As we move into 2020, we want to share with you how we are beginning this new year from a governance perspective. The MetroNorth Chamber always works hard on your behalf, whether it is planning informative programming, securing high-profile speakers, or taking the lead on economic and workforce development issues. Below is a snapshot of some of the ways in which we will continue to take the lead as YOUR premiere chamber of commerce!

2020 Legislative Priorities

As always, we will continue to focus on key policy issues affecting the business community at the State Capitol. At a high level, the issues we will prioritize will be regarding tax competitiveness, workplace management/mandates, environmental sustainability, transportation, and postsecondary education and workforce development programs. As Session gets underway, we will provide more in-depth information on these and other pro-business issues. We will also continue to strengthen our connections to elected officials at all levels of government. We welcome your feedback on local, state or even federal legislation affecting your ability to grow or sustain your business. Do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

2020 Board Leadership

We are pleased to announce the executive team leading your 2020 Board of Directors. As of January 1, your Board Chair is Don Haller, Connexus Energy. Scott Hanson of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures is your Vice Chair. The role of Treasurer is being filled by Mike Kaeding, Norhart. Tiffany Schmidt will segue into the role of Past Chair. We thank these individuals for assuming these important positions to lead this chamber into this new decade.

Strategic Plan: 2020 And Beyond

One of the Board’s first priorities is finalizing the MetroNorth Chamber’s strategic plan. Last November your Board

NEW YEAR, NEW DECADE

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NEW YEAR, NEW DECADE continued from page 1

met for a full day strategic planning session. It was decided in the best interest of the Chamber and the membership to pursue a three-year strategy. In December, members of the Board continued to meet in order to further shape this direction.

Without hesitation, the MetroNorth Chamber will continue to be a regional leader. Areas of focus will be to advocate, lead, and engage. ‘Smart Goals’ are being developed around each of these areas to ensure we stay on target and not just continue our leadership but amplify it.

We are extremely excited for the direction of this Chamber and these areas of focus. This three-year plan is right in line with our mission to strengthen the business community and stimulate economic prosperity. We will continue to share information on this strategy and the goals throughout the year.

Champions Gala: Thank You!

On behalf of everyone at MetroNorth and your Board of Directors, THANK YOU to everyone who ensured such a successful Champions Gala at Target Field on Dec 5. The venue was beautiful, the comedian was incredibly funny, and everyone seemed to have a very enjoyable evening being a VIP in the Champions Club. And, thanks to everyone’s generosity, we raised about $18,000! This will help fund our operations and programming into 2020. We very humbly thank you for your continued support.
As you may recall, in 2016 the MetroNorth Chamber facilitated an economic development initiative to promote Anoka County as a great place to do business. This collaborative effort was the beginning of what is now “ACRED” – the Anoka County Regional Economic Development initiative. ACRED is supported by all 21 municipalities in Anoka County and has achieved several benchmarks since its inception.

One of the many exciting outcomes of this effort is how it has brought key stakeholders together to find new and exciting ways to promote the north metro. The new Minnesota Technology Corridor is one such outcome. This initiative was designed to promote project sites along I-35 which contain abundant fiber, water and power access. The main partners of this effort are Anoka County, Washington County, Centerville, Columbus, Forest Lake, Hugo and Lino Lakes, and several electric utilities and high-speed internet service providers. Inquiries generated from their newly launched website are being generated from across the country. We are very excited to see the continued proactive promotion of the north metro as a great place to do business!

Anoka County Business Summit

Another great outcome of the ACRED initiative was the recent Anoka County Business Summit. Over 140 business leaders attended the summit from across the north metro to learn about expansion planning resources and workforce initiatives to help their companies grow. Your chamber president Lori Higgins was asked to participate on the workforce panel, where she highlighted the many efforts of MetroNorth on behalf of the business community. The initiatives with the area high schools as well as our new publication, MetroNorth Works, were discussed.

Your 2020 Business Directory

How do over 750 businesses find your contact information? They use the MetroNorth Chamber Business Directory. This very popular spiral-bound book is one of the best tools for businesses to utilize each other’s products and services. It provides a plethora of contact information and resources and is constantly sought after by others.

First, be sure your contact information is accurate. An email was sent to all members last week; if you haven’t yet checked your listing we encourage you to do so now.

Second, we encourage you to amplify your exposure by advertising in this popular book. We are once again partnering with ECM, who will contact you soon to review the best fit. Not only does advertising increase your visibility to the entire chamber membership, it allows these directories to remain complementary.
Upcoming Events

Legislative Reception
Wednesday, January 29, 2020
4:45-6:30 pm, Courtyards of Andover

Our annual Legislative Reception is scheduled for Wed, Jan 29 from 4:45-6:30 pm. This is a premiere opportunity to make connections with a plethora of business leaders and elected officials. $25 general public but no cost to MetroNorth members, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Comcast. An RSVP is required.

Olive Garden Wine Dinner
Tuesday, February 25, 2020
4:44 pm, Olive Garden Coon Rapids

The highly anticipated Olive Garden Wine Dinner is our first after-hours event of the year. Enjoy an array of wines with mouth-watering cuisine in the cozy setting of their private dining room. We strategically assign members to designated tables to facilitate the best possible connections. Drink wine, meet people, have fun. Only $35/$60 pair; space is limited. Sponsorship available.

32nd Annual Golf Tournament
Thursday, May 14, 2020
11:30 am Shotgun, Majestic Oaks

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 again receive a free gift as well.

Interested in sponsorship? The first 18 confirmed hole sponsors are guaranteed a table, chair, and golf cart. PLUS, the first 18 confirmed sponsors will be entered into a drawing for a $600 marketing package!

See the golf insert in this newsletter for more information and to register.

For more information on any of the above events: metronorthchamber.org • chamber@metronorthchamber.org or 763-783-3553.
Ribbon Cuttings

Sarah Grace Photography
10th Anniversary
Self-proclaimed green photographer who thrives on weddings, engagements, professional headshots, instruction and fine art photography.
3364 117th Lane NE, Blaine
747.900.1497

Coldwell Banker Burnet
Grand Opening
We are a highly experienced, local real estate company with extensive knowledge of the housing market and are committed to providing a full-service real estate experience.
10450 Baltimore St, Suite 170, Blaine
763.202.6086

Livea Weight Control Centers
Renaming/Grand Opening
Formally known as Medifast, we’re thrilled to introduce Livea, the new proven, physician-recommended weight loss plan that’s customized to all things you!
3495 Northdale Blvd, Coon Rapids
763.323.4127

FN Bargains Discount Store & Penske Truck Rental
New Location/Grand Opening
FN Bargains is a locally owned discount variety store that sells new and open-box merchandise from major department stores and online retailers at deep discounts of up to 75% off retail! Also, we are a new agent for Penske Truck Rentals.
16525 Highway 65 N, Ham Lake
763.434.3004

Kwik Trip Blaine
Grand Opening
From the start, we’ve focused on doing right by our customers and our community. We’ve stocked the freshest foods and keep prices low by making things ourselves and keeping a close eye on costs. We then pass the savings on to you!
11736 Ulysses Lane NW, Blaine
763.767.7468

A crazy fun white elephant gift exchange party at the December Ambassador Committee meeting.
Membership
November and December
New Members: Welcome!

360 Painting Minneapolis
Erech & Kristin Gallatin
5775 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 700
Saint Louis Park, MN 55416
612.819.4248
egallatin@360painting.com
360Painting.com/Minneapolis
Paint/Wallpaper

Anita Spading LLC
Anita Spading, President
9935 107th Avenue N
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763.286.4131
anita@anitaspading.com
AnitaSpading.com
Advertising & Marketing

Anytime Fitness-Blaine
Shaun Johnson, Director
10731 University Avenue NE
Blaine, MN 55448
763.401.6500
shaun@anytimemn.com
AnytimeFitness.com
Personal Trainer/Health Center

APICS Twin Cities Chapter
Natalie Dietz, Executive Director
15137 Yellow Pine Street NW
Andover, MN 55301
763.413.2513
ndietz@apicstc.org
APICStc.org
Educational Organization

AT&T
Gunnar Isberg
Champlin, MN
651.492.3251
gi4932@att.com
ATT.com
Cell Phone Sales/Service

Baker Insurance Brokers
Deb Leveton, Broker/Agent
13750 Crosstown Drive NW, Suite 107
Andover, MN 55304
763.316.6632
de@bakerinsurancebrokers.com
BakerInsuranceBrokers.com
Insurance

Blaine Firestone Complete Auto Care
Ryan Weber, Area Manager
8630 University Avenue NW
Blaine, MN 55448
763.515.4868
weberryan@bfusa.com
Local.FirestoneCompleteAutoCare.com
Auto Service/Repair

Business Sense, LLC
Rebecca Thomas, Owner
Coon Rapids, MN
763.496.8091
rebeccabusinesssense@outlook.com
BusinessSenseAccounting.com
Accounting

Cambia Hills of East Bethel
(Opening February 2020)
Lisa Jacobson, Director of Development
Interim: 9298 Central Avenue, Suite 304
Blaine, MN 55448
763.762.5555
ljacobson@cambiahills.org
CambiaHills.org
Psychiatric Residential Treatment/Children

Canine Crossing
Josh & Lynn Israelson, Owners
1574 154th Avenue NW
Andover, MN 55304
763.205.3751
caninecrossingmn@yahoo.com
CanineCrossingMN.com
Pet Food & Supplies

Coldwell Banker Burnet
Tina Angell, District Manager
10450 Baltimore Street NE, Suite 170
Blaine, MN 55449
651.338.9345
tangell@cbburnet.com
CBBurnet.com
Residential Real Estate

Hanson Firestone Complete Auto Care
Ryan Weber, Area Manager
11491 Hanson Boulevard NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
612.915.0935
weberryan@bfusa.com
Local.FirestoneCompleteAutoCare.com
Auto Service Repair

Jordan | A Salon and Spa
Michael Vesely, Owner/Stylist
2331 108th Lane NE, Suite 120
Blaine, MN 55449
763.717.0042
jas@jordanasalon.com
JordanASalon.com
Hair Salon/Spa

Kwik Trip
Jessica Tomlinson, Store Manager
11736 Ulysses Lane NW
Blaine, MN 55449
612.327.9823
pete@rocksolidfinancials.com
RockSolidFinancials.com
Accounting

SaveOn
Emily Springer, Marketing Consultant
Little Canada, MN
763.600.1507
espringer@saveon.com
SaveOn.com
Advertising & Marketing

Starting Block Chiropractic
Brittney Reinsour, Chiropractor/Clinic Owner
3200 Main Street NW, Suite 330
Coon Rapids, MN 55448
763.280.7720
drbritt@startingblockchiro.com
StartingBlockChiro.com
Chiropractors

Turfco
George Kinkead, President
1655 101st Avenue NE
Blaine, MN 55449
763.785.1000
gorge@turfco.com
Turfco.com
Lawn/Turf Care Equipment
November & December Renewals: Thanks for Your Continued Support!

COMMITTEES/GROUPS: JANUARY & FEBRUARY, 2020

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<tr>
<th>Ambassadors</th>
<th>Jan 14 &amp; Feb 11, Chamber, 4 pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board</td>
<td>Jan 8 &amp; Feb 12, Chamber, 7:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecting 101</td>
<td>Jan 16, Chamber, 8:15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
<td>Feb 5, Chamber, 3 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hops &amp; Vines</td>
<td>Jan 10 &amp; Feb 5, TBD, 4:44 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing 201</td>
<td>Feb 20, Chamber, 8:15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunrise – 1st Friday</td>
<td>Jan 3 &amp; Feb 7, The Tavern Grill, 7:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunrise – 3rd Friday</td>
<td>Jan 17 &amp; Feb 21, Sticks &amp; Stones, 7:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunrise – 5th Friday</td>
<td>Jan 31, Urban Air Coon Rapids, 7:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workforce Development</td>
<td>Jan 27 &amp; Feb 24, Chamber, 12 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working with Women</td>
<td>Jan 15 &amp; Feb 26, SMB Fire Station #3, 9:15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blaine Business Council</td>
<td>Jan 23, 7:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legislative Reception</td>
<td>Jan 29, 4:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olive Garden Event</td>
<td>Feb 25, 4:44 pm</td>
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Thank you 2020 Signature Sponsors!

Gold:
- Mille Lacs
- 21st Century Bank

Silver:
- MidWestOne Bank
- Twin Cities Orthopedics

Bronze:
- Mate Precision Tooling
- CONNEXUS Energy

Golf:
- financial one

Gala:
- BORDER State Bank

Grow MN:
- Grow MN