

Annual Meeting February 22, 2018

The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting was held Thursday, February 22 at the Falls Ballroom with over 250 members in attendance. The Annual Meeting provides the opportunity for both the Chamber membership and community at large to hear first-hand the accomplishments from the past year.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the 2017 award winners by the Chamber's Outstanding Service Committee. We would like to thank the **Morrison County Record** for their in-depth coverage of these awards in the February 18 and 25 issues. A summary of the 2017 Annual Meeting was included in the program and is available for your review after March 8 on the Chamber website www.littlefallsmnchamber.com.

2017 Chamber Small Business of the Year ~ **Riitters Thompson & Olson PA**



Riitters Thompson & Olson PA is a CPA firm serving business and individuals for their tax and accounting needs by providing corporate and individual tax preparation, monthly accounting and financial statement preparation, payroll services and QuickBooks consulting. They also provide tax planning, estate tax consulting and recently expanded to provide Charitable Gambling Accounting and Reporting.

2017 Chamber Large Business of the Year ~ **Spectrum Marketing Services**



At **Spectrum Marketing Services**, they believe in making the customer's experience positive and rewarding. Spectrum Marketing Services is a company of endless possibilities having launched into nearly every facet of the marketing services industry creating a unique buying experience for clients. The outstanding team is committed to finding new and creative solutions when it comes to marketing a business. One Company. Endless Possibilities.

2017 Chamber Volunteer of the Year ~ **Kyle Hoggarth, Edward Jones**



Kyle understands the importance of giving back to the community he serves. Having started on the Chamber's Lindy Greeter Committee, he went on to be elected to the Chamber Board of Directors for two terms including a year as Chair of the Board. Kyle has been a block host for the Arts & Crafts Fair with the incredible responsibility of setting up the food court in the Little Pig Lot. He shares his time and talents with at least eight other organizations throughout the area.

Photo's courtesy **Terry Lehrke, Morrison County Record**
Awardees met established criteria for nomination and were nominated by their peers with the final determination made by the Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Service Committee.

From the Desk of the CEO

Debora K. Boelz



Another Annual Meeting is in the history books! If you missed the February 22 event at the Falls Ballroom, you missed a fun evening; people did not leave the building after the event was over. It could have been the 4" of snow covering our vehicles! Congratulations to our award winners whose photos appear in this issue.

What's next? *Besides the usual day to day work, your Chamber staff all have annual projects and events that fill our time.*

Mary is already deep into the Arts & Crafts and Market Place Fairs. Application materials have been available since January 1st. If vendors want to return to their same location, they need to let Mary know that sooner than later. Coordinating the nonprofit groups that earn stipends during the Fairs is on my desk along with the license application to the Little Falls City Council.

The Falls Area Leadership Series (FALS) is on Gina's desk. Guiding the participants through the community service project and coordinating the poverty simulation for the March sessions takes extra planning. The Golf Outing doesn't plan itself either. Please put Monday, July 9th on your calendar for this fun networking event.

What is on my desk these days includes the aforementioned Fair duties and clean-up from the Annual Meeting that includes finishing the 2017 Annual Report that will go to the Board of Directors at the March meeting for approval. Once approved, the document will be posted on the Chamber's website.

The 2nd annual Targeted Membership Drive sponsored by the Membership Development Committee will run March 1 – 31. Preparation of the marketing materials is complete; now it is keeping the momentum going with outreach to nonmembers.

I do have 2 new items that I am working on at this time. The first is working with the Bridges Workforce Academy identifying local businesses that employ 14 – 18 year olds for summer positions. A job bank is being created for students seeking summer jobs that could roll into year around positions.

The second is a new event for Little Falls called Relay of Voices: The Great River Run. I have been asked by a group out of Chicago to coordinate the arts, health & wellness and educational communities, plus people connected to the Mississippi River and spiritual leaders for a 2 day event during the summer of 2019. A group of 6 women will be running the length of the Mississippi River stopping about every 25 miles in communities at which point they will be spending time with groups and individuals that have a relationship with the river. How the Mississippi River impacts our community through stories, movement, water quality and recreational opportunities with the end result being a community celebration of the river. And yes, I did mention that the main street through Little Falls will be under construction during this time period. I will keep the community posted on this unique event.

In closing, *I look forward every year to the ice-out on the Mississippi River! Will this year be a slow melt or massive chunks of ice wreaking havoc with the shoreline? Either way, the City of Little Falls has promised that the fishing wharf will be repaired and back in the water in LeBourget Park this summer.*

Thank you to our February Friday Morning Coffee (FMC) sponsor Diamond Willow Assisted Living



Pictured above from the left: Kellie Diederich and Sara Klenschmidt, Diamond Willow Assisted Living.

Thank you to our February Lunchtime on Location (LOL) sponsor Hands of Hope Resource Center



Pictured above from the left: Deanna Thompson, Julie Kapsch, Stephanie Och and Steve Meyer, Hands of Hope Resource Center.

Congratulations to our March Employee of the Month

Brenda Bonebrake, Little Falls Care Center



The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce our March Employee of the Month, *Brenda Bonebrake, Little Falls Care Center*. Brenda is a CNA, (Certified Nursing Assistant) at Little Falls Care Center.

Laura Stumpf states about Brenda: "Brenda is a good mentor to her team. Her many

years of experience has given her an amazing skill set that she enthusiastically shares with others. Brenda succeeds in making resident care and happiness her top priority which shows everyday. She is a go-getter and tackles any challenge presented to her. We know we can always rely on Brenda and it has been a pleasure to work with her."

Brenda states: "I love what I do, which includes caring for people. My goal is to help staff be the best they can be and to have that reflected in resident care. Thank you to those who nominated me and the Chamber of Commerce for this recognition."

Thank you to our March Employee of the Month sponsors: **Bursch Travel Agency, CHI St. Gabriel's Health at Home, Design Electronics, Domino's, Fitness Connection, Fresh Hair Professionals, GoldSmith Jewelers, Great River Arts, Minnesota Fishing Museum Hall of Fame & Education Center, The Royal, ServiceMaster Clean by Retka, Silker Studio, Vacuum Cleaner Outlet & Service Center.**

Congratulations Brenda Bonebrake!

Friday Morning Coffee

Friday, March 16

7:30 - 9:00 am

Bank of the West, 65 E Broadway, Little Falls

sponsored by:



Habitat
for Humanity®
of Morrison County

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, March 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](tel:(320)632-5155) by Monday, March 26.

Lindy Greeters Welcome New Businesses

The following Lindy Greeters *Dore Arnold, Schlenner Wenner & Co.; Doug Dahlberg, Pine Country Bank; Megan Kruse, Morrison County United Way; Angie Petersen, Keller Williams Realty Professionals* and *Tom Scherling, Century 21 New Horizons Realty* welcomed our newest business to the Little Falls and Morrison County business community. Welcome!

Wabash National Corporation



Pictured left; Lindy Greeter *Tom Scherling, Century 21 New Horizons Realty* and *Doug Dahlberg, Pine Country Bank; Dave Steinmetz, Wabash National Corporation* and Lindy Greeter *Megan Kruse, Morrison County United Way.*

Wabash National Corporation is a diversified industrial manufacturer and North America's leading producer of semi-trailers and liquid transportation systems. Wabash National Corporation facility in Little Falls serves as the primary production site of their proprietary molded structural composite panels that are being used in the company's refrigerated van trailers and truck bodies. For more information visit

www.wabashnational.com

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 preparing for their tour of **Central MN Renewables**.

The February 14 **FALS** session was focused on economic development.

The participants heard from local economic development experts *Carol Anderson*, **Community Development of Morrison County** and *Greg Bergman*, **Small Business Development Center**. We also heard from a small business panel. Panel members included: *Shane Cole*, **Domino's**; *Mark Gerbi*, **Kampa Gerbi & Associates**; *Paula Kampa*, **Kampa Gerbi & Associates** and *Greg Zylka*, **Coborn's Marketplace**. Manufacturer tours include **Central MN Renewables**, **Airborn** and **Walmart's Leadership Academy**. Our next session will be March 14.

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

Welcome to our Newest Members

Bemobile Verizon

Nitasha Sanders

120 11 St NE Ste. 1, Little Falls

(320) 639-2030

www.bemobile.com

Bemobile's passion is to be the preferred and most outstanding retailer of Verizon. We have the latest in phones, tablets and connected devices all on the nation's most reliable network.

Cricket Wireless

Devin Patrick

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(320) 414-1045

dpatrick@optimalwireless.com

www.cricketwireless.com

Cricket Wireless is your wireless provider offering prepaid mobile phones, coverage plans & a range of accessories.

Keller Williams Realty Professionals

119 1 St NE Ste. 1, Little Falls

Angie Petersen

(320) 232-9156

angie.petersen@kw.com

www.mnhomesbyangie.com

Molly Nelson

(218) 820-9002

Molly.nelson@kw.com

Keller Williams Realty Professionals are serving Central MN and their community for all their real estate needs with honesty, integrity and dedication.

Recent Board Action

- Reviewed and approved the 2017 financial review from **Schlenner Wenner & Co.**
- Reviewed and approved the Form 990 as prepared for 2017 by **Schlenner Wenner & Co.**
- Chose not to sponsor a candidate forum for the open Morrison County Commissioner seat
- Directed CEO to work with the Bridges Career Academy to seek job postings for the Career Depot for 14 – 18 year olds

Lindy Greeters Welcome New Businesses

The following Lindy Greeters *Dore Arnold, Schlenner Wenner & Co.*; *Doug Dahlberg, Pine Country Bank*; *Megan Kruse, Morrison County United Way*; *Angie Petersen, Keller Williams Realty Professionals* and *Tom Scherling, Century 21 New Horizons Realty* welcomed our newest business to the Little Falls and Morrison County business community. Welcome!

Allison White Insurance



Pictured left: Lindy Greeters *Doug Dahlberg, Pine Country Bank* and *Dore Arnold, Schlenner Wenner & Co.*; *Allison White, Allison White Insurance* and

Lindy Greeter *Angie Petersen, Keller Williams Realty Professionals.*

Allison White has been in the insurance industry for more than a decade and is now offering her expert insurance advice right out of her new office located at 53 E Broadway Ste. C, Little Falls (*The Victor Mall*). Allison and her family are excited to be part of the Little Falls and Morrison County community. Get your insurance quote by visiting www.allisonwhiteinsurance.com

Cricket Wireless



Pictured left: Lindy Greeters *Doug Dahlberg, Pine Country Bank* and *Dore Arnold, Schlenner Wenner & Co.*; *Jordan Welinski* and *Devin Patrick, Cricket Wireless* and Lindy Greeter

Angie Petersen, Keller Williams Realty Professionals.

At **Cricket Wireless**, we're on a mission to make customers like you satisfied with your cell phone carrier like never before, providing you with wireless service to smile about. That means no annual contracts, cheap cell phone plan prices and no surprises.

If you are considering changing your cell phone carrier, **Cricket Wireless** has a variety of phone plans to fit any lifestyle, so you can choose the cell phone that's just right. Stop down as see them at 1936 1 Ave NE, Little Falls or visit www.cricketwireless.com

heijeu book + art



Pictured left: Lindy Greeters *Doug Dahlberg, Pine Country Bank* and *Megan Kruse, Morrison County United Way*; *Heidi Jeub, heijeu book + art* and Lindy

Greeter *Tom Scherling, Century 21 New Horizons Realty.*

heijeu book + art is located in downtown Little Falls at [120 1 Ave SE](http://1201AveSE). heijeu is a new way to connect to other creatives in our community with ideas, partnerships and support. heijeu is here to build creative confidence through camaraderie. For more information visit www.heidijeub.com

The Purple Carrot



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter *Dore Arnold, Schlenner Wenner & Co.*; *Susy Prospaio, The Purple Carrot*; Lindy Greeters *Doug Dahlberg, Pine Country Bank* and *Angie Petersen, Keller Williams Realty Professionals* and *Sheila Watercott, The Purple Carrot.*

The Purple Carrot Market started as a grass- roots effort to open a cooperatively-owned grocery store that features fresh, local foods and prepared foods produced by local food entrepreneurs. In November 2017, the Purple Carrot purchased the Victor Mall building as the location for the full -line grocery store, featuring local produce, meats, dairy, bulk foods, prepared foods, a hot bar, grab & go foods, health, beauty and more. For more information visit www.purplecarrotmarket.coop

March 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>

March

- 1, 2, 3, ~ Book Sale, Carnegie Library, [108 3 St NE, Little Falls](#)
- 1 ~ **Golf Outing Committee Meeting**, noon, Johnny C's Sports Bar, 108 E Broadway, Little Falls
- 2 ~ Nicholas David (*finalist on NBC's The Voice*), 6:30 pm, Great River Arts, [122 1 St SE, Little Falls](#)
- 3 ~ Antique Sporting Collectibles & Fish Decoy Show, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Falls Ballroom, [15879 Hwy. 27, Little Falls](#)
- 3 ~ Petite Picasso Art Class, 10:30 - 11:30 am, Great River Arts, [122 1 St SE, Little Falls](#)
- 3 ~ Mini Monet Art Class, noon - 1:30 pm, Great River Arts, [122 1 St SE, Little Falls](#)
- 3 ~ Flyer Athletic Boosters (FAB) Bean Bag Tournament, 1:30 pm, Sobieski Community Center, [9092 Cable Rd., Little Falls](#)
- 6 ~ **Lindy Greeter Committee Meeting**, noon, A.T. the Black & White, [114 1 St SE, Little Falls](#)
- 7 ~ Little Falls Business Association, noon, Pine Country Bank, 1201 1 Ave NE, Little Falls
- 7 ~ Wrap Bracelets, 6:30 pm, Great River Arts, [122 1 St SE, Little Falls](#)
- 8 ~ **Board of Directors**, 11:00 am, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls
- 10 ~ Basic Calligraphy, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Great River Arts, [122 1 St SE, Little Falls](#)
- 10 ~ The Space Between Death & Resurrection, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm, St. Francis Hall, Franciscan Sisters, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls
- 10 ~ 2nd Saturday Free Art, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm, Great River Arts, [122 1 St SE, Little Falls](#)
- 14~ **FALS** Session, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Initiative Foundation, 405 1 St SE, Little Falls. Session sponsor: **St. Otto's Care Center**
- 15 ~ **Membership Development Committee**, 8:00 am, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls
- 15 ~ Centering Prayer, 6:00 pm, Gathering Space, Franciscan Sisters, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls
- 16 ~ **Friday Morning Coffee**, 7:30 - 9:00 am, Bank of the West, 65 E Broadway, Little Falls.
- Sponsored by: **Habitat for Humanity of Morrison County**
- 16 ~ Zoo Gone Wild Fundraiser, 6:00 pm, Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy 27, Little Falls
- 19 ~ Health Fair, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, Little Falls Community High School Commons, 1001 5 Ave SE, Little Falls
- 24 ~ Seeds of Kindness Luncheon, 9:00 am, Franciscan Sisters, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls
- 24 ~ Hope Rocks Fundraising Concert, 6:30 pm, Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy 27, Little Falls
- 26 ~ Book Club Meet & Greet, 5:00 pm, Carnegie Library, 108 3 St NE, Little Falls
- 27 ~ Kinship Chili & Soup Cook-off , 5:00 pm Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy 27, Little Falls
- 28 ~ **Lunchtime on Location (LOL)**, noon, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls. Sponsored by: **Berg's Bug Removal**
- 30 ~ Good Friday Walk for Peace / Stations of the Cross, 9:30 am, west entrance of Franciscan Sisters, 116 8 Ave., Little Falls



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