History & Arts on Morrison County, 2:00 pm, Little Falls City Hall, 100 7 Ave NE, Little Falls
 8 ~ **Chamber Board of Directors**, 11:00 am, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls
 8 ~ **FALS (Falls Area Leadership Series) Steering Committee**, noon, Pizza Ranch, 202 LeMieur St., Little Falls
 9 ~ Boys & Girls Club Mardi Gras Fundraiser, 5:30 pm, Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy. 27, Little Falls
 9, 10 ~ Brothers Tone & The Big Groove, 6:30 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
 10 ~ Glass Mosaic with Pam Collins, 9:30 am, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
 10 ~ 2nd Saturday Free Art, 11:00 am, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
 10 ~ A Great Concert, 7:30 pm, Sacred Heart Chapel, St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls
 11 ~ Empty Bowls Fundraising Event, 11:00 am, First Lutheran Church, 2100 Riverwood Dr., Little Falls
 13 ~ Glass Mosaic with Pam Collins, 6:00 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
 14 ~ **FALS (Falls Area Leadership Series) Session**, 8:30 am, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls
 15 ~ **Membership Development Committee**, 8:00 am, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls
 15 ~ Centering Prayer, 6:00 pm, Gathering Space, St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls
 16 ~ **Friday Morning Coffee**, 7:30 - 9:00 am, Diamond Willow Assisted Living, 1405 5 Ave NE, Little Falls.
 *Sponsored by: **Diamond Willow Assisted Living***
 16 ~ Lindbergh Lions Fish Fry, 4:30 pm, Little Falls VFW, 1210 3 Ave NE, Little Falls
 22 ~ **Chamber Annual Meeting**, 5:00 pm Social, 6:15 pm Dinner, 7:00 pm Program, Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy 27., Little Falls
 23 ~ Kiwanis Fish Fry, 4:30 pm, Little Falls VFW, 1210 3 Ave NE, Little Falls
 23 ~ Sounds of Simon: Tribute to Simon and Garfunkle, 6:30 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
 28 ~ **Lunchtime on Location (LOL)**, noon, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls. *Sponsored by: **Hands of Hope Resource Center***



Proudly Serving Morrison County Since 1888

200 1 St NW
 Little Falls MN 56345