Thursday, March 15th
11:30 am Registration

It’s time for the 2017 Excellence in Business Awards! Mark your calendars for the March 15 awards luncheon. Your keynote speaker is Steven Schussler, CEO/Founder of Schussler Creative & Rainforest Café. He’s also an innovator, national best-selling author, entrepreneur, restauranteur, and philanthropist. You won’t want to miss his high-energy remarks & hear about his many creative endeavors.

Of course, we can’t have an awards luncheon without awards, and we need YOU to nominate a fellow chamber member business. Categories are micro, small, business and not-for-profit. Applicants are judged on their exemplary performance, innovation and community commitment. This is a prestigious honor which showcases the best of the best of our membership. And let’s face it, telling customers that you’ve been selected as the Business of the Year from the 3rd largest chamber in the metro area is a phenomenal marketing opportunity.

It’s easy to nominate a business; AND, if your nominated business wins, you receive a free ticket to the awards luncheon. You can also self-apply. All applications must be received by Feb 16. Contact us for more information on the awards or the luncheon.

2018 Legislative Priorities:

Your Board of Directors approved the 2018 MN Chamber Federation Priorities, most of which are a continuation of our 2017 legislative efforts. A summary is as follows:

Enhancing Minnesota’s Tax Competitiveness. Federal tax reform may provide an opportunity for state tax reforms as federal reforms may result in additional state revenues. If federal reform occurs, any state revenues realized should be used to pay for state tax reform including reductions in the corporate and individual income tax rates; relief for pass-through companies; federal estate tax conformity; protection of the research and development tax credit and further business property tax relief.

Full Dedication of Transportation Related Revenues. The 2017 legislature passed the largest transportation funding bill in nearly a decade. Nearly $2 billion of transportation related sales taxes will be captured and directed to the state’s transportation system over the next 10 years. This includes 100% of the revenues generated from the sales tax on rental cars and approximately 60% of revenues generated from the sales tax on auto parts. We advocate for the investment of these transportation related General Fund resources in transportation infrastructure and services. We support full dedication of the auto parts sales tax to transportation.

Strengthen Minnesota’s Medical Procedure Price Transparency Laws. Ever increasing health care costs have pushed health insurance products toward higher out of pocket costs for policyholders. This has forced individuals to be better consumers of health care, though often with incomplete information about cost. Minnesota has laws that require health care providers to disclose the cost of medical procedures at the request of a patient or prospective patient, but these laws must be strengthened to ensure they are followed and this vital information is provided to consumers in a timely manner.

Continued on page 2
Economic Development Assessment Results

As you know, we have been working on an economic development assessment of Anoka County to ensure our region is best equipped to attract, retain and grow business. In December we released the highlights of the study we commissioned last spring. We are in the process of communicating these results, as well as identifying next steps. A few of the highlights:

Anoka County has many strengths, including convenient access to the metro, low crime and poverty levels, lower-priced land and housing, award-winning public schools, quality parks and recreational opportunities, low taxes, reliable and affordable electricity, a regional airport, a solid manufacturing core, and a strong work ethic. However, there are some negative perceptions about Anoka County that we need to address. For instance, that we are way up north; primarily rural and blue-collar, and an lacking transportation network. The study also noted that more than 120,000 residents leave Anoka County to commute each day - a troubling statistic when there are so many north metro businesses in need of workers.

Going forward, we are putting a plan in place with key stakeholders and other interested parties in addressing the above perceptions. For instance, clearly defining roles, aggressively market our key assets, and creating and promoting a consistent, countywide economic development brand. Your Chamber is extremely proud to be working on this very important initiative and we welcome your thoughts at any time.

Committee Chair Summit a Success

Twice a year, your committee chairs convene for a roundtable discussion on their goals and objectives. This Summit has been highly effective at increasing cross-committee communications and collaborations. Our programming would not be as dynamic as it is without this group of committed volunteers who work behind the scenes all year long. On behalf of our entire team, we thank our committee chairs for their dedicated efforts.

2018 legislative priorities

Ensuring Consistent Statewide Laws. A troubling 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. Local governments are right to control certain activities within their own borders, but enacting employee wage and benefit mandates on private employers is outside city authority and conflicts with state law. Accordingly, we support explicit statewide preemption of local government labor mandates.

Met Council Reform. Your Board passed a resolution supporting reform of this entity and is reviewing specific legislative proposals. 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.
Upcoming Events

2018 Annual Legislative Reception
Thursday, February 1, 2018 • 7:30-9 am
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.

Anoka County Career Fair
Wednesday, February 7, 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 draw 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 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.

30th Annual Golf Tournament
Thursday, May 17, 2018
11:30 Shotgun, Majestic Oaks

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. This tournament is FUN, as well as a way to meet 200 other business professionals in a relaxed atmosphere. New this year: we are using BOTH courses at Majestic, to ensure EVERYONE can participate while having a great speed of play. See the insert for golf & sponsor options.

ALSO, to celebrate 30 years’ worth of tournaments, we’re honoring 1988 by having an 80’s theme! Stay tuned for more details. Thank you title sponsor Financial One Credit Union.

Olive Garden Wine Event
Tuesday, February 27, 2018 • 4:44-6:30 pm

Don’t miss this! We will be treated to NEW menu items and NEW wines. By popular demand, we strategically assign members to designated tables to facilitate the best possible networking. Drink wine, meet people, have fun! The Olive Garden wine tasting won’t disappoint. Only $35/$60 pair; limited spots remain.

Thank you sponsor, Royal Credit Union.

SOLD OUT
Ribbon Cuttings

Iceberg Web Design: New Office!
For more than 11 years, we have worked with businesses and individuals in Minnesota and nationwide to create outstanding websites at affordable prices. Every website we develop uses responsive design, to ensure that our work looks great on every device. 203 Jackson St., Suite 201, Anoka. 612.440.8762, icebergwebdesign.com

INI Bodywork & Wellness: 10 Year Anniversary!
Specializing in Therapeutic Massage, Energy Healing and Wellness products for overall health and vitality, we can work with your chiropractor or doctor to help you regain your health and mobility after an auto accident or to ease the pain, discomfort, decreased range of motion caused by lifestyle activities or repetitive actions or posture concerns. 1053 109th Ave. NE, Blaine. 763.208.4562, inibodyworkandwellness.com

Route 47 Pub & Grub: New Member!
Founded in 2017 by Brad Slawson Jr and his father Brad Slawson Sr, they believe in treating their customers like family and offering great food, at a great price! Stop in for a great burger, cold beer, live music, and so much more. 7820 University Ave NE, Fridley. 763.444.1347, route47pubngrub.com

Q Salon and Spa: 20 Year Anniversary!
Providing excellent beautification products & services since 1997. Q-Salon and Spa is a full services day spa salon specializing in nails, hair, body massage and facials. 3507 Round Lake Blvd Suite 500, Anoka. 763.323.7181, q-salonandspa.com

Snap Fitness: 12 Year Anniversary!
We want you to feel great about your health and wellness, inside and out. With high-quality equipment and world-class support from staff members, we’re here to help you every step of the way as you work towards your goals. 4325 Pheasant Ridge Dr NE Suite 508-510, Blaine. 763.307.7627, Snapfitness.com

Pressed Hot Yoga and Juice: Grand Opening!
At Pressed Hot Yoga and Juice, we created a vibrant environment for our yoga students and juice customers to connect as a community and improve their health. Helping you rebuild balance and learn how to maintain a healthy lifestyle, we’re also committed to building friendships, community and long-lasting alliances. 12425 Ulysses St, Blaine. 763.229.4676, pressedmn.com

New Member Welcome Reception:
On January 16, Ambassadors gave a warm welcome to members who joined the chamber in Q4 2017. Thanks Bówlero Blaine for hosting and Blaine Festival Volunteer Committee, ECM Sun Publishers, KleinBank, and Oxygen Consulting for sponsoring.

Ambassadors Present:
Amy Weber-DeRaad, Mary Kay
Anne Marie Proulx, Church Offset Printing
Anita Spading, KleinBank
Angie Glotzbach, Ansco
Beth Whelan, Oxygen Consulting
Bob Hylland, Financial One
Brenda Jewell, Ham Lake Anytime Fitness
Christine Kusch, The Mermaid

Dick Fisher, E-Merge Marketing
Holly Benson, Minnco Credit Union
Jon Naity, Keifer Williams Classic Realty
Karen Andler, Vision Staffing Solutions
Kat Smith, Blaine Festival Volunteer Committee
Kari Vaughn, Healthsource of Blaine
Karla Laackmann, Juice Plus
Kathy Tadych, Edina Realty

Megan Mensen, Desired Health Chiropractic
Patty Reuter, Border State Bank
Rebecca Eber-Mavencamp, Anoka County Historical Society
Rebecca Jochum, INI Bodyworks
Sheri Erickson, LegalShield | ID Shield
Stacey Buchanan, KleinBank
Steve Griffiths, Impact Services
We are excited to announce over half a million dollars in renovation and remodel to our elegant ballrooms, lobby area and restrooms. Restoring the vaulted beamed ceilings and built-in dance floors while adding new chandeliers, lighting and carpet. In addition, all new Banquet Chairs.

Target completion in March of 2018

To book your next big event in our newly remodeled space please contact our Sales Team

BANQUET EVENTS
Hailey Moen • hmoen@arcisgolf.com

GOLF OUTINGS
Joel Swanson • jswanson@arcisgolf.com

701 Bunker Lake Blvd NE • Ham Lake, MN 55304 • 763.755.2140 • MajesticOaksGolfClub.com
November and December Renewals: Thanks for Your Continued Support!

Abler Chiropractic Clinic
American Family Insurance-Karl Hefner
Andover Cinema
Anoka County Commissioner
Robyn West
Blaine Family Chiropractic
Blaine Festival Volunteer Committee
Blue Sun Soda & Sweets Shop
Bott Hofer Boyd Law Firm
Broadway Bar & Pizza-Blaine
Broadway Bar & Pizza-Coon Rapids
Broadway Bar & Pizza-Fridley
Cars for Neighbors
Casa Rio Tex Mex
Central Spirits
Church Offset Printing, Inc.
Clive’s Roadhouse Blaine
Comcast Cable
Comcast Spotlight
Copier Technologies
Country Inn & Suites-Coon Rapids
Creekview of Hugo Association
Custom Fireplace & Chimney Care
Customgraphix
deVoll Studios
E.G. Rud & Sons, Inc.
Edward Jones-Daniel Babbitt
Emerald Bay Performance, Inc.
First Signature Services
Graphics Guys
HOM Floors
HOM Furniture
HomeTown Plumbing, Inc.
Houle Insulation, Inc.
IComp Payroll & HR
Impact Services
Instrumental Research, Inc.
International Paper
IRC Retail Centers
KleinBank-Coon Rapids
Landmark Electric, Inc.
Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health & Wellness
Leopold’s Mississippi Gardens
Matthasium of Blaine
Med & Associates LLC
Mercy Hospital Foundation
Metro Sun Club
Minnesota Twins Baseball Club
Mortgages Unlimited
Northeast Bank-Coon Rapids
Northeast Bank-Minneapolis
Numbers LLC
Ole Piper Inn
Outback Steakhouse
Oxymagic Carpet Cleaning
PC Bits Inc.
PERL Mortgage
Phinney Creek School of the Lakes at Blaine
RE/MAX Results-Kris Lincz
Riley, Enstad, Ovle & Co., LTD
Sandahl’s Bookkeeping
Schoedter Homes of MN
Simonson’s Salon and Spa
Spring Lake Park Lions Club
SPRIRE Credit Union-Blaine
SPRIRE Credit Union-Coon Rapids
Terry Overacker Plumbing, Inc.
The Refuge Golf Club
The Stiepel Group LLC
Toys for Joy
Two Stooges Sports Bar & Grill
Universal Spray & Drywall, Inc.
Victory Auto Service & Glass
Walters Recycling & Refuse, Inc.
Washburn-McReavy Seman Chapel
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COMMITTEES/GROUPS: FEBRUARY
Ambassadors: Feb 13, Blaine, 4 pm
Board: Feb 14, Chamber, 7:30 am
Executive: Feb 6, Chamber, 3 pm
Golf: Feb 12, Chamber, 4 pm
Hops & Vines: Feb 7, Olive Garden, 4:44 pm
Sunrise - 1st Friday: Feb 2, Tavern Grill-Blaine, 7:30 am
Sunrise - 3rd Friday: Feb 16, Sticks & Stones-Blaine, 7:30 am
Workforce Development: Feb 26, Chamber, 12 pm
Working with Women: Feb 28, Rasmussen College-Blaine, 9:15 am

COMMITTEES/GROUPS: MARCH
Ambassadors: Mar 13, Chamber, Blaine, 4 pm
Board: Mar 14, Chamber, 7:30 am
Executive: Mar 6, Chamber, 3 pm
Golf: Mar 12, Chamber, 4 pm
Hops & Vines: Mar 7, Olive Garden, 4:44 pm
Sunrise - 1st Friday: Mar 2, Tavern Grill-Blaine, 7:30 am
Sunrise - 3rd Friday: Mar 16, Sticks & Stones-Blaine, 7:30 am
Sunrise - 5th Friday: Mar 30, The Parkway Off Central-Blaine, 7:30 am
Workforce Development: Mar 26, Chamber, 12 pm
Working with Women: Mar 24, Rasmussen College-Blaine, 9:15 am

SPECIAL EVENTS:
Legislative Reception
Feb 1, Courtyards of Andover, 7:30 am
Marketing 201
Feb 15, Rasmussen College-Blaine, 8:15 am
Olive Garden
Feb 27, Olive Garden, 4:44 pm
Coon Rapids Business Council
Feb 27, Bunker Hills Club House, 7:30 am
Connecting 101
Mar 8, Chamber, 8:15 am

NEW MEMBER REFERRAL PROGRAM WINNERS

November
Debbie Brown
Debbie’s Tax Facts

December
Stacey Jensen
Running Aces Casino & Racetrack

Debbie & Stacey won $100 in MetroNorth Money for referring a new member!

The Ambassador of the Year

The Ambassador of the Month

November
Holly Benson
Minnco Credit Union

December
Anita Spading
AnitaSpading.com

The Ambassador of the Year
Kat Smithe
Blaine Festival Committee

The Ambassador of the Month

Congratulations
Thank you 2018 Signature Sponsors!

Gold:
- TWIN CITIES ORTHOPEDICS
- 21st Century Bank

Silver:
- Midwest One Bank

Bronze:
- Mate Precision Tooling

Grow MN:
- Connexus Energy

Golf: financial one
Gala: OPEN