Advocacy in Action

In March, your Chamber President Lori Higgins testified at two MN House committees and one Senate committee on an issue important to many businesses: utility franchise fees. This is a fee that some cities require utility companies to collect and is based on your electric and gas usage. For some large manufacturers, this extra fee can be in the tens of thousands of dollars a year. The proposed legislation would provide for more transparency and allow the possibility of a citizen-led vote on this fee prior to implementation. We are so pleased to share that it passed unanimously through the committees and will keep moving through the process.

Speaking of 'the process,' there is much happening at the Capitol right now. We are closely following the progress of Uniform Labor Standards, ADA Reform and some local transportation projects in particular. As always, we welcome your input on these and other issues - especially if you have examples we can share with legislators on how state policy is affecting your business.

We are proud of our efforts to be the voice of business and work towards our mission of strengthening business and stimulating economic prosperity.

2016 Excellence in Business Awards

As you know, we recently celebrated your 2016 Excellence in Business Awards winners: Micro: Anytime Fitness Ham Lake; Small: Box Financial Advisors; Large: Grand Casino Mille Lacs & Hinckley; Non-Profit: Blaine Festival Volunteer Committee. We thank all who were a part of the awards process and celebration, including keynote speaker Chuck Runyon, founder & CEO of Anytime Fitness.
At the end of 2016, your Board of Directors set a strategic goal for 2017 regarding workforce. Specifically, to: Grow and support workforce development in Anoka County to create a higher quality workforce for our businesses.

While this is a large goal, they set some smaller goals within such as creating a voluntary donation line on membership invoices that would directly support the Workforce Foundation, whose focus is to support work ready, upper level high school students. This will help support the Foundation in the interim as they apply for larger grants and opportunities. So far this year your contributions have raised $525 and we thank you for that.

Interested in learning more about the Foundation? Their website is now live; visit metronorthworkforce.org!

Another sub-goal of the Board is to help promote and deliver the “Careers in the Classroom: Are You (Work) Ready?” initiative. This 45-minute presentation is geared to middle and high school students to help them think about how much money they will need to live on after graduation, the difference between a job and a career, and how school can help prepare them to be a productive member of the workforce. The presentation has been given to a handful of schools so far and has been very well-received.

Sound interesting? Any business professional could present this material; or, you have a connection to a local school who might wish to have a guest speaker, please contact us.

Anoka-Ramsey Community College

Speaking of students, recently your chamber president was a guest speaker at an Intro to Business course at Anoka-Ramsey Community College. She discussed some of the challenges business owners face in pursuing their dream and how chambers of commerce can assist. Students had fantastic questions and we can’t wait to see them start their own business right here in the north metro.

And of course, we’d be remiss if we didn’t take this opportunity to congratulate Anoka-Ramsey Community College on being named a Top Ten community college in the nation by the Aspen Institute. This is an extremely high honor! We are so proud to have such an outstanding educational institution right here in Coon Rapids.
Upcoming Events

Learning from Influential People
Tuesday, April 18, 4:45-6:45 pm • Tria North Oaks
This after-hours with the White Bear Area Chamber features keynote speaker Joe Nayquonabe, CEO for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV). Joe analyzes new business opportunities and oversees the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe’s existing businesses. Joe knows the importance of learning from influential people – not just about their successes in life, but lessons learned along the way and how you can apply those to your personal and professional life. Joe will highlight some of these lessons, how they have affected him personally, and how he’s utilized them in the ever-growing business lines of MLCV. Rest assured, a plethora of wine and Hors d’oeuvres are included! RSVP required; $28. Thank you sponsor Grand Casino Mille Lacs/ Hinckley.

Blaine Business Council
Thursday, April 27th, 7:30 am • Infinite Campus Blaine
Business Council attendees take note! We are moving off-site for our 2nd quarter meeting to showcase Infinite Campus’ new tower. Also, the city will discuss the economic development of the 109th/Lexington area as well as updates regarding their city-wide communication mediums.

29th Annual Golf Tournament
Thursday, May 18, 11:30 am • The Refuge Oak Grove
Don’t delay in signing up for this much-anticipated tradition. There’s a variety of unique sponsorships like your logo on the carts, the scorecard, the lunch bags, and others.

There’s also room for golfers, who tell us time and time again that we hold one of the most fun tournaments around. You will enjoy a ‘carnival on the course’ like atmosphere – no experience necessary, and you can sign up as an individual and we’ll strategically place you with others. Of course, we do have many foursomes who compete for the coveted 1st place trophy!

See the insert for full options or call 763-783-3553 ASAP. We are also in need of raffle donations – great visibility for your business while supporting our organization!

Thank you title sponsor Financial One Credit Union.

Session Wrap Up
Wednesday, May 31st, 7:30 am • Rasmussen College Blaine
Hear from a panel of north metro legislators regarding the outcomes of the 2017 MN legislative season, including time for questions. More details to be shared soon.

Summer Food Fest
Tuesday, June 13th, 4:30 pm • Westwood Schools Blaine
The 7th Annual Summer Food Fest is at the Westwood Intermediate/ Middle School Complex, only a mile away from Aquatore Park, allowing restaurants to be INSIDE – rain or shine! There’s also plenty of space inside and outside for activities and entertainment. Limited time remains to become a sponsor and have your logo on 10,000 brochures sent to local families and businesses. See the below ad for more details.

This event is in partnership with Toys for Joy, an Anoka County non-profit providing toys to children at Christmas. Help support both our organizations by being part of this event!

7th Annual SUMMER FOOD FEST

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Enthusiast: $2,500
20 tickets + Premier table at event
Logo on flyers & banner
Social media, print & website recognition

Supporter: $1,000
10 tickets + Table at event
Logo on flyers & banner
Social media & website recognition

Foodie: $500
5 tickets, Logo on banner
Social media & website recognition

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Yes! Sign me up for:
__$500 __$1000 __$2500
__Call for Custom Sponsorship Opportunities
Lakes Apparel: New Member!

Lakes Apparel has, or can order, just about any apparel and then we can make it look better with your logo, community logo or message. 608 Lake Street S Suite 2 Forest Lake, MN 55025, 651.464.1515, LakesApparel.com.

Panera Bread-Blaine: New Drive-Thru!

Panera Bread cares about the simple things: freshly baked breads, attention to detail, a warm place to gather and our local neighborhoods. 8601 Springbrook Drive NW, Blaine, MN 55434, 763.259.0046, PaneraBread.com.

The McDowell Agency: New Member!

The McDowell Agency is a licensed private investigation firm specializing in background investigations and pre-employment screening services. 1101 Snelling Avenue N St. Paul, MN 55108, 651.644.3880, McDowellAgency.com.

Atlas Staffing-Mounds View: New Member!

Atlas Staffing is a full-service staffing agency whose focus is on consulting and offering quality employee solutions for employers. 2575 County Highway 10 Mounds View, MN 55112, 763.333.0300, AtlasStaffingInc.com.

The Ambassadors of the Month Are...

January: Neal Elder
BOB 106 FM

February: Michael Erkes
Imprint Gallery, Inc.
Farmers Insurance-Lynn Moe: Grand Opening!
Farmers Insurance Group of Companies is a leading U.S. insurer group of automobiles, homes and small businesses and provides a wide range of other insurance and financial services. 7960 Lake Drive Lino Lakes, MN 55014, 651.777.2822, Agents.Farmers.com/mn/lino-lakes.

Streamworks: New Member & New Facility!
Streamworks is an integrated marketing communications company helping clients identify relevant communication channels, execute meaningful messaging and deliver measurable results. 3640 Pheasant Ridge Drive NE Blaine, MN 55449, 651.766.1257. Streamworksmn.com.

Green Mill Blaine: Re-Model Completion!
From the menu to their genuine service, everything Green Mill is focused on is to provide their guests with the best restaurant experience possible. 4355 Pheasant Ridge Drive Blaine, MN 55449, 763.792.9400, GreenMill.com.

Lyric Arts Main Street Stage: Announced Their 2017-2018 Season!
Lyric Arts Main Street Stage, located in the heart of historic downtown Anoka, offers a full season of live theater including musicals, dramas, comedies and children’s productions. 420 E Main Street Anoka, MN 55303, 763.422.1838, LyricArts.org.

Ambassadors Present:
Amy Jones – Mary Kay
Amy Weber-DeRaad – Mary Kay
Angie Glotzbach – AngCo
Anita Spading – KleinBank
Beth Whelan – Oxygen Consulting
Bob Hylland – Financial One Credit Union
Brenda Jewell – Anytime Fitness Ham Lake
Bruce Erickson – LegalShield
Catherine Plantenberg – Best Light Image
Daryl Kirt – Scenic Sign Corporation
Dick Fisher – e-Merge Online Marketing
Emily Boettcher – Unique Dining Experiences
Jake Holmiust – Eagle Home Mortgage
Jon Nalby – Trust Vets
Kari Vaughn – HealthSource of Blaine
Kat Smithe – Blayne Festival
Lori Dorn – Harmon Auto Glass
Mary Sutherland – Riffland Solutions
Michael Erkes – Imprint Gallery, Inc.
Mike Rathbun – Freedom Cleaning Services
Neal Elder – BOB 106FM
Rebecca Jochum – INI Bodywork & Wellness
Shawn Quarberg – The Lakes Life/N2 Publishing
Sheila Marquis – Damsel in Defense
Stacey Buchanan – KleinBank
Steve Griffiths – Impact Services
Steve Rajtar – ECM Sun Publishers, Inc.
Teresa Elmstrand – Wells Fargo Advisors
Michael Altendorfer – Andersen Cabinet, Inc.
January and February New Members: Welcome!

First Community Mortgage
Keith Lis, Senior Loan Officer
11670 Fountains Drive
Maple Grove, MN 55369
612.850.8963
keith.lis@fcmhomeloans.com
Human.FirstCommunityMortgages.com
Mortgage Lending

Glow In One Mini Golf
Jenna Miller, CEO
12579 Central Avenue NE
Blaine, MN 55434
763.777.9577
jenna@glowinoneminigolf.com
GlowInOneMiniGolf.com
Entertainment

The Home Depot
Jeff Bohrner, Store Manager
4550 Pheasant Ridge Drive
Blaine, MN 55449
763.717.0316
jeff.boehm@homedepot.com
Homedepot.com
Construction Materials/Tools

The Home Depot
Jeffrey Nyberg, Store Manager
99 Northtown Drive
Blaine, MN 55434
763.795.2060
jeffrey_t.nyberg@homedepot.com
Home Depot.com
Construction Materials/Tools

The Home Depot
Jason Bergeland, Store Manager
3550 124th Avenue NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
763.422.1200
jason_l.bergeland@homedepot.com
Home Depot.com
Construction Materials/Tools

IComp
Robert Scalia, CPP, Owner
380 East Lafayette Frontage Road, Ste 110
St. Paul, MN 55107
651.258.4266
robert@icomp payroll.com
ICompPayroll.com
Payroll

Essential Oils
Sarah Kessler, Distributor
Minneapolis, MN
612.889.8159
sarah@own-your-health.com
flourisheo.com/network/sarah-kessler
Health & Nutrition Products

Own Your Health/Young Living

John's Auto Service
Karl Laackmann
2935 Edison Street NE, Unit B
Blaine, MN 55449
763.360.8770
karllaackmann@yahoo.com
Karlas.JuicePlus.com
Health & Nutrition Products

Mathnasium of Blaine
Garth Andersen, Center Director
1518 125th Avenue NE
Blaine, MN 55449
763.269.6969
blaine@mathnasium.com
Mathnasium.com/Blaine
Tutoring

Millennium Management Services, LLC
George von Brugger, Owner
Shoreview, MN
651.558.5386
millenniumcommercialcleaning@hotmail.com
MillenniumManagementServices.com
Commercial Cleaning

Villas at Sunset Bay Association
Eric Davison, Senior Community Manager
7100 Northland Circle N, Suite 300
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428
763.225.6400
Eric.davison@associa.us
AssociaMinnesota.com
Homeowners Association

YMCA–Emma B. Howe Family
Margie Rask, Executive Director
8950 Springbrook Drive
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
763.785.7882
margie.rask@ymcatwincities.org
EmmaBHoweYMCA.org
Fitness Centers

January and February Renewals: Thanks for Your Continued Support!
COMMITTEES/GROUPS:

Ambassadors: Apr 11, Chamber, 4 pm  May 9, Chamber, 4 pm
Board: Apr 12, Chamber, 7:30 am  May 10, Chamber, 7:30 am
Executive: Apr 4, Chamber, 9:30 am  May 2, Chamber, 9:30 am
Gala: Apr 28, Chamber, 9:30 am  May 26, Chamber, 9:30 am
Golf: Apr 10, Chamber, 4 pm  May 8, Chamber, 4 pm
1st Friday Sunrise - Blaine: Apr 7, Tavern Grill - Blaine, 7:30 am  May 5 Tavern Grill - Blaine, 7:30 am
3rd Friday Sunrise - Blaine: Apr 21, Sticks & Stones, 7:30 am  May 19 Sticks & Stones, 7:30 am
Wine: Apr 5, Moe’s-Mounds View, 4:44 pm  May 3, TBD, 4:44 pm
Workforce Development: Apr 24, Chamber, 12 pm  May 22, Chamber, 12 pm
Working with Women: Apr 26, Rasmussen College, Blaine; 9:15 am  May 24, Rasmussen College Blaine; 9:15 am

SPECIAL EVENTS:

New Member Reception  April 4, Moe’s Mounds View, 4:30 pm
Learning from Influential People  April 18, Tria-North Oaks, 4:45
Marketing 201  April 20, Rasmussen College-Blaine, 8:15 am
Blaine Business Council  April 27, Infinite Campus-Blaine, 7:30 am
Connecting 101  May 11, Chamber, 8:15 am
29th Annual Golf Tournament  May 18, The Refuge-Oak Grove, 11:30 am
Coon Rapids Business Council  May 23, Bunker Hills-Coon Rapids, 7:30 am
Session Wrap Up  May 31, Rasmussen College-Blaine, 7:30 am

New Member Referral Program Winners

January Referral Winner:
Amy Weber-DeRaad, Mary Kay
$50 gift certificate Kintaro, Blaine

February Referral Winner:
Dave Galleberg, Gaughan Companies
$50 gift certificate Kintaro, Blaine

MARY KAY
Thank you 2017 Signature Sponsors!

Gold:

Silver:

Bronze:

Golf:

Gala:

Grow MN: