On March 15 we will celebrate your 2016 Excellence in Business Awards winners in the micro, small, business and not-for-profit categories. This is a prestigious honor which showcases the best of the best of our membership. Applications will be accepted until February 22nd – you can self-apply and/or nominate another business; both the nomination & application forms are at metronorthchamber.org. Remember that if you nominate a business & they win, you receive a free ticket to the luncheon.

Speaking of the luncheon, attendees will hear from keynote speaker Chuck Runyon, CEO of Anytime Fitness. In 2002, Chuck Runyon revolutionized the fitness industry when he and a co-founder started smaller, neighborhood gyms featuring convenience, affordability, quality equipment and surprisingly personable service in friendly, non-intimidating facilities. There are now over 3,200 gyms world-wide generating nearly $1 billion of annual revenue. Under Runyon’s leadership, Anytime Fitness has earned numerous industry accolades, including: “The #1 Franchise in the world” “One of America’s Most Promising Companies” “The Fastest-Growing Fitness Club in the World” and “The Best Place to Work in Minnesota.” And if that wasn’t enough, apparently getting a tattoo of their ‘running man’ logo is so popular that the company added a full-service tattoo parlor at its corporate headquarters. Honor your Excellence in Business Award winners while hearing about the success of Anytime Fitness at this luncheon. Tattoos not required.

Register via 763-783-3553 or valerie@metronorthchamber.org. $25 per person or $185/table.

2017 Priorities

Your Board of Directors had an exceptionally busy January meeting agenda preparing your Chamber for the new year. One item of business was to review and approve the 2017 MN Chamber Federation Priorities. Most of these business issues are a continuation of our 2016 efforts. A summary of the platform is as follows:

**Business Tax Relief.** Minnesota business taxes rank among the highest in the nation in many tax categories including 3rd highest for corporate and pass-through income tax rates, 2nd highest for some types of business property taxes and one of 14 states that still have an estate tax. We support property tax relief for all businesses by reducing the statewide levy and eliminating the automatic inflator; lowering top income tax rates; conformity with Section 179 expensing federal laws for small businesses investing in their Minnesota operations; enhancement and simplification of research and development tax credit; and increasing estate tax threshold to the federal level.

**Transportation Investment.** We support a 10 year, comprehensive transportation funding package that provides increased investment in the state’s multi-modal transportation infrastructure. The state should use the General Fund revenues generated from the statewide sales tax on auto parts and rental cars to fund increased investment in our transportation system; consider an adjustment in the tab fee depreciation schedule; augment any new investment through an increased focus on efficient use.

Continued on page 2
2017 Priorities continued from page 1

of resources; use Trunk Highway bonding to help finance projects in the state's road and bridge system and General Obligation bonding to support local road and bridge, transit way, port, rail, airport, and other transportation infrastructure projects across the state.

Employer Flexibility. Employers must have the flexibility they need to provide benefits that are appropriate for their workplace. Voluntary, flexible policy approaches are far more effective than a one-size-fits-all solution mandated by elected officials. A troubling new trend is for cities to enact their own workplace mandates, creating a patchwork of city-by-city ordinances that presents an even greater administrative burden for employers. Accordingly, we support explicit statewide preemption of local government labor mandates.

Health Care Reform. We support long term health care reform that will ensure more affordable premiums. Our goal is to ensure access to quality affordable health care in the commercial market by reducing health care taxes and mandates; expanding product and coverage options for employers (i.e. self-insurance for smaller employers) and individuals; increasing market competition and stability; encouraging outcome based payment and delivery reform; and improving consumer engagement and transparency of cost and quality.

Lawsuit Reform. We support strengthening the bipartisan American with Disability (ADA) lawsuit reform bill that was signed into law last year by requiring mandatory notice and a reasonable time for a business to fix the alleged access violation prior to the commencement of a lawsuit. Lawsuits targeting small businesses by a handful of lawyers continue to be filed in many Minnesota communities alleging disability access violations such as striping and signage of parking lots. The voluntary notice provision passed into law last year has not stopped this abusive lawsuit practice that appears to have the primary motivation of achieving attorney's fees for a small group of attorneys versus improving access for the disabled.

Watch for updates on these and other business issues as the Session progresses. As always, if there is a specific issue affecting your business, and/or you would like to provide input on how your business is affected by the above issues, don’t hesitate to let us know.

Career Fair

Over 30 employers marketed their career openings to a throng of attendees at Northtown Mall on January 19. The MetroNorth Chamber is committed to assisting our members with their workforce needs; this is just one such avenue we have planned for 2017. From a ‘work ready’ high school presentation to fall manufacturing tours, we will work diligently to connect our emerging workforce with our north metro businesses. Remember, you can post your job openings on our website at any time. Also, be sure to let us know if you are open to tours of your facility, have an interest in speaking to students, or have other ways in which we can be helpful in connecting you to potential employees.
Upcoming Events

Olive Garden Wine Event
Tues, Feb 21 • 4:44-6:30 pm

Don’t miss the Grapevine Wine Club’s popular Olive Garden event! It’s a magical evening, pairing their fine array of wines with mouth-watering cuisine in the cozy setting of their private dining room. By popular demand, we strategically assign members to designated tables to facilitate the best possible networking over dinner. Drink wine, meet people, have fun. The Olive Garden wine tasting won’t disappoint. Only $35/$60 pair; space is limited so don’t delay. Thanks sponsor Gaughn Companies

Learning from Influential People
Tues, April 18, 4:45-6:45 pm • Tria

This year’s joint after-hours with the White Bear Chamber features a keynote speaker: Joe Nayquonabe, COO for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV). Joe analyzes new business opportunities & 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 & how you can apply those to your personal & professional life. Joe will highlight some of these lessons, how they have affected him personally, & how he's utilized them in the ever-growing business lines of MLCV. Rest assured, a plethora of wine and Hors d’oeuvres are still included! RSVP required; $28.

28th Annual Golf Tournament • Thurs., May 18, Refuge • 11:30 am

Did you hear that noise in your garage? Those were your clubs rattling, reminding you to sign up for this sure-to-be sold out event. Last year we had a waiting list for hole sponsors AND golfers. Why? Because this tournament is FUN, as well as a way to meet 200 other business professionals in a relaxed atmosphere. Sign up today while space is still available!
Maki Chiropractic Clinic: New Member!

Maki Chiropractic Clinic’s goal is to provide exceptional care to their patients. They treat a wide variety of spinal conditions as well as other musculoskeletal complaints. Experience how chiropractic can make a difference in your life! 607 County Hwy 10 NE Suite 104 Blaine 55434. 763.432.3921, Makichiro.com.

Seva Beauty Spa: New Member!

Seva is the pioneer of the fast-casual spa, with nationwide locations. Their convenient spot inside Walmart maximizes their one-stop-shop philosophy, not to mention price points everyone can afford. 4369 Ball Road NE Blaine 55449. 763.783.7934, sevabeauty.com.

HOPE 4 Youth: Additional Location!

HOPE 4 Youth shines a light on the issue of youth homelessness in the northern part of the Twin Cities. The young people they serve are struggling with homelessness and are seeking help in Anoka County. 2665 4th Avenue North Suite 40 Anoka 55303. 763.323.2066, Hope4youthmn.org.

Ambassadors Present:

Brenda Jewell, Ham Lake Anytime Fitness
Steve Griffiths, Impact Services
Teresa Elmstrand, Wells Fargo Advisors
Kat Smithe, Blaine Festival Committee
Amy Weber-DeRaad, Mary Kay
Anita Spading, KleinBank
Stacey Buchanan, KleinBank
Bob Hylland, Financial One Credit Union
Neal Elder, BOB 106 FM
Mary Sutherland, Riffland Solutions
Gary Sutherland, Riffland Solutions
Michael Erkes, Imprint Gallery
Amy Jones, Mary Kay
Dick Fisher, e-Merge Online Marketing
Sheila Marquis, Damsel in Defense
Catherine Plantenberg, Best Light Image

The Ambassadors of the Month Are...

November: Mary Sutherland
Riffland Solutions

December: Kat Smithe
Blaine Festival Committee
Ribbon Cuttings

The Ambassador of the Year Is...

2016 Ambassador of the Year: Kat Smithe
Blaine Festival Committee

New Member Reception:

On January 10, Ambassadors gave a warm welcome to members who joined the chamber in the fourth quarter of 2016. Thanks Muddy Cow Bar & Grill in Coon Rapids for hosting & Blaine Festival Volunteer Committee, ECM Sun Publishers, KleinBank & Oxygen Consulting for sponsoring.

If you can dream it, we can put your name on it!

Golf Tournaments • Parades
Chamber Event • Tradeshows
Community or Church Events • Company Parties

ECM PRINTING
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4101 Coon Rapids Blvd. • Coon Rapids, MN 55433
Call Laura at 763-712-3595 or email Laura.Seward@ecm-inc.com

13th annual Empty Bowls
Benefiting the NACE Foodshelf
March 16th, 2017
5:00-7:30pm

St Patrick Catholic Church
19921 Nightingale St NW
Oak Grove, MN

Sponsored by:
• Cedar/East Bethel Lions
• Cedar/East Bethel Lioness
• Ham Lake Lions
• Oak Groves Lions
• St. Francis Lions
• St. Francis Lioness

PLUS!
• Live Auction
• Silent Auction
• Ceramic Bowls
• And More!

NACE Foodshelf
763-434-7685
www.nacefoodshelf.org
Membership

November and December New Members: Welcome!

All Auto Glass
Dan Webster, President
1549 93rd Lane NE
Blaine, MN 55449
763.784.5922
info@allautog.com
AllAuto.com
Auto Glass Repair

Andover Physical Therapy
Amy Rockstad, Director of Operations
1574 154th Avenue NW
Andover, MN 55304
763.433.8108
arock@physicaltherapyptc.com
PhysicalTherapyPTC.com
Physical Therapy
deVoli Studios
Lisa Schroeder, Owner
Andover, MN
763.242.9834
lisa@devolistudios.com
deVoliStudios.com
Photography

Eagle Home Mortgage
Brian Fulcher, Branch Manager
2407 19th Avenue NE
Blaine, MN 55449
612.326.8660
brianfulcher@eaglehm.com
Blaine.EagleHM.com
Mortgage Lending

Elizabeth Rumble—RE/MAX Results
Elizabeth Rumble, Realtor
Blaine, MN
651.491.2215
esrumble@gmail.com
ElizabethRumble.Results.net
Residential Real Estate

First Bank Financial Center
Becky Hennessy, Sales Manager
Andover, MN
612.423.6626
becky.hennessey@fbcwi.com
FBCWi.com
Bank

First Signature Services
Jason Lach, Independent Financial Advisor
11000 86th Avenue N
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763.971.8211
jilach@royalaa.com
JasonLach.com
Financial Advisor

Fresh & Natural Foods
Lois O'Brien
1075 West Highway 96
Shoreview, MN 55126
651.203.3663
lois@infoods.com
FreshAndNaturalFoods.com
Grocery

Ham Lake Physical Therapy
Amy Rockstad, Director of Operations
16210 Aberdeen St NE
Ham Lake, MN 55303
763.413.0880
arock@physicaltherapyptc.com
PhysicalTherapyPTC.com
Physical Therapy

Isanti Physical Therapy
Amy Rockstad, Director of Operations
2 Enterprise Avenue, Suite 400
Isanti, MN 55040
763.444.8680
arock@physicaltherapyptc.com
PhysicalTherapyPTC.com
Physical Therapy

Kevin Vote Insurance & Financial Services, Inc.
Kevin Vote, Owner/Agent
11115 Crooked Lake Boulevard NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
763.755.7220
kevin@kevinvote.com
KevinVote.com
Insurance

Lakes Apparel
Dan Babineau, Owner
608 Lake Street S, Suite 2
Forest Lake, MN 55025
651.464.1515
shirts@lakesapparel.com
LakesApparel.com
Retail-Clothing

LegalShield—Bruce Erickson
Bruce Erickson, Owner
5617 73rd Avenue N, Suite 153
Brooklyn Park, MN 55429
763.744.7104
bruce.erickson763@gmail.com
LegalShield.com
Identity Theft

Maki Chiropractic Care
Lance Maki, Chiropractor/Owner
607 County Road 10 NE, Suite 104
Blaine, MN 55434
763.432.3921
dlancemaki@gmail.com
Chiropractors

Medal & Associates, LLC
Rod Medel, MBA, Managing Principal
PO Box 1561
Maple Grove, MN 55311
763.607.9136
rod@medelassociates.com
MedelAssociates.com
Accounting

North Branch Physical Therapy
Amy Rockstad, Director of Operations
5466 St. Croix Trail, Suite 107
North Branch, MN 55056
763.674.7589
arock@physicaltherapyptc.com
PhysicalTherapyPTC.com
Physical Therapy

The Paul Ekstrom Realty Team
Paul Ekstrom, President
2175 Northdale Boulevard NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
763.746.7867
paul@thepauleteam.com
ThePaulETeam.com
Residential Real Estate

Raising Cane’s
Ben Sta, General Manager
1580 109th Avenue NE
Blaine, MN 55449
763.780.0959
bstall@raisingcanes.com
RaisingCanes.com
Restaurant

November and December Renewals: Thanks for Your Continued Support!

AAA Minnesota/Iowa
Abbey Carpet and Floor
Abeler Chiropractic Clinic
Affirmed Valuation Services
Andover Cinema
Anytime Fitness—Ham Lake
Autumn Glen Senior Living
Bel Rae Senior Living
Blue Sun Soda & Sweets Shop
BMO Harris Bank-Blaine
Bolt Hoffer Boyd Law Firm
Broadway Bar & Pizza-Blaine
Broadway Bar & Pizza-Fridley
Buffalo Wild Wings-Blaine
Buffalo Wild Wings-Coon Rapids
Cars for Neighbors
Casa Rio Tex Mex
Central Park Liquor
Citi Group Auto
CMDC
Copier Technics
Country Inn & Suites-Coon Rapids
Creekview of Hugo Association
Crooners Lounge and Supper Club
Custom Fireplace and Chimney Care
Decorative & Structural Concrete and Masonry
Earl Brown Terrace
Edgemont Place Alzheimer’s Special Care Center
Edward Jones-Daniel Babbitt
Family Promise in Anoka County
Forever Floral
Gordon’s Enterprises Company, Inc.
Grass Root Cooperative
Harmon Auto Glass
HOM Furniture
HomeTown Plumbing, Inc.
Houle Insulation
Impact Accounting
Impact Services
Incentec
KleinBank
Kraus-Anderson Construction
Kraus-Anderson Construction-Minneapolis
KW Commercial
Landmark Electric, Inc.
Leopold’s Mississippi Gardens
Mercy & Unity Hospitals Foundation
Metro Gun Club
Midwest Dental Coon Rapids
Moe’s Restaurant
MorningStar Chiropractic
Mortgages Unlimited
North Metro TV
Northeast Bank-Coon Rapids
Northeast Bank-Minneapolis
Outback Steakhouse
Oxymagic Carpet Cleaning
Pawm America-Anoka
Pawm America-Coon Rapids
Payday America-Anoka
Payday America-Coon Rapids
PC Bits Inc.
RE/MAX Results-Kris Lindahl
Riley, Enstad, Ovik & Co., LTD
Ron’s Auto Glass
Sandia’s Bookkeeping
Savers
Senator Michelle Benson
Sleep Number-Riverdale Village
Solar Arts Building
Speedpro Imaging
Spring Lake Park Lions Club
Sunday Mornings
The Refuge Golf Club
The Stiepel Group LLC
The Virtues Campus
Trust Vets
Two Stooges
U-Haul Center of Blaine
Victory Auto Service & Glass
Walmart-Andover
Walmart-Blaine East
Walmart-Blaine West
Walmart-Coon Rapids
Washburn-McReavy Seman Chapel
Waste Management
Weichert Realtors Premier
COMMITTEES/GROUPS:

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<tr>
<th>Committees/Groups</th>
<th>February Dates</th>
<th>March Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ambassadors:</td>
<td>Feb 14, Chamber, 4 pm</td>
<td>Mar 14, Chamber, 4 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board:</td>
<td>Feb 8, Chamber, 7:30 am</td>
<td>Mar 8, Chamber, 7:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive:</td>
<td>Feb 28, Chamber, 9:30 am</td>
<td>Mar 31, Chamber, 9:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf:</td>
<td>Feb 13, Chamber, 4 pm</td>
<td>Mar 31, Chamber, 4 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Friday Sunrise - Blaine:</td>
<td>Feb 3, Tavern Grill - Blaine, 7:30 am</td>
<td>Mar 3 Tavern Grill - Blaine, 7:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Friday Sunrise - Blaine:</td>
<td>Feb 17, Moe’s-Mounds View, 7:30 am</td>
<td>Mar 17 Moe’s-Mounds View, 7:30 am</td>
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<td>Workforce Development:</td>
<td>Feb 27, Chamber, 12 pm</td>
<td>Mar 27, Chamber, 12 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working with Women:</td>
<td>Feb 22, Rasmussen College, Blaine; 9:15 am</td>
<td>Mar 22, Rasmussen College Blaine; 9:15 am</td>
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</table>

SPECIAL EVENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates and Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marketing 201</td>
<td>Feb 16, Rasmussen College-Blaine, 8:15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olive Garden</td>
<td>Feb 21, Olive Garden, 4:44 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coon Rapids Business Council</td>
<td>Feb 28, Bunker Hills Club House, 7:30 am</td>
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<td>Excellence in Business Awards</td>
<td>Mar 15, TPC, Blaine, 11:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecting 101</td>
<td>Mar 16, Chamber, 8:15 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Member Referral Program Winners

November Referral Winner:

Stacey Buchanan, KleinBank
$50 gift certificate
Dixie Blue Bar-B-Que, Blaine

December Referral Winner:

Brad Boldt, Ameriguard Agency
$50 gift certificate
Kintaro, Blaine
Thank you 2017 Signature Sponsors!

Gold:

Silver:

Bronze:

Grow MN: