We’re Turning 50

On December 20, 1968, 34 men submitted articles of incorporation to the State of Minnesota to establish the Blaine Chamber of Commerce. The name of the Chamber changed to the Anoka County Chamber of Commerce on December 7, 1982. A decade later the name was changed to MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce. Throughout the name changes, programming updates (there wasn’t a Working with Women group in 1968!) our general mission has been the same: to support and advocate for business. We are proud of the last 50 years and what we’ve done for this community.

Throughout 2018 we will celebrate this chamber’s accomplishments as well as reflect on how this community has evolved since 1968. We want to share YOUR role as well. Please send us photos, stories, etc. on how your company has changed over the years. We are compiling stories and will share them throughout 2018. We are also seeking sponsors to assist in funding this celebration; please consider being a Legacy Donor, which will be promoted throughout the year. Together, we are stronger. Together, we are the MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce.

Meeting our Mission: Strengthening the Business Community through Economic Development

As you may recall, the MetroNorth Chamber facilitated and funded an economic development assessment of Anoka County to retain, attract, and grow businesses as well as to promote this County as a great place to work and live. The outside firm hired has completed their 16-week analysis and we are about to reveal the findings. We are excited to share this with you over the next few weeks.

This is a much-needed first step to be competitive in retaining and attracting business to Anoka County. Future steps include defining ways in which the results should be utilized for a multi-year strategy of positioning ourselves as the leader of economic development in Anoka County. We will look to partner with many other stakeholders in the area to work together in our shared goal for a strong and vibrant business community.

Career Exploration Opportunity

Our Workforce Committee has started another innovative initiative with Coon Rapids High School. We are visiting with students on select mornings to explore various careers. Businesses set up a booth and provide engaging, fun activities relative to their industry. For instance, in October Border State Bank set up a Plinko game & had kids answer financial questions for a small prize. Interested? Contact us ASAP for more information!
Board Appointment

Kimberly Nybo of Kimberly A. Nybo Insurance Agency, Inc., has been appointed by the board of directors to fill an open position through December 2018. Nybo is the owner of Kimberly A. Nybo Insurance Agency, Inc., based in Columbia Heights and employing thirteen team members. The Nybo Agency has been involved in the north metro community for 28 years.

Born and raised in Northeast Minneapolis and Columbia Heights, Kim has experience on many local boards at all levels and positions. She is excited to contribute to the growth of the MetroNorth Chamber and the community it serves.

MetroNorth Chamber Welcomes New Additions

Welcome DJ Gardner to the MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce team! DJ is our new Member Manager and will be working on new member sales, attending various events, and other projects. DJ, who lives in Anoka with her husband and son, is passionate about her community. DJ can be reached at dj@metronorthchamber.org. Lori, Holly, Valerie and Emily are thrilled to be working with her!

The MetroNorth Chamber also welcomes Covell Payne to our team. Covell is an intern through the Workforce Center’s Office & Administrative Technology Internship Program. He will be with our team through mid-December.

Hiring? We Can Help!

Do you have any job openings for high school students? The MetroNorth Chamber Workforce Foundation is launching a new, out-of-the-box initiative with Coon Rapids High School. Student recruiters are ready to promote YOUR jobs to THEIR networks. If you have an entry-level position suitable for 15-18 year olds, send it to us! Besides promoting the opportunity, this emerging workforce population will learn more about your business - planting the seeds for future possibilities.

2018 Business Directories

Your 2018 print directory will be here before you know it! Now is the time to check your listing on our website (metronorthchamber.org) to ensure that your directory information is current and correct. Chamber members make a point to do business with other chamber members, so you want to be sure they can reach you. Phone, fax, address, representative, business category...all should be current. If you aren’t sure how to review your listing or have changes you need to make, contact us and we would be happy to assist.
**Upcoming Events**

**Merry & Bright**

**December 7th, 2017 • 5-9 pm**

Leopold’s Mississippi Gardens

Featuring a performance by Kat Perkins, a finalist on The Voice, you and your employees will enjoy a great evening at the beautiful Leopold’s Mississippi Gardens. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon! Thank you premier sponsor Border State Bank.

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**2018 Annual Legislative Reception**

**Thursday, February 1, 2018 • 7:30-9 pm**

Courtyards of Andover

Our Annual Legislative Reception is an excellent opportunity to talk to elected officials about local, state and federal issues affecting businesses. We will also share some of our legislative priorities for the year. With over 100 members traditionally attending, it’s also a great venue in which to make connections.

No cost to members but RSVP required.

Thank you current sponsors, SPAAR and Comcast.

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**Anoka County Career Fair**

**Wed, February 7th, 2018 • 10-2 pm**

Anoka Tech College

The MetroNorth Chamber is partnering with the Anoka County Career Fair on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 from 10-2 pm at the Anoka Technical College.

Last year this event drew over 1,000 job seekers. Both students and the general public will be attending. A skirted table is only $199 which includes a table and lunch for 2 staff members. There’s also sponsorship options for $300 and $400 to raise your visibility to attendees.

To register go to www.anokatech.edu/Career Fair. Please note that you were referred by the MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce when registering. If you have any questions please let us know.

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**30th Annual Golf Tournament**

**Thursday, May 17th, 2018**

11:30 Shotgun, Majestic Oaks

We have secured BOTH 18-hole courses at Majestic Oaks to ensure LOTS of people can participate, both as hole sponsors and golfers, at a GREAT speed of play. Stay tuned for more details. Many thanks to Financial One Credit Union for being the title sponsor!

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**Super Bowl LI • Feb 4, MINNESOTA**

As you know, the Super Bowl is just around the corner. Have you thought about how you are raising your business’s profile from now until then? Thousands of visitors and millions of dollars will flow into this entire region. People are looking at our area NOW. Use our marketing mediums to highlight your specials, events, promotions – you never know what they might want or need. Even posting on our website will raise your SEO profile. Give us a call on how to maximize these benefits.

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**Giving THANKS**

As you can see by the upcoming events and initiatives in this newsletter, there is a LOT going on at the MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce. We want to take a moment to pause and say a most sincere THANK YOU to all of our volunteers who spend time planning and executing our programming. We could not accomplish as much as we do without the hard work and dedicated efforts of so many wonderful people. Whether it is serving on a committee or connecting us to speakers or making phone calls for auction items…we are eternally thankful for your time.
Golden Corral: Grand Opening

Our concept is a proven winner – a high-value, family-oriented lunch and dinner buffet served daily, and breakfast every weekend. Our buffet features American fare, including our fresh-never frozen-USDA sirloin steak. 3580 Main St., Coon Rapids, 763.323.4787, coonrapidsgc.com

AnitaSpading.com: New Member

You’re constantly giving a first impression when networking. Invest your time and energy preparing for each opportunity. It’s time to prepare, polish and perfect with AnitaSpading.com Network Coaching and Strategic Planning. 9935 107th Ave. N, Maple Grove, 763.286.4131, antispading.com.

Anoka County TMO Commute Solutions: New Bus Line

Commute Solutions is a free commuter resource available to help determine sustainable alternatives when commuting to and from work. We’re here to help make your commute smoother. 1440 Bunker Lake Blvd. NW, Andover, 763.324.3240, anokacounty.us/336/Commute-Solutions

Watermark Senior Living: New Member

Watermark Senior Living offers Memory Care & Care Suites. We are a small-knit community with that home feeling the second you walk into our doors. Our residents will find all amenities they need to enjoy life to its fullest while maintaining their independence. 5300 4th St. NE, Fridley, 952.893.0228, seniorliving-watermark.com.

Spalons by Skin Bliss: New Member

We provide you beauty professionals to take care of all your skin, hair, lashes and cosmetic laser needs. Be comfortable with the skin you’re in. 2345 124th Court NE, Blaine, 763.754.4814, spalonsbyskinbliss.com.

Yoga by Blisstopia: Grand Opening

We invite our entire community to discover their own blissful nature through comprehensive yoga instruction—from beginner to advanced—meditation, workshops, classes, consultations, teacher trainings, Ayurveda study, and continuing education. 10611 Baltimore St. NE, Blaine, 763.432.3242, yogabyblisstopia.com

LockLeed International: New Member

We build a bridge between employers and veterans and provide the support infrastructure each need to succeed, and use a private industry model for sustainability. 10235 University Ave. NE, Blaine, 763.355.5789, lockleed.com

Boardwalk DIY Studio: New Member

We are a family owned business that is passionate about quality handmade products. We want our friends and neighbors to have the opportunity to own unique, quality items made by hard working crafters and you. 1574 154th Ave. NW Suite 107B, Andover, 612.503.7234, boardwalkdiy.us.

Ambassadors Present:

Amy Weber-DeRaad – Mary Kay
Angie Glotzbach – AngCo
Anita Spading – KleinBank
Anne Marie Proulx – Church Offset Printing, Inc.
Beth Whelan – Oxygen Consulting
Bob Hylland – Financial One Credit Union
Brenda Jewell – Anytime Fitness Ham Lake
Christine Kusch – The Mermaid/AmericINN
Dick Fisher – eMerge Online Marketing
Emily Boettcher – Unique Dining Experiences

Holly Benson – Minnco Credit Union
Jake Holmquist – Eagle Home Mortgage
Jon Nalty – Keller Williams Classic Realty
Kat Smithe – Blaine Festival Volunteer Committee
Kathy Tadych – Edina Realty
Kari Vaughn – HealthSource of Blaine
Karen Andler – Vision Staffing
Karla Laackmann – Juice Plus
Mary Sutherland – Riffland Solutions
Michael Erkes – Imprint Gallery
Megan Mensen – Desired Health Chiropractic
Patty Reuter – Border State Bank
Rebecca Ebnnet-Mavencamp – Anoka County Historical Society
Rebecca Jochum – INI Bodyworks
Shawn Quarberg – The Lakes Life/N2 Publishing
Sheila Marquis – Damsel in Defense
Stacy Buchanan – KleinBank
Steve Griffiths – Impact Services
Teresa Elmstrand – Wells Fargo Advisors
Operation Grace MN: New Member

The goal of Operation Grace MN, is to increase service to those areas and communities with high density families in urgent need of dental care. We believe that volunteers will be the driving force of this growth. 1769 Lexington Ave. N Suite 204, Roseville, 507.208.5614, operationgracemn.org.

Crooners Lounge and Supper Club: 3 Year Anniversary

We pay homage to this great era of the 1940s and the fabulous dining experiences it provided. We bring it to you with our own contemporary spin that is at once mid-20th century and yet current and relevant for today. 6161 Highway 65 NE, Minneapolis, 763.571.9020, croonersloungemn.com.

The Ambassador of the Month

September

Karla Laackmann
Juice Plus

October

Angie Glotzbach
AngCo.
September and October New Members: Welcome!

Applebee's Grill & Bar
Jimmy Horan, General Manager
199 Northtown Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55434
763.794.8086
northtown@appleamerican.com
Applebees.com
Restaurants

ASAP Vacuum Sales & Service
Laura Ronneng, Partner
11884 Round Lake Boulevard
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
763.421.2727
asapvacuum@gmail.com
ASAPVacuum.com
Vacuum Sales/Service

Boardwalk DIY Studio
John Hodnefield, Owner
Boardwalk DIY Studio
AT&T

Olivia Osterman, Store Manager
10230 Baltimore Street NE,
AT&T

Jake Bagaus, Retail Sales Mgr.
1574 154th Avenue NW,
John Hodnefield, Owner
Boardwalk DIY Studio
AT&T

Olivia Osterman, Store Manager
10230 Baltimore Street NE,
AT&T

Boardwalk DIY Studio
John Hodnefield, Owner
Boardwalk DIY Studio
AT&T

Is Your Heart Calling You to a Greater Purpose?
Questions? Call 815-272-3293

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Senior Vice President
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St. Paul, MN 55101
651.289.9895
ccschwab@saintsbaseball.com
SaintsBaseball.com
Teams/Stadiums

Sterling Trophy
Patty Steinbring, Owner
3824 7th Avenue
Anoka, MN 55303
763.576.8384
sterlingtrophy@comcast.net
SterlingTrophy.net
Awards/Trophies

Valley Oasis Transportation Services, LLC
Fayessa Bullo, Owner/General Manager
7101 Highway 65 NE, Suite 2
Fridley, MN 55432
763.208.6140
valley.oasisservice@gmail.com
ValleyOasisTrans.com
Transportation

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Focus.mnsun.com

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COMMITTEES/GROUPS: DECEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambassadors</td>
<td>Dec 12, Blaine, 4 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board</td>
<td>Dec 13, Chamber, 7:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
<td>Dec 5, Chamber, 11:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>Dec 11, Chamber, 4 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunrise - 1st</td>
<td>Dec 1, Tavern Grill-Blaine, 7:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunrise - 3rd</td>
<td>Dec 15, Sticks &amp; Stones-Blaine, 7:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th Friday Sunrise</td>
<td>Dec 29, Bridal Aisle-Osseo, 7:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wine</td>
<td>Dec 6, TBD, 4:44 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workforce Development</td>
<td>Dec 18, - Chamber, 12 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working with Women</td>
<td>Dec 20, Rasmussen College-Blaine, 9:15 am</td>
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COMMITTEES/GROUPS: JANUARY

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<td>Executive</td>
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<td>Sunrise - 1st</td>
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<td>Sunrise - 3rd</td>
<td>Jan 19, Sticks &amp; Stones-Blaine, 7:30 am</td>
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<td>Wine</td>
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<td>Workforce Development</td>
<td>Jan 22, Chamber, 12 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working with Women</td>
<td>Jan 24, Rasmussen College-Blaine, 9:15 am</td>
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SPECIAL EVENTS:

Marketing 201
Dec 21, Rasmussen College-Blaine, 8:15 am

Connecting 101
Jan 18, Chamber, 8:15 am

Blaine Business Council
Jan 25, TPC Twin Cities, Blaine, 7:30 am

NEW MEMBER REFERRAL PROGRAM WINNERS

September
Brandy Gilbert
$100 MetroNorth Money

October
Shawn Quarberg, The Lakes Life
$100 MetroNorth Money

Celebrate the end of 2017 with Working With Women from 9:15-10:30 am on Wednesday, December 20th. Come for the annual holiday party, stay for the connections and friendships. All chamber members are welcome to attend; no cost, no RSVP. Holiday attire encouraged but not required! Thank you Rasmussen College Blaine for your continued partnership.

Speaking of Rasmussen, we’re back on campus on Thursday, December 21 at 8 am for our last Marketing 201 of the year. Gear up for a successful 2018 by maximizing your chamber membership marketing benefits. This hands-on orientation covers adding hot deals, job postings, news postings, and key words – all of which helps your online SEO presence. Other benefits like new resident packets, ribbon cuttings, lunch & learns, and more are covered. Donuts and coffee included!
Thank you 2017 Signature Sponsors!

**Gold:**
- Grand Casino
- 21st Century Bank

**Silver:**
- MidWestOne Bank
- PTL Tire & Auto

**Bronze:**
- Holiday Stationstores
- Mate Precision Tooling

**Golf:**
- financial one

**Gala:**
- Border State Bank

**Grow MN:**
- Connexus Energy