Honor the 2019 winners at your annual Business Awards celebration. This is a signature event, bringing together the best of the best!

Your keynote speaker is Amanda Brinkman; creator, producer and host of the hit series “Small Business Revolution – Main Street,” which was named among Inc. Magazine’s top shows for entrepreneurs. In the inspirational reality show, Amanda showcases her love for small towns by spearheading efforts to revitalize entire communities and providing makeovers to small businesses across America. She demonstrates how both companies and individuals can make a meaningful and positive difference in people’s lives, while increasing their own success in the process. It is her passionate belief that companies must identify their brands purpose, but they cannot stop there, they must find their unique brand action.

Of course, before we can honor the winners, we need to receive nominations & applications for consideration. Categories are non-profit, micro, small, and large business. Use the inserted nomination form to start the (streamlined) process; entries must be received by March 13. If your nominated candidate wins their category, you may be eligible to win a free ticket to the April 7 luncheon! Registration at 11:30 am, program from 12-1:15 pm. $25/$185 table.

### 32nd Annual Golf Tournament

Secure your sponsorship or foursome for our 2020 tournament, which will once again be on BOTH 18-hole courses at Majestic Oaks to ensure LOTS of people can participate at a GREAT speed of play.

As an incentive to register early, the first 18 confirmed bundles (a foursome and a hole sponsorship) receive $40 off registration. All golfers will receive a free gift again as well. Interested in sponsorship? The first 18 confirmed hole sponsors are guaranteed a table, chair, and golf cart. PLUS, the first 18 paid sponsors will be entered into a drawing for a $600 marketing package! Also for sponsors, your golf committee is coordinating a “hole sponsor happy hour” for mid-April which will give you best practices, tips, and insider information as to how to maximize your time on the course. All registered sponsors will receive updated information on this opportunity.

See the golf insert in this newsletter to register, or contact us at chamber@metronorthchamber.org. Thank you, title sponsor Financial One Credit Union.
Legislative Reception Highlights

The theme of the 2020 Legislative Reception was collaboration. We encouraged our elected officials to discuss ways in which we can work together to ensure a strong north metro region. We were particularly encouraged by their remarks on keeping our local infrastructure needs at the top of their priority list – see the next page for some of our own recent efforts regarding transportation.

As always, if you have legislative concerns or other issues impacting your business, don’t hesitate to reach out to the MetroNorth Chamber. We are here as your voice and advocate. In fact, we would love to come to your place of business and learn more about what you do and how we can be a resource. Oftentimes we can find answers to questions you didn’t even know you had! Contact us to arrange a time conducive to your schedule.

Let Your Voice Be Heard

As we enter this Legislative Session, we want to know what issues are of most important to you. We also want to know if you are willing to tell your story to elected officials. The more they hear about how issues are impacting your business, the more we can better advocate for you. So whether that is giving a tour of your facility, sending a short testimonial on an issue, or even testifying at the State Capitol, we want to know how you may be willing to help US help YOU. Fill out the below form and email/fax/scan back. Your confidential response will allow us to better represent you.

Make your voice heard!

Name: ____________________________________________
Company: _______________________________________
Email: __________________________________________
Cell: ____________________________________________

☐ I want to receive email updates  ☐ I want to receive calls/texts

☐ I am willing to advocate!

Issues that matter to me (check each that apply):
☐ Child Care  ☐ Housing
☐ Consumer Privacy  ☐ Recreational Marijuana
☐ Education  ☐ Taxes
☐ Energy  ☐ Transportation
☐ Environmental Permitting  ☐ Workplace Mandates
☐ Environmental Sustainability  ☐ Workforce
☐ Health Care  ☐ Other: ____________________________

Questions? Please contact Lori Higgins at lori@metronorthchamber.org or 763.783.3553.
Transportation Initiative

In early 2020 we announced the launch of a special initiative whereby we are conducting an assessment of our Anoka County transportation infrastructure. The research, analysis and findings will be the foundation for what we hope will be a larger, collaborative effort to work together as a region in funding current and future transportation needs. Our intern has reviewed all 21 municipality comp plans and is currently digging into data regarding other metro area projects and funding. In the near future we will be conducting interviews and a larger-scale survey. More information will be shared as this project continues to develop.

Current Transportation Projects

Of course, we all know that there is an immediate need for transportation infrastructure improvements in the north metro. Your MetroNorth Chamber is actively communicating with key stakeholders and elected officials to keep our projects a priority. We are attending meetings and supporting efforts relative to Highway 10 in Coon Rapids/Anoka/Ramsey as well as County Road J and I-35, in particular.

Hearing how north metro transportation systems are impacting your ability to sustain or grow your business are an important piece to the conversation. Please let us know if you are willing to have a conversation with us regarding transportation and your business; we’d be happy to visit with you.

Proud Member 2020 Decal

Hot off the press! Your Proud Member 2020 Decal is ready for your window or door. We are working on delivering them but feel free to stop by our office to get yours now.

Remember, businesses known to be chamber members enjoy a 49% increase in its consumer favorability rating, a 73% increase in consumer awareness, a 68% increase in its local reputation, and an 80% increase in the likelihood the consumer would patronize the business in the future. So be proud, be loud! AND, send us a photo of your decal at your business, just like Pho Tai Vietnamese Restaurant did. We would love to feature it on our social media platforms as part of our #FrontDoorFriday initiative!

Building Community

At the MetroNorth Chamber, we believe Building Business is inextricably tied to Building Community. In fact, a robust segment of Chamber members come from the non-profit community. They are on committees, at Sunrise, Business Councils, the golf tournament, etc., contributing their time and talents.

Many are also active in our Working with Women program, whose January meeting focused on "providing a greater, broader understanding of what's really going on with those in our community, what non-profits are doing, why everyone should care, and how each of us can help make change."

Julie Jeppson of Stepping Stone Emergency Housing facilitated the conversation which included other non-profit experts: Stacey Buchanan representing Anoka-Hennepin Educational Foundation, Joe McKenzie with Cars For Neighbors, Andrea Melberg-Thompson with Mercy Hospital Foundation, Steve Griffiths with Impact Services, and Mandy Meisner Anoka County Commissioner. It was described as impactful, thought-provoking, passionate, and educational. In fact, this conversation was deemed so important, and so well done, that there are plans to continue the dialogue outside of Working with Women.

On behalf of MetroNorth, we thank ALL of our non-profits for their vital role to support our shared community. You make us #MetroNorthProud.
A lifetime of confidence starts here.

At KinderCare, we’ll make sure your child has everything they need. Teachers who care. Classrooms where safety is priority number one. A nurturing place to try new things and explore the world. Whoever you are and wherever you’re from, you’re welcome in our circle.

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Armatage KinderCare
12312 Frazier Street NE, Blaine, MN 55449

To learn more, give us a call at 833-90-LEARN or send us an email at enrollnow@kindercaare.com

Careers in the Classroom

Volunteers from your Workforce Development Committee spoke to hundreds of students in February regarding career pathway options, the importance of understanding finances in relation to life after high school, and how to maximize their time in school to develop soft and hard skills important to employers. Thank you Spring Lake Park High School and Westwood Middle School for the opportunity to have a fantastic dialogue with so many of “our employer’s emerging talent.”

If you would like to speak to students, or if you have a connection to a school or classroom which might benefit from this Careers in the Classroom presentation, please contact mitchell@metronorthchamber.org.

Are you looking for a fun winter activity for the family?

If so, join us for a fun-filled evening of tubing on March 28. Wild Mountain is donating a portion of ticket sales from that evening to our Workforce Foundation to support their student focused initiatives. Visit metronorthchamber.org for more information. See you on the slopes!
Ribbon Cuttings

X Golf of Blaine
Grand Opening
We offer seven state-of-the-art simulators designed for golfers at any stage of their game. Our on staff PGA Certified Professional can work with you to take your game to the next level.
298 Northtown Dr NE, Blaine
952.529.7195

Xfinity Coon Rapids
Grand Opening
Visit our store for Xfinity Internet-xFi, Xfinity TV-X1, Xfinity Mobile, Xfinity Home Security, and Xfinity Voice Home Phone. Stop by and interact with all or our new technology!
12940 Riverdale Dr NW, Suite 800, Coon Rapids 800.934.6489

Umi Sushi & Hibachi
Grand Opening
We are proud to outsource our seafood straight from Umi, which is Japanese for ‘the sea’. Our chefs are trained to create dishes that not only satisfy your hunger, but also your eyes.
10340 Baltimore St NE, Suite 100, Blaine
763.296.8004

New Member Welcome Reception Welcome!
Ambassadors treated new members to a welcome reception at Broadway Pizza Blaine, thanks to sponsors Church Offset Printing, Northeast Bank, Weichart Realtors and Signarama. Meeting some friendly faces & hearing more about MetroNorth was a great way to start their membership!

New Member Referral Program Winners
December
Jenna Elstrom
Upscaled Designs
Michelle won $100 in MetroNorth Money for referring a new member!

Kat Smithe,
Blaine Festival Volunteer Committee
January Ambassador of the Month &
The Ambassador of the Year
Congratulations to our Ambassador Extraordinaire, Kat Smithe! From attending ribbon cuttings to delivering business directories to greeting members at events, Kat achieved the highest point total of all Ambassadors in 2019, earning her the title of 2019 Ambassador of the Year. She managed this while being gone 2 months of the year (enjoying a warmer climate!) and planning the Blaine Festival (last full weekend in June, how many days away??). We tip our hats to Kat and thank her profusely for all she does. You, Kat, are a rock star of rock stars!
Membership
January and February
New Members: Welcome!

Armatage KinderCare
Dawn Estuesta, Center Director
12312 Frazier Street NE
Blaine, MN 55449
833.905.3276
dawn.estuesta@kindercare.com
KinderCare.com
Education

Aqua Wizards Plumbing LLC
Jason Kuehn, Owner
1673 Radisson Road
Blaine, MN 55449
763.568.7111
jason@aquawizardsplumbing.com
AquaWizardsPlumbing.com
Plumbing

Blaine Health & Wellness
Dr. Brian Lund D.C
Chiropractor/Owner
1630 101st Street Suite #140
Blaine, MN 55449
763-703-3509
Blainehealth@gmail.com
Blainehealth.com
Chiropractic

Crestview Property Maintenance
Jayson Dahl, Owner
12527 Central Ave #129
Blaine, MN 55449
612-207-0274
Crestviewmn.com
Property Maintenance

Cub Food-Blaine North
Nathaniel Spevacek, Store Manager
12595 Central Avenue NE
Blaine, MN 55434
763.755.9802
nathaniel.e.spevacek@supervalu.com
Cub.com
Grocers

Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp.
Kendra Miles Smith,
Business Development
6901 East Fish Lake Road, Suite 160
Maple Grove, MN 55369
651.895.2976
kendra.miles@fairwaymc.com
HomeBenefits4You.com
Mortgage Lending

Forthright Insurance LLC
Jeremy Thompson, Agency Owner
Champlin, MN
763.447.4112
jeremy@forthrightinsurancemn.com
ForthrightInsuranceMN.com
Insurance

LegalShield
Naomi Golnitz, Independent
Associate-Director
Ramsey, MN
651.245.9377
naomi@golnitz.com
Golnitz.com
Identity Theft/Legal Services

Mandy Birdwell - Health Coaching
Mandy Birdwell, Owner
Blaine, MN
612.801.4520
abirdwell@mac.com
Health & Wellness Services

Packaging Logistics Inc.
James Miller, President
9380 Central Avenue NE, Suite 314
Blaine, MN 55434
763.754.9461
james.miller@packlogic.com
PackLogic.com
Packaging Products

Refined Lending
Nathan Raich, Regional Manager
9240 Baltimore Street NE Suite 110
Blaine, MN 55449
763-784-8700
nraich@refinedlending.com
Mortgage Lender

STEM Builders of Blaine
Laurie Aaronson, Owner & Director of Community Outreach
1351 113th Avenue NE, Suite 100
Blaine, MN 55434
773.474.0292
blaine@stembuilders.com
STEMBuilders.com
Educational Organization

The Goddard School
Michael Sokol, Owner
12612 Central Ave NE
Blaine MN 55434
763.275.9797
BlaineMN@GoddardSchools.com
GoddardSchool.com
Early Childhood Education

Umi Sushi & Hibachi
Kylie Tran, Marketing Director
10340 Baltimore Street NE, Suite 100
Blaine, MN 55449
763.296.8004
umisushimn@gmail.com
Restaurant

Waldoch Crafts, Inc.
Sheila Waldoch, Owner
13821 Lake Drive NE
Forest Lake, MN 55025
651.464.3215
swaldoch@waldoch.com
Waldoch.com
Luxury Conversion Vehicles
January & February Renewals: Thanks for Your Continued Support!

COMMITTEES/GROUPS: MARCH & APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committees/Groups</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ambassadors</strong></td>
<td>Mar 10 &amp; Apr 14</td>
<td>Chamber, 4 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Board</strong></td>
<td>Mar 11 &amp; Apr 8</td>
<td>Chamber, 7:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Connecting 101</strong></td>
<td>Mar 19</td>
<td>Chamber, 8:15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Executive</strong></td>
<td>Mar 4 &amp; Apr 1</td>
<td>Chamber, 3 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hops &amp; Vines</strong></td>
<td>Mar 4 &amp; Apr 1</td>
<td>TBD, 4:44 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marketing 201</strong></td>
<td>Apr 16</td>
<td>Chamber, 8:15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunrise – 1st Friday</strong></td>
<td>Mar 6 &amp; Apr 3</td>
<td>The Tavern Grill, 7:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunrise – 3rd Friday</strong></td>
<td>Mar 20 &amp; Apr 17</td>
<td>Sticks &amp; Stones, 7:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Workforce Development</strong></td>
<td>Mar 23 &amp; Apr 27</td>
<td>Chamber, 12 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Working with Women</strong></td>
<td>Mar 25 &amp; Apr 22</td>
<td>SMB Fire Station #3, 9:15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wild Mountain Fundraiser</strong></td>
<td>Mar 28</td>
<td>Wild Mountain 4-8 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Business Awards</strong></td>
<td>Apr 7</td>
<td>TPC Twin Cities, 11:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blaine Business Council</strong></td>
<td>Apr 23</td>
<td>TPC Twin Cities, 7:30 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Engel & Volkers Minneapolis-Blaine
Essentially Massage
Fairy Tails Grooming
Family Promise in Anoka County
Farrell's Extreme Bodyshaping
FIRE Fitness Ham Lake
Firefly Credit Union
Five Star Painting of the Twin Cities
Forever Floral
Garage Doors Plus LLC
Grace & Heart
Holtz Garden Center and Floral
HOM Commercial Furniture/Flooring
HOM Furniture
Impact Services
Kevin Vote Insurance & Financial Services
Kraus-Anderson Construction Company
KW Commercial
Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health & Well-Being-Coon Rapids
Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health & Well-Being-Fridley
Livea, Weight Control Centers
Mathnasium of Blaine
Memorial Blood Centers
Mercy Hospital
Mercy Hospital Foundation
Mercy Hospital-Unity Campus
Metro Gun Club
Mills Fleet Farm-Blaine
Minnco Credit Union
Minnesota Twins Baseball Club
North Metro Mayors Association
North Metro TV
Northeast Bank-Minneapolis
NovaCare Rehabilitation-Blaine
NovaCare Rehabilitation-Coon Rapids
NovaCare Rehabilitation-Fridley
NovaCare Rehabilitation-Spring Lake Park
NovaCare Rehabilitation-Vadnais Heights Partners Real Estate MN Hardin Companies
PL Dental
Primeeca-Becky Gudmundson
Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers-Blaine
Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers-Coon Rapids
Route 47
Sandy's Auto Service
SeneGence
Sherwin-Williams-Blaine
Sierra Pacific Mortgage
Spring Lake Park Lions Club
Swartzendruber Solutions
SYNERGY HomeCare Northeast Metro The 'nMotion Center for Performing Arts
The Refuge Golf Club
The Sunset Grill
Tipsy Steer
TKO Construction Services
TPC Twin Cities
Tri Restaurant, Bar and Event Center
TriNet
Trott Brook Financial
Village Floor & Wall, Inc.
Washburn-McReavy Seman Chapel
Wild Mountain/Taylors Falls Recreation
YMCA-Andover
Thank you 2020 Signature Sponsors!

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- Mille Lacs

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- Twin Cities Orthopedics

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- Precision Tooling

Golf:
- financial one

Gala:
- Open

Grow MN:
- Connexxus
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