



# Monthly Newsletter

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com

April 2011

Serving the communities of Chisago City, Lindstrom, Center City and Shafer

## Upcoming Meetings & Events

- April 13: Board Meeting 4:00 p.m.**  
 Chamber Office & Information Center  
 30525 Linden Street, Lindstrom
- April 14: Chamber Member Luncheon**  
 Time: 11:30 a.m.  
 Speaker: **Jeff Stebbins, New Vision Computers**  
 Topic: Microsoft Office for the Small Business Professional  
 Caterer: **Deutschland Meats**  
 Location: **Chisago Lakes Area Library**  
 11754 302<sup>nd</sup> St, Chisago City

## Welcome New Member!

**LINDSTROM FOODS**  
 Lindstrom 651.257.5113

## SPEED NETWORKING LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 6  
 Vannelli's, 55 S. Lake St, Forest Lake  
 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Join us for an exciting opportunity to grow your business contacts by networking with people from the Chisago Lakes, Forest Lake and North Branch areas. Network with three different groups of people over a three-course lunch. Bring your business cards and brochures. Cost is \$16 - registration forms at ChisagoLakesChamber.com Sponsored by Chisago Lakes, Forest Lake and North Branch Chambers.

*Thank You!*

**St. Croix Regional Medical Center**  
 800.642.1336  
**Our April Refreshment Host**

## What's Happening This Month

- |       |       |  |
|-------|-------|--|
| April | 1     | April Fool's Day                           |
| April | 2     | Children's Easter Tea                      |
| April | 2-3   | WineHaven's New Vintage Days               |
| April | 4-8   | Renee Lynn's Bunny Photos                  |
| April | 6     | Speed Networking Luncheon                  |
| April | 6     | Fairview 'Innovations in Spine Care'       |
| April | 7     | Hammin' It Up for Parmly                   |
| April | 12    | Raising Daughters: Challenges & Strategies |
| April | 13-17 | Picket Fence Gals Sale                     |
| April | 15    | Karl Oskar House Opens                     |
| April | 16    | Easter Egg Hunt - Chisago City             |
| April | 18    | Gammelgarden Swedish Language Class Begin  |
| April | 23    | Easter Carnival - Methodist Church         |
| April | 23-24 | Lindstrom Antique Mall 20/20 Sale          |
| May   | 1     | Sunborn Stables Open House                 |
| May   | 7     | Lion's Cadillac Dinner                     |



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## 2011 Board of Directors

### Officers:

President: John Renaker, Northwoods Roasterie  
 Past President: Jim Green, Edward Jones Investments  
 President-Elect: Craig Stockel, Thrivent Financial  
 Treasurer: Cory Lindgren, Lindgren & Associates  
 Secretary: Loretta Anderson, Hazelden

### Directors:

Bob Jennissen  
 Bob Gustafson, Farmers Insurance Group  
 Dan Brown, Chisago Lakes Achievement Center  
 Matt Silver, Chisago County Press  
 Miriam Aaland, Parnly LifePointes  
 Renee Dabill, Renee Lynn Photography

Executive Director: Tangi Schaapveld  
 Office Manager: Laurie Doughty

### *How to contact us:*

Chisago Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce  
 P.O. Box 283 – 30525 Linden St.  
 Lindstrom, MN 55045

Phone: 651.257.1177

Email: clacc@frontiernet.net

Web: www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com



### **A Note from the Chamber Board:**

***John Renaker***

Spring is here, the birds are returning. While the snow may linger and the cold is not leaving as fast as we like, hope abounds. A new season of business arrives full of possibilities and anticipation. We at the Chamber are ready to help with new places to help you grow and make your business visible. We are looking forward to a season of activity and possibility. The work will be much and the things that can defeat us are numerous but as we band together we can conquer the economy woes of our time. Remember your fellow small businesses and they will remember you. Tell everyone you encounter to shop local and encourage those around you that our community is worth staying in and exploring, we live and work in a great place and we can be proud of the Chisago Lakes Area. We look forward to the festivals, Triathlon, golf outings, swimming in the lake, water skiing, fishing and the walks in the park. The warmth and pleasure of our area and its people are what makes us stand out.

So as you continue to work your businesses, Smile, it is what sets us apart.

Very glad to be doing business in the Chisago Lakes Area!

John Renaker  
 Chamber President

## **FAIRVIEW LAKES HEALTH SERVICES**

### **“Innovations in Spine Care” Back Pain Seminar**

Wednesday, April 6 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Rieser will discuss the latest research and technology in minimally invasive spinal fusion, artificial disc replacement and motion preservation of both the cervical and lumbar spine, as well as the future of spinal treatment.

To register for this free program call 612.672.7272

**Fairview Lakes Health Services**  
 5200 Fairview Blvd, Wyoming



### **CHISAGO LAKES LIONS ‘Cadillac Dinner’**



Where: Chisago City Community Center  
 When: Saturday, May 7, 2011  
 Time: Social Hour 6:00 pm-7:00 pm  
 Dinner 7:00 pm  
 Dinner: Choice of Prime Rib or Chicken  
 Ticket Price: \$135 per couple

### For Reservations call:

Tom Hallberg ..... 651.257.2937 or 651.269.2596  
 Linda Lindgren ..... 651.257.6878  
 Gary Gerke ..... 651.257.5679  
 Brad Mattson ..... 651.257.6270  
 Jodi Otte ..... 651.257.4226 or 651.775.4226  
 Jim Green ..... 651.257.7407 or 651.257.4646

Over \$3000 Value in Raffle Prizes and \$4450 in Cash Prizes!  
 Winners need not be present to win.



## *Bunnies* APRIL 4TH-8TH

SESSION OPTIONS	\$59	\$89
10 image bunnybook 2 5X7, 8 wallets	2 5X7, 8 wallets	4X10 deskart print 2 5X7, 8 wallets
	\$99	\$89

ReneeLynnPhotography.com 651-257-9855

## March 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Highlights

### Secretary's Report:

December minutes reviewed and accepted as written.

### Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report reviewed and accepted.

### Committee Reports:

#### • **Home, Garden & Business Show**

The 2012 Home Show will be held the first weekend in March due to school events schedule. This year's attendance was up from last year.

### New Business:

- **Network Luncheon** – area chambers are again sponsoring a networking luncheon which will be April 6<sup>th</sup> at Vannelli's in Forest Lake.
- **Minnesota Trails Magazine** – the Chamber plans on purchasing a half-page ad to promote the Chisago Lakes Area with opportunity for business listings.

### Old Business:

- **National Heritage Area** – more meetings will be hosted north and south of the St. Croix Watershed to gather insight from area groups and businesses for feasibility study for a National Heritage Area.

### Executive Director's Report: Tangi

Among items reported to the board were:

- Two new members in February
- Bookmark calendar of Chamber and Community events are printed and available at the Chamber office
- Chamber is working on a broader marketing campaign



### **The Sweet Swede Candy Shoppe Premium Chocolates**

Graduation Party season is just around the corner! Your grad's party will be the talk of town when guests are treated to a candy buffet decorated in your school's colors! Chisago Lakes/Wildcat Graduation Parties receive a 10% discount.

Retail store now open every 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend

Thurs.-Fri. 11:30-5:30, Sat. 11:30-3:00

[www.TheSweetSwede.com](http://www.TheSweetSwede.com)

651.387.1214



### **EASTER CARNIVAL**

Saturday, April 23 10-Noon

Easter Egg Hunt at Noon!

Children will enjoy Games, Arts & Crafts, Entertainment, Easter Egg Hunt, Prizes, Face Painting and the story about Noah told through our Bell Choir! A Petting Zoo is in the works too!

**First United Methodist Church**

30828 Irene Ave, Lindstrom 651.257.4306

## Children's Easter Tea

Saturday, April 2, 11:30am

Wear your most beautiful Easter Bonnet and dress up for this fun new event. Bring your favorite doll or stuffed animal!

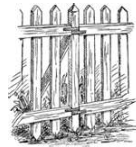
Tea • Hot Cocoa • Finger Food • Scones • Dessert

Cost is \$10 per person and seating is limited.

Make reservations at 651.257.5464



**Zonta Lodge, Ojiketa Regional Park**  
27500 Kirby Ave, Chisago City



### PICKET FENCE GALS SALE

April 13-17

Wednesday 3-7

Thursday-Saturday 9-6

Sunday 11-5

Enjoy walking through rooms packed with unique treasures. Downtown Lindstrom.

[www.PicketFenceGals.com](http://www.PicketFenceGals.com)

651.257.3370



### **Chisago City Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

'Baseball Caps & Bonnets'

Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 2pm at Paradise Park

Decorate your Easter bonnets and baseball caps for Chisago City's Annual Easter Egg Hunt! The hunt held rain, shine or even snow so dress appropriately. Each of three different age group areas will have its own 'golden egg' for a basket filled with goodies. A prize will also be awarded for the best decorated Easter Bonnet and Baseball Cap so design your best at home and wear it on Saturday. There will also be games, face painting and the Easter Bunny will be present for a great photo opportunity! Please bring a donation for the local food shelf.



20880 Olinda Trail, Scandia

**Swedish Language Spring Classes:** Mondays, April 18-May 23  
Learn to speak Swedish from Swedish language instructor, Signe Fluegel-Svensson. Progressing class at 6:30pm, beginning class at 7:30pm. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 651.433.3792. Cost: \$50 includes materials. More information at [www.GammelGardenMuseum.org](http://www.GammelGardenMuseum.org)

### **ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY**

Chamber members have an opportunity to purchase a four-line business listing in the 2011 summer edition of the Minnesota Trails Magazine. This issue will come out May 22 and will be on shelves through August. Enjoy the full benefits of this opportunity for \$100 per listing. If interested, call the Chamber office at 651.257.1177. Ad deadline is April 15.

## March Luncheon Meeting



Sam Griffith, City of Sandstone

The March luncheon was held at the Chamber office with 44 member/guests in attendance. **Lindstrom Foods Deli** served one of their Signature Box Lunches including chicken, potatoes and gravy, corn and a roll. Chamber president, **John Renaker**, introduced new Chamber members. **Tina Burkman, Jockey Person to Person** is a home based women's clothing line business. Tina not only host home shows but loves showing her clothing line at businesses over lunch hour. **Lindstrom Foods** is now offering their Signature Box Lunches. They also have delivery available. Member announcements: **Steve Levey, Lion's Club** promoted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Carp Festival that will be held May 21. He also advised of the Cadillac Dinner coming up on May 7. **Renee Lynn Photography** announced picture specials with the bunnies will be April 4-8. **Linda Sandmann** handed out brochures for a new thrift store **ReStore** for Habitat for Humanity. Donations of building supplies, furniture and appliances are used to build houses. **Carla Lydon** from **Chisago Lakes Library** announced upcoming free events being held at the library. **Debbie Schott, Heritage Makers** told about the Digi-Crop sessions that are held once a month at the Chamber office. **Karen Anderson, Frontier**, announced that their free offer promotion has been extended to the end of April. **Loretta Anderson** reminded everyone about the two upcoming free Women's Health Conferences in March. Guest speaker was **Sam Griffith** from the **City of Sandstone**. Sam talked about Nichè Marketing. You want to ask 'What do we have that nobody else has?' and 'What is obvious to others may be the gem at the end of your nose.' Instead of marketing the event/activity, market 'opportunity'. It is important to Promote Location, Market Opportunity, Market Ourselves and Be a Welcoming Host. Also promote what we know: Our City, Ourselves and Treat our Guests like Family. Events should have their own website. Look at how visitors see your city/business and don't assume everyone knows where you are located.

## Quote for the Month

*"The elevator to success is out of order.  
You'll have to use the stairs...one step at a time."  
~Joe Girard~*

# LAYSB News!

## Raising Daughters: Challenges & Strategies

Parents of teenage girls! Are you concerned about the many changes you see happening that make it difficult for you to provide guidance and support? Are emotional scenes becoming the norm? Would your daughter rather be anywhere else than with you? Is advice from you the last thing she wants? If so, consider attending this free workshop. April 12, 7-8:30 pm at the Central Learning Center, Forest Lake (Door 1, Room C8). Register by calling 651.982.8110.

## Save the Dates! 2011 LAYSB Events...

### TASTE!

Showcasing the "Must Try It"  
Lakes Area Dining Thursday, July 21  
Stars & Strikes Entertainment Center, Wyoming



### Black Tie to Blue Jeans Night

Friday, September 30  
Vannelli's by the Lake in Forest Lake

## St. Bridget of Sweden

All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry



Fridays during Lent – except Good Friday

From 5-7 p.m. enjoy a meal of fish,  
coleslaw, french fries, dessert and beverage  
(meatless spaghetti also available)

Adults/\$10, Seniors/\$7, Children/\$5, under 6/free.

[www.StBridgetofSweden.org](http://www.StBridgetofSweden.org)

651.257.2474



## LOTUS WELLNESS STUDIO

12810 Lake Blvd, Lindstrom  
651.497.0497

BE FIT \* BE STRONG \* BE A GIRL

Lotus Wellness Studio creates positivity, confidence and well being for women of all ages through spirited group fitness and spa services. They offer women's Group Fitness, Skin Care and Massage. Try your first class free. Check out [www.LotusWellnessStudio.com](http://www.LotusWellnessStudio.com) for class schedule.

## NORTHWOODS ROASTERIE

12710 Lake Blvd, Lindstrom



Hjalmer the Moose has a new look! Now 3-dimensional and 7-ft tall, he proudly stands by to welcome customers.



### Coffee and Pie Night

Every Friday Night! 5-9pm

Come enjoy coffee and fresh baked pies!

[www.NorthwoodsRoasterie.com](http://www.NorthwoodsRoasterie.com)

651.257.5240

## Featured Business – April 2011



### Chisago Lakes Lions

The Chisago Lakes Lions Club was chartered on June 11, 1952 with 32 members. Stillwater Lions Club was the sponsoring club and Martin Peterson was the First President. Robert Rohner is the only surviving charter member. In 2011, Chisago Lakes Lions has 67 members. Chisago Lakes Lions did fundraising projects in 1955 to purchase the four acres that is now Fairview Chisago Lakes Clinic. It was purchased for \$4,000.00 and the Chisago Lakes Lions gave it to the Hospital District.

Having a Lions Park was discussed in May 1981. Since 1981, a lot of improvements have been done to the Lions Park. In the summertime, the Lions Park is used for "Music in the Park" and hundreds of people attend.

Pat Kennedy from Chisago Lakes Lions Club was elected in 2005 as District Governor for 2005-2006. He oversaw 56 Lions Clubs, 11 Lioness Clubs and 3 Leo Clubs. The Lions Mission Statement is "To create and foster a spirit of understanding among all people for humanitarian needs by providing voluntary services through community involvement and international cooperation. "We Serve" is the Lions Motto. Local Community Support includes: buying eyeglasses for local children, food shelf drives, scholarships for High School Seniors, Relay for Life, Eagle Scouts and numerous projects. Drug Awareness Program and the Peace Poster are participated by Chisago Lakes Students and posters are made with these themes. The Lions also collect eyeglasses, hearing aids and printer cartridges. The Club also donates to the Leader Dog for the Blind, Hearing and Service Dog, Minnesota Eye Bank, Hearing Foundation, Project New Hope (Returning Veterans and families) and many other programs. Our Club does not sell pull tabs, so all the fundraising is done by members. January is the Ice Fishing contest, May is the Cadillac Dinner and the Carp Fest, July is selling beer for Karl Oskar Days, August is the Corn Feed and October is the Pancake Breakfast.

We need additional members to help the Club with our projects that serve our community. We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup>

and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at the Sportsman's Club. Social Hour is at 6:00 p.m. and Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Gary Gerke at 257-5679 to offer you help.



### Sunborn Stables

OPEN HOUSE May 1 2-4pm

Registration 1:30-2:00pm. Come by 1:30 to put your name in the drawing for FREE lessons! Dressage demonstrations at 2pm, Jumping demonstrations at 3pm. Students and instructors will be available for you to meet. Bring your questions. Bring the family!

24110 Morgan Ave, Chisago City 651.257.9825  
www.SunbornStables.com

### WOOD'S INTERIOR DESIGN STUDIO

12770 Lake Blvd, Lindstrom  
651-257-8087



Dress your windows in savings  
Hunter Douglas Energy Smart Sale  
\$25-\$300 rebates on qualifying products  
FREE home consultation

12770 Lake Blvd, Lindstrom

651.257.8087

### NEW VINTAGE DAYS



Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 12:00 - 5:00 pm

Be the first to sample wines from the new vintage! What a wonderful weekend to come out and see what is new at WineHaven Winery and Vineyard!



651.257.1017

www.WineHaven.com

### Lindstrom's Ladies Night Out! 2011 Schedule

MAY 5 'CINCO DE MAYO'  
JULY 7 'KARL OSKAR DAYS'  
OCTOBER 6 'ART CRAWL'

Call Janet 257-8087 with questions

## Nine Rules for Rebooting Your Business

**With the recession on the wane, now is the time to step up as a leader, take control, and change your enterprise for the better.**

Businesses everywhere are rebooting on the heels of the Great Recession. Odds are, your organization is, or will soon be, one of them. As a leader, you must step up and strive, artfully and authentically, for success. Nine rules for making it real:

**1. Be willing to let go of the way things are now.** Your current organization likely represents the realization of many hard-earned goals. Still, be prepared to move away from the present and toward a new vision of the future. How much of "all this" are you willing to leave behind? Now is the time to get clear on your answer.

**2. Gauge your attention span.** Know thyself. Few leaders admit they've contributed to, or even single-handedly created, a culture based on a short attention span. But if you have a track record of adopting pet projects only to abandon them, own up. Acknowledge your lack of follow-through and appoint a co-leader—someone known for his or her staying power—to help keep you focused and committed.

**3. Share ownership in the change.** Leave no one out. Everyone has a part, and everyone has a stake in success. The ability to affect change grows with your willingness to share power with stakeholders. Employees, customers, vendors, suppliers, and other business partners have a role in the change you seek to achieve. It must be a shared vision—an opportunity for everyone to participate in the possibilities.

**4. Accept the mess.** Rebooting a business is a slow, iterative process, not an overnight event. Many changes materialize gradually. Others happen quickly but need to be modified. Bottom line: It's a messy proposition. Accept the dust, dirt, and debris. They'll be with you for a while.

**5. Champion your champions.** Not everyone will be on the side of change. Some people just don't like change, and many others fear what they might lose. Yet if you have even a few champions—individuals or groups energized by future possibilities—you've got the change evangelists you need. Shine a light on them, and even the resistors might see the way forward.

**6. Encourage people to speak their minds.** Without diverse voices and viewpoints, innovation isn't possible. Be resolute in asking people to speak up. Engage everyone, including the doubters and naysayers, to raise issues and share opinions without hesitation or fear. You not only will learn a lot, but you'll also open the doors to true creativity and collaboration.

**7. Match your behaviors to the new vision.** Your plan is bound to incorporate changes in how employees relate to


one another and to the customer. Model those behaviors yourself, early and often, and in earnest. Your process needn't be complete before you become a genuine role model.

**8. Manage your inner control freak.** This is a shared endeavor, and it won't be entirely successful unless you loosen the reins and let go of control. As a leader, you're there to champion the vision and keep people focused on the big picture. Beyond that, you need to sit back and allow others to drive the process. This is a story that everyone must create and own.

**9. Plan B: Fuhgeddaboudit.** There is no Plan B. This is it. So if you're thinking you can always fall back on Plan B, think again. Make a commitment to lasting, authentic change and really get real. It will revolutionize how you perform and how you create and celebrate success. Commit to it - or fuhgeddaboudit.

Jill J. Morin is chief executive of Kahler Slater, an interdisciplinary design and consulting enterprise that specializes in the process known as Total Experience Design. She is author of *Better Make It Real: Creating Authenticity*

**CHISAGO LAKES LIBRARY** presents...



*Community-Wide  
Reading Program*

Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 1:30pm  
**Burial Grounds and Natural Burials** A Chisago County Historical Society Program about natural burials in Chisago County.

Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm  
Join a discussion of **Memory Boy** with fellow friends and teens.

Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm  
Showing of the movie **Sweet Land**

Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm  
Join us for our culminating event of 2011 Chisago Lakes Community Read Program as author, **Author Will Weaver**, talks and discusses his novel **Sweet Land**

Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30pm  
Discussion of the book **Sweet Land**

Chisago Lakes Area Library  
11754 302<sup>nd</sup> St, Chisago City  
651.257.2817

**20/20 Sale!**  
**April 23-24**



**Lindstrom Antique Mall**

Storewide Sale – 20% off all items over \$5.00  
unless marked 'firm' or already on sale.

Downtown Lindstrom651.257.3340

## HAMMIN' IT UP FOR PARMLY

Thursday, April 7 4:30-7:00 p.m.  
Chisago Lake Lutheran Church, Center City

The Friends of Parmly will donate the proceeds from this event toward furnishings for the Parmly Park Side Terrace, which is being remodeled this spring. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Chisago County Chapter 30087 will supplement the event.

Ticket prices are \$8.00 in advance for ages 12 and over or \$9.00 at the door; ages 4 to 11 are \$5.00 in advance or \$6.00 at the door; age three and under is free. Available at Margaret S. Parmly Residence, Parmly Lakeview Apartments, Point Pleasant Heights, area businesses and churches.

## EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS RELATING TO AGING

Ecumen Parmly LifePointes is concerned for our community of aging adults. Parmly's goal is to be a resource, providing educational sessions on topics of aging, including identifying and acquiring resources & services so the aging population has the knowledge and tools to stay independent and active through their aging process.

Parmly announces the launch of its Speakers Bureau to share their expertise in thoughtful and meaningful ways, providing audiences with tangible ideas and opportunities to navigate their way through the aging process. It is available to provide sessions free of charge or at a low cost. Local organizations and groups are encouraged to contact Heidi LaMeyer at 651.257.7332 or HeidiLaMeyer@Ecumen.org for more information.



**ECUMEN Parmly LifePointes**  
28210 Old Towne Road  
Chisago City 651.257.0575

## MN Chamber Update

Effective teachers matter for Minnesota's future  
By David C. Olson

The quality of teachers, second to parents, is the top predictor of student success. The new alternative teacher licensure law represents one piece of the puzzle to ensure we have effective teachers in every classroom. More must be done. The next logical step is passage of "Effectiveness Matters" – HF 945/SF 636, a bill aimed at protecting the most effective teachers.

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and its network of local chambers were part of a broad-based, bipartisan group that helped pass the alternative licensure law. A similar coalition is at the forefront of this legislation. Simply put, employers of all

types and sizes depend on a world-class workforce to compete in our increasingly complex and global economy.

Minnesota is facing a convergence of disturbing trends:

- Nearly 70 percent of all jobs in Minnesota by 2018 will require postsecondary training that will require a high school diploma. Today it's 40 percent.
- Minnesota has one of the widest gaps in the United States in achievement among racially diverse and low-income students.
- The only growth in Minnesota's student population is among racially diverse students.

Effective teachers can play a vital role in helping Minnesota to avert these colliding dynamics.

Minnesota is far from alone in advancing such legislation. President Obama and U.S. Education Arne Duncan are four-square behind strengthening measures to improve teacher quality and protect effective teachers. Laws in Colorado, Arizona, Oklahoma and Washington, D.C. require that teacher effectiveness is the primary factor when schools make layoff decisions. Similar legislation is pending in Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, New York and Washington.

In contrast, Minnesota recently received Ds from three organizations for its teacher evaluation system – the National Council on Teacher Quality, Center for American Progress and American Enterprise Institute.

Let me be very clear that Minnesota has many amazing teachers – and yet many are not protected appropriately during layoffs. From my perspective, thousands of highly effective teachers have been laid off early in their careers simply due to the seniority system. The ideas advanced in this bill are reasonable and practical. For example, rising stars who are deemed "highly effective" could be protected by their superintendents during layoffs. In essence, this would eliminate the "last in, first out" approach that has cost us far too many effective teachers.

We are sensitive to the arguments that teachers cannot be held accountable for the numerous influences in a student's personal life. Teachers are likely wary of the subjective nature of evaluations including the use of student data. It is for these reasons that student achievement will be measured on academic growth, not level of achievement.

The bill also underscores that student success is a team effort. Everyone from teachers to the superintendent to parents must be focused on student progress. This legislation ensures that our schools have the necessary information to build the strongest and most effective instructional teams at every school – and to help districts hold school leaders accountable for supporting each teacher's development.

*David Olson is president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. For more information visit [www.mnChamber.com](http://www.mnChamber.com).*



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce  
The Voice of Business