

Welcome New Board Members



We are excited to extend a warm welcome to our 2020-2022 Chamber Board Members. Pictured from the left: *Tom Hoggarth*, **GOLF** (Golfer's Organized for Little Falls); *Jana Festler*, **Edward Jones Investments**; *Paula Kampa*, **Kampa Gerbi & Associates** and *Rob Ronning*, **Pine Country Bank**, was elected to his second 3 year term

Friday Morning Coffee

Friday, January 17

7:30 - 9:00 am

Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls

sponsored by:



Alicia opened her Thrivent Financial office in Little Falls in February 2019. Thrivent Financial is a Christian based, not-for-profit, member-owned organization that can provide guidance on a financial journey. Alicia specializes in helping members with pre-retirement and retirement planning as well as detailed financial guidance. For more information visit <https://connect.thrivent.com/alicia-kapus/>

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

Lunchtime on Location

Wednesday, January 22

7:30 - 9:00 am

Initiative Foundation, 405 1 St SE, Little Falls

sponsored by:



The Women's Leadership Fund exists to accelerate the number, effectiveness, and impact of women in organizational leadership roles in Central Minnesota. Our signature program, WELead, is focused on supporting women already in organizational leadership positions to break down community silos and facilitate the learning and development of these leaders. Through event sponsorship and awarding grants, we are also able to support organizations or programs that are focused on developing women leaders now and in the future. The Women's Leadership Fund is a partner fund of the Initiative Foundation and is led by an all volunteer advisory board of local women leaders.

Join us for Lunchtime on Location a noon time networking event. Each Lunchtime on Location is sponsored by a member. As the sponsor they provide a light lunch and information about their business. There is a \$5 fee to attend. Make your reservation by Tuesday, January 21 by emailing ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com or call the Chamber (320) 632-5155 or by visiting our website at www.littlefallsmnchamber.com.

From the desk of the CEO . . .

Debra K. Boelz



In the words of the wise Dr. Seuss
"Don't cry because it's over,
smile because it happened"! Goodbye
2019; Hello 2020!

Before we totally say good bye to 2019, we need to celebrate!

The Chamber's Annual Meeting will be Thursday, February 27 at the Falls Ballroom with our own Levi Pelzer providing his acoustical set. The event will be staged for total networking with hors d'oeuvre tables scattered around the room with a cash bar and Levi providing background music.

To that end, the Outstanding Service Committee is seeking nominations for the Large and Small Business of the Year (must be a Chamber member) and the Volunteer of the Year. Nomination forms are available on our website and on the Weekly Updates.

Did you know that Charles Lindbergh was the first ever Time magazine's "Man of the Year" in 1927. The Time editors were contemplating the news makers of the years. The idea was also an attempt to remedy the editorial omission earlier that year of not having Lindbergh as its cover story following his historic trans-Atlantic flight. By the end of the year, it was decided that a cover story featuring Lindbergh as the Man of the Year would serve both purposes. The first person to fly a plane solo nonstop across the Atlantic Ocean, Lindbergh remains the youngest Man of the Year. TIME magazine listed his characteristics as "modesty, taciturnity, diffidence, singleness of purpose, courage, phlegm." Since 1999, this honor was renamed "Person of the Year", and with 2019 naming of Greta Thunberg at age 16, Lindbergh is no longer the youngest honoree.

The community visioning process known as Our Town 56345 has identified February 10 – 12 for community in-put meetings. The Our Town 56345 Steering Committee has been gathering written comments from people that they come in contact with and this process is continuing. If you would like to provide written comments, please let me know and I will provide a form for your convenience.

The community in-put meetings are an attempt to reach a broader scope of the population. Locations and time will be released as soon as details are finalized. The success of this process depends on the grass root community involvement – that means you! A media campaign with details of when and where is in the works.

Thank you to Brian Gapinski, CareerForce Center, for his time on the Board of Directors. Brian has accepted a new position and is no longer able to commit to the Board.

In closing, need an additional New Year's Resolution? May I suggest attendance at one Chamber event a month? Break up your daily routine with a little networking! Friday Morning Coffees are held the 3rd Friday of the month and Luncheon on Location is the 4th Thursday. In January there will a Legislative Update and the Chamber Annual Meeting is on February 27th at the Falls Ballroom. If a monthly commitment is too much, start with quarterly and work your way up!

Thank you to our December Friday Morning Coffee Allison Zak, D.C., LLC



Pictured above from the left: *Dr. Allison Girtz, Dr. Cameron Voight and Samantha Johnson, Allison Zak, D.C., LLC*

Recent Board Action

- Approved liaison appointments with the City of Little Falls, Community Development of Morrison County, Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau and Morrison County
- Appointed Chamber committee liaison assignments
- Approved the meeting date calendar for 2020
- Elected 2020 officers for the board of directors
- Accepted the resignation from Brian Gapinski, Rural MN CEP, from the Board of Directors

Lunchtime Location (LOL) Punch Cards

If you are attending Lunchtime on Location (LOL) but don't always have ca\$h, no problem! Punch cards are available. A punch card is a convenient way to pre-purchase lunches making attending LOL even easier. Punches don't expire and carry over from year to year until used. You determine the amount of punches you would like on your punch card and we send you an invoice. If you would like a punch card let Gina know by emailing her at ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com call the Chamber of Commerce (320) 632-5155.

FALS



Pictured left: 2019 - 2020 FALS participants observing the monitors in the Morrison County Jail.

The December FALS (*Falls Area Leadership Series*) session was focused on local government. The group spent time with State

Representative Ron Kresha; City Administrator, Jon Radmacher and County Administrator Deb Gruber. Participants toured the Little Falls Water Treatment Plant, Morrison County Government Center and Morrison County Jail. Thank you to our December Day Chair, *Jon Radermacher, City of Little Falls*. Our next session will be Wednesday, January 8 and will be focused on economic development.

Business After Hours

We are seeking businesses that would like to host quarterly Business After Hours events. Interested? Contact Deb dboelz@littlefallsmnchamber.com or Gina ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com

2020 Chamber Board & Staff

2018-2020

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

2019-2021

Nancy Berg, Treasurer, **Berg's Bug Removal**
Pete Mooney, **The Source Computing**
Laurie Whitlow, **PrimeLending**

2020 - 2022

Jana Festler, **Edward Jones Investments**
Paula Kampa, **Kampa Gerbi & Associates**
Tom Hoggarth, Secretary, **GOLF (Golfers Organized for Little Falls)**
Rob Ronning, **Pine Country Bank**

Non Voting Ex-Officio

Tim Matros, Immediate Past Chair of the Board,
Five Pines Senior Solutions

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

Chamber Annual Meeting

Thursday, February 27

5:00 - 7:00 pm ~ Networking & Social

with featured entertainment: **Levi Pelzer**

7:00 pm ~ Award Ceremony

Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy. 27, Little Falls

All Chamber Members are invited to join us in celebration 2019 with 2019 Chair of the Board, Tim Matros, Five Pines Senior Solutions and 2020 Chair of the Board Dr. Allison Girtz, Allison Zak, D.C., LLC. In keeping with the with the same social networking format as last year, the evening will include a cash bar and hors d'oeuvre stations. Along with the recognition of our 2019 Chamber Small Business of the Year, Large Business of the Year and Volunteer of the Year, during the awards ceremony.

Corporate Sponsorships are now available. As a corporate sponsor your business logo will be included on the Chamber website, event invitation, event program, Chamber Newsletter, Chamber Annual Report and listed as a sponsor in the weekly email blasts. By becoming a corporate sponsor you will have the opportunity to have an 8' display table at the event to promote your business. All this in addition to reserved seating and food for 10. Cost is \$370 and reservations are taken on a first come first served basis. Contact Deb dboelz@littlefallsmnchamber.com or Gina ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com or call the Chamber (220) 622-5155 for more information

Thank You Volunteers

We are offering our sincere gratitude and hope that all our volunteers know how much they are appreciated. With this in mind, we would like to extend a thank you to our volunteers who have passed the torch to new volunteers.

FALS (Falls Area Leadership Series)

Kelly Desormey, **Minnesota Power**
Katie Kaufman, **Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union**
Brad Vold, **Morrison County**

Lindy Greeter Committee

Sheila Avenson, **The Office Shop, Inc.**
Megan Kruse, **Morrison County United Way**
Deb Retka, **ServiceMaster Clean by Retka**

Outstanding Service Committee

Jenni Bird, **Central MN Senior Care Inc.**
Kathy Kahlhamer
Jessica Hilmerson, **Highland Senior Living**
Emily McGinn, **Minnesota Power**
Melissa Prozinski

January Employee of the Month, Betty Roehl, Vocational Rehabilitation Services



The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce our January Employee of the Month, Betty Roehl, Vocational Rehabilitation Services – Little Falls CareerForce Center. Betty has been a Vocational Rehabilitation Services Technician for the past 4 1/2 years.

Jessica Outhwaite states about Betty: “Betty is a true asset to the team and participants we serve. Vocational Rehabilitation Services is fortunate to have her as a member of the Little Falls team. Thank you for all you do!”

Betty states: “It is an honor to receive this award of the January Employee of the Month. I was surprised by this honor. I truly love my position as a Technician for Vocational Rehabilitation Services and assisting the counselors and the participants. My heart is in my employment at Vocational Rehabilitation Services helping those with disabilities. I would like to thank the person who nominated me!”

Thank you to our January Employee of the Month sponsors:
Bursch Travel Agency, Domino’s, Fitness Connection, Franciscan Sisters, Maddie B’s Photography, Melgram Jewelers, Linden Hill Historic Event Center, Perkin’s Restaurant & Bakery, Thrive with Vision.

Congratulations Betty Roehl!

Welcome New Businesses

The following Lindy Greeters *Jenifer Odette*, **Brandl Motors** and *Kyle Wensmann*, **Coborn’s Marketplace** visited the following new business and treated them to a Chamber mug full of treats and were presented with their “first dollars of clear profit”. Welcome!

Animal Haven

Pictured right: Lindy Greeter *Jenifer Odette*, **Brandl Motors**; *Dr. Amanda Craft*, **Animal Haven**; Lindy Greeter *Kyle Wensmann*, **Coborn’s Marketplace**.

Dr. Amanda calls Little Falls her hometown and has worked at Animal Haven previously when it was under different ownership. In November she returned to Little Falls to continue her life-long dream of caring for animals, now as the owner of the clinic. Animal Haven offers veterinary medical care for small animal patients, as well as day care, boarding and grooming services. For more information visit www.myanimalhaven.com

Small Business of the Year; Large Business of the Year and Chamber Volunteer of the Year Nominations now being accepted.



Pictured above from the left: 2018 Chamber Large Business of the Year *David Anderson*, *Denice Anderson*, **Anderson Custom Processing**, Chamber President/CEO *Debora K. Boelz* and *Brian Anderson*, **Anderson Custom Processing**.

In an effort to celebrate our members and the numerous individual volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to the Chamber, the Outstanding Service Committee is now accepting nominations for our Chamber Volunteer of the Year, Small Business of the Year and Large Business of the Year awards.

Each award has a specific criteria to assist you in the nomination process. Nominations are due to the Chamber of Commerce by Friday, January 24, 2020. Awards will be bestowed at the Annual Meeting, Thursday February 27. Please consider making a nomination in one or more categories.

Recipients will receive the public recognition and a plaque noting the honor. Their names will also be displayed on permanent plaques in the Chamber lobby. Nomination forms are available on our website at www.littlefallsmnchamber.com.



Lindy Greeter Visits

Thank you for your membership! Lindy Greeters *Jenifer Odette*, **Brandl Motors** and *Kyle Wensmann*, **Coborn's Marketplace** visited the following members to thank them for their continued membership. The businesses were treated to a Chamber mug full of treats.

First Avenue Dental



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter *Jenifer Odette*, **Brandl Motors**; *Dr. Heather Holt*, **First Avenue Dental** and Lindy Greeter *Kyle Wensmann*, **Coborn's Marketplace**.

Dr. Heather Holt joined First Avenue Dental in July 2019. *Dr. Holt* is

a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota Dental School. She grew up in Long Prairie, as well as her husband *Matthew Holt*. *Dr. Holt* became a mother four months ago to a beautiful baby girl. *Dr. Holt* enjoys hunting, fishing and making crafts. To make an appointment with *Dr. Holt* call (320) 632-8113. For more information about First Avenue Dental visit www.firstavenuedental.com

Minnesota Power



Pictured left: *Dean Erdman*, **Minnesota Power**; Lindy Greeter *Kyle Wensmann*, **Coborn's Marketplace**; *Dean Harrison* and *Josiah Loeffler*, **Minnesota Power**; Lindy Greeter *Jenifer Odette*, **Brandl Motors**; *Brad*

Desormey, *Jeff Auel*, **Minnesota Power**.

Minnesota Power is committed to the reliability and security of the regional power system that provides electricity in a 26,000-square-mile electric service area in northeastern Minnesota. For more information visit www.mnpower.com

Welcome to our newest member!

RP & Associates, LLC

Sara Posterick
113 E Broadway, Little Falls MN 56345
(320) 632-6016
sarap@rpanda.net

RP & Associates, LLC provides tax preparation services to individuals and businesses with a specialty in farm returns. Also offer payroll, bookkeeping and consulting services.

Larson Abstract Company, Inc.



Pictured left: *Kerry Hiemenz*, **Larson Abstract Company, Inc.**; Lindy Greeter *Kyle Wensmann*, **Coborn's Marketplace** and *Jenifer Odette*, **Brandl Motors**; *Roxie Matsen*,

Andrea Whitlow, *Carol Starr*, *Bruce Heilman*, *Jessie Dunn*, *Stephanie Dyrhaug* and *Joann Fussy*, **Larson Abstract Company, Inc.**

Larson Abstract Company, Inc. - People you can rely on. When it comes to real estate services, it's important to partner with people you can rely on to handle the details. Larson Abstract Company, Inc. has been in business since 1923. In their 90 plus years of experience you can rely on them for the professional abstracting services, title insurance, commercial and residential closings, witness closings, construction closing and 1031 tax exchanges. For more information visit www.larsonabstract.com/

Nouis Home Care



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter *Kyle Wensmann*, **Coborn's Marketplace**; *Roy Nouis*, **Nouis Home Care Inc.** and Lindy Greeter *Jenifer Odette*, **Brandl Motors**.

Nouis Home Care homes encompass 67 state-licensed beds that provide a

wide range of services. Anything from assisted living, housing with services, and board and lodging with special services accommodations, as needed, near downtown Little Falls, Minnesota. The home environment that is provided is perfect for the person who is mostly independent and does not require skilled nursing care. For more information visit www.nouishomecare.com/

January 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

January

2 ~ Open Mic Night, 6:00 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St NE, Little Falls

4 ~ Candle Light Snowshoe and Hike, 5:00 pm, Lindbergh Historic Site, 1620 Lindbergh Dr. S., Little Falls

6 ~ American Red Cross Bloodmobile, 1:00 - 7:00 pm, St. Francis Hall, St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls

7 ~ Book Club, 2:00 pm, Carnegie Library, 108 3 St NE, Little Falls

8 ~ Little Falls Business Association, noon, The Royal, 120 W Broadway, Little Falls

8 ~ **FALS Session**, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St. NW, Little Falls. Session Sponsor: **Minnesota Power**

8 ~ American Red Cross Bloodmobile, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm, St. Francis Hall, St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls

9 ~ **Chamber Board of Directors**, 11:00 am, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls

11 ~ Free Art 2nd Saturday, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls

11 ~ Church of Cash, 6:30 pm - doors open, 7:30 pm - show, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls

13 - 17 ~ The Franciscan Way of Life - - A Covenant of Conversation & Commitment, St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls

16 ~ Centering Prayer, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, Gathering Space at St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls

17 ~ **Friday Morning Coffee**, 7:30 - 9:00 am, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls.

Sponsored by: **Thrivent Financial - Alicia Kapus**

17 ~ The Dolly's, 6:30 pm - doors open, 7:30 pm - show, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls

22 - **Lunchtime on Location**, noon, Initiative Foundation, 405 1 St SE, Little Falls.

Sponsored by: **Initiative Foundation Women's Leadership Fund**

25 ~ Growers & Makers Markets, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Sprout Marketplace, 609 13 Ave NE door #8, Little Falls

25 ~ Pierz KC Buffalo Feed & Raffle, 4:00 - 8:15 pm, Pierz Ballroom, 104 Park Ave SE, Pierz

26 ~ Honors Concert, 1:00 pm Sacred Heart Chapel, St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls

31 ~ The Great Minnesota Cookie Book, 3:30 - 4:30 pm, Carnegie Library, 108 3 St NE, Little Falls

31 ~ Kat Perkins, 6:30 pm doors open, 7:30 pm show, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls

LITTLE FALLS AREA



Proudly Serving Morrison County Since 1888

200 1 St NW

Little Falls MN 56345