



Monthly Newsletter

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com

February 2011

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

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- February 9: Board Meeting 4:00 p.m.**
Chamber Office & Information Center
30525 Linden Street, Lindstrom
- February 10: Chamber Member Luncheon**
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Speaker: Greg Shaleen, ERA Muske
Topic: Customer Service and Sales
Catered By: Chamber Board
Location: Chamber Office & Information Center

Welcome New Members!

Country Bed & Breakfast
Shafer, MN 651.257.4773

Health Changes
Lindstrom, MN 651.442.3838

Lotus Wellness Studio
Lindstrom, MN 651.497.0497

Northern Terror Football
Shafer, MN 651.266.2906

Pet Extras
Chisago City, MN 651.257.8534

Pleasant Valley Orchard
Shafer, MN 651.257.9159

Wirelesszone-Verizon Premium Retailer
Chisago City, MN 651.257.3799

Yellow House Photography
Chisago City, MN 651.213.6160

Quote for the Month

“Ability is what you’re capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do.” ~Lou Holtz~

What’s Happening This Month



- February 8 Ladies Night of Indulgence!
- February 9-13 Picket Fence Gals Sale
- February 13 Festival Theatre-Hopelessly Romantic
- February 11-21 Lindstrom Antique Mall-17th Anniversary
- February 14 Valentine’s Day
- February 18 Demographic & Economic Change Seminar
- February 21 President’s Day
- February 26-27 Home, Garden & Business Show
- February 28 Tri 101 Class

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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, Parmly 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:

Jim Green

February is here and I can almost see spring on the horizon. Even if I can't, I'm going to keep thinking I can. Another successful Celebration of the Lakes is always an indicator that we're about half way through winter. As we look toward spring 2011, there are many Chamber events on our calendar. The Home Show will be the last weekend of February. If you haven't signed up for a booth and still want to do so, please contact either the Chamber or Community Education. The Triathlon and The Golf Tournament are also on the horizon this summer.

Beyond the Chamber events, I'd like to encourage everyone to attend the Chamber luncheons that are held on the second Thursday of each month. Beyond attending, bring a friend who is not a member. They can see firsthand the number of business members who regularly attend our meetings. If you feel that you are receiving value from your Chamber membership, please bring a friend who may also receive the same

benefits. On the other hand, if you feel that there is something more the Chamber of Commerce can do, please let us know. We are always open to new ideas.

2011 Home, Garden & Business Show



The Chisago Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and Chisago Lakes Community Education Department invite you to be an exhibitor at this year's Home & Garden Show. This is a great chance to promote your business to the community. 2011 paid Chamber members get an \$80 discount off booth registration.

The event is held at Chisago Lakes High School.

Exhibitor Set-Up & Tear-Down Hours

Friday	Feb. 25	6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday	Feb. 26	7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Sunday	Feb. 27	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hours

Saturday	Feb. 26	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sunday	Feb. 27	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Booth Information

Booth space will be 10'x10', 10'x8'. All booths are piped and draped; exhibitors must supply own tables and chairs. Tables and chairs are available for rent. If you have registered for electricity, you are responsible for your own electric cord. Your cord **MUST** be a three-pronged grounded cord. Please be sure it is in safe working order. **No power strips allowed**, each single outlet needs to be ordered. If you are a large-equipment exhibitor and require a space outdoors, a small booth inside will be supplied upon request. Please state on your registration information how you would like the sign in your booth to read.

Additional Advertising

The Chisago County Press and The Search will be printing a special section devoted to the Home & Garden show. If you would like to advertise in this section contact Nancy, Joanne or Matt at Chisago@citlink.net or 651-257-5115 **prior to Feb 4.**

Confirmation

When your registration and payment is received, your space will be reserved on a first-come, first-reserved basis. Your confirmation and exhibitor space information will be mailed out **Feb. 18.**

Drawings

We will be holding drawings throughout the day. These drawings will be products and services of our exhibitors. We would like each of our exhibitors to donate a product. Please list which product or service you would like to donate.

Registration forms are available at ChisagoLakesChamber.com

Questions concerning registration: 651.213.2603

Questions concerning show information: 651.983.9585

January 12th Board Meeting Highlights

Secretary's Report:

December minutes reviewed and accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report reviewed and accepted.

Committee Reports:

• **Celebration of the Lakes - Renee**

Plans are on schedule. Nine balloons confirmed, ice conditions good with permit granted. Pilot reception will be at Lindstrom Community Center, a new location this year.

• **Home, Garden & Business Show**

Registration is on track. Chamber is looking at raffling a laptop computer as the grand prize. Date is February 26-27.

New Business:

- **Tourism/Marketing Opportunities** – New advertising opportunities were presented: MN Trails, St. Croix Valley Tourism Alliance and the St. Croix Valley magazine.

Old Business:

- **Gala Review** – 2010 Gala was well received. Would like to keep event on regular scheduled meeting date for 2011.

Executive Director's Report: Tangi

Among items reported to the board were:

- Membership remains consistent
- Discussion on a 'Buy Local' campaign in conjunction with the future road construction through Lindstrom
- Board members asked to sign-up for committee assignments
- Membership Meeting-Board members will host the February meeting with soup/chili/desserts.



Celebrate 'Valentine's Day'
with a Special Dinner

Meredee's Bistro

651-257-9144

Chisago City

Eichten's

651-257-1566

Center City

Gallery Bar & Grill

651-257-6024

Lindstrom

Chisago Roadhouse

651-257-6633

Chisago City

The Porterhouse

651-257-1111

Center City

Trapper's

651-257-2512

Chisago City

Bayside Bar & Grille

(formerly Dinnerbel Dining)

651-257-9524

Lindstrom

Lindstrom Chiropractic Center presents...

Ladies Night of Indulgence

Tuesday, February 8

6-9 p.m.



Chocolate Strawberries, Chair Massage, Beauty and Spa Treatments, Spinal Screenings, Food, Refreshments and Fun! Vendors include: Designers Salon & Spa, Pampered Chef, Jackie Briggs Therapeutic Massage, Nutritional Advice and Body Wraps. RSVP to 651.257.1103.

Lindstrom Chiropractic Center 12099 Lake Blvd, Lindstrom



CHISAGO LAKES TRIATHLON

Tri 101 Classes

Midwest Sports and Fairview Lakes Health Services is offering training classes that will help prepare you for this year's triathlon. By attending the Tri 101 class you will receive a discount on your triathlon registration.

Tri 101 Classes

February 28, 6-8:30 p.m.

March 7, 6-8:30 p.m.

Kid's Tri 101 Class

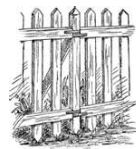
March 21, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Bike Helmet Sale 6:30 p.m.



FAIRVIEW
LAKES HEALTH SERVICES

5200 Fairview Blvd Wyoming, MN 55092 651.982.7000



PICKET FENCE GALS SALE

FEBRUARY 9-13

Wednesday 3-7

Thursday-Saturday 9-6

Sunday 11-5

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

www.PicketFenceGals.com

651.257.3370



The Sweet Swede Candy Shoppe

Premium Chocolates

Gourmet chocolates, premium sweets and imported Scandinavian treats, featuring our signature Lingonberry Chocolate Fudge. Wedding Buffets, Event Favors and Custom Orders available year-round.

www.TheSweetSwede.com

651.387.1214



NORTHWOODS ROASTERIE

Coffee and Pie Night

Every Friday Night! 5-9pm

Come enjoy coffee and fresh baked pies!

12710 Lake Blvd, Lindstrom

www.NorthwoodsRoasterie.com

651.257.5240

January Luncheon Meeting



Judge Todd R. Schoffelman

January's luncheon was held at the Chamber office with 44 members/guests in attendance. Chamber president, **John Renaker**, thanked **Becky's In-Home Bistro** for catering a wonderful lunch. Becky has a new Low Calorie Lunch Program available. Check out her website for details at www.BeckysinHomeBistro.com. **Jim Green** was presented an award for his great leadership as the 2010 Chamber Board President. 2011 Chamber board members were introduced. New Chamber members **Sally and Lois Barott** with **Country Bed and Breakfast** are excited to be rejoining the Chamber. Their B&B, located in Shafer, has many tourists from Sweden and the US stay there. **Greg Freer, Yellow House Photography**, has had his home studio business in Chisago City for two years. They have done many weddings, baby and family pictures and recently photographed for the Zion Lutheran Church congregational book. Other new members not present were **Joe del Villar-Health Changes, Rick and Katie Axtell-Northern Terror Football, Samie Lomasi-Wanstall-Lotus Wellness Studio, Judy Erickson-Pleasant Valley Orchard, Brent Siebenaler-Verizon Wireless** and **Jon Kildow-Pet Extras**. Chamber announcements included the **Celebration of the Lakes**, January 29-30. Volunteers needed, everyone encouraged to attend and to purchase a COL button. The **Home & Garden Show** is February 26 & 27. Registration is now open with a discount to Chamber members. **Energy Smart** invitations will be going out soon to area businesses. They are willing to do site visits and offer money saving ideas. The Chamber is expanding marketing efforts in the Twin Cities publications MN Trails, St Croix Valley Tourism Association and possible others. Member announcements were made by **Gary Gerke** for the Lion's ice fishing contest at 1pm on Jan. 30th at Celebration of the Lakes, **Loretta Anderson, Hazelden**, introduced **Brooke Robinson** from the **The Refuge Network**. **Becky Carlson** is managing the **Dinnerbel** and there are a lot of changes happening. She encouraged everyone to give them a try. **Shari Bachman, Bachman's Photography**, gave a reminder for senior pictures. She also announced the **Chili Cookoff Contest** that they are sponsoring at the Celebration of the Lakes. **Wade Carlson** promoted the **Loyalty Program** that is going on. Keep track of your gas purchases and register online to get \$10 gas card.

Guest speaker, **Judge Todd R. Schoffelman** was

introduced. **Judge Schoffelman**, appointed by Governor Pawlenty in October 2010, presented information about the ten Judicial Districts in MN. We are the 10th Judicial District and Chisago County is the fastest growing counties in this district. **Judge Schoffelman** stated the efficiencies in the 10th Judicial District and that their purpose is to ensure the rule of law.



'Demographic and Economic Change'

February 18 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Chisago Lakes High School PAC

Presented by Chisago Lakes Community Education and MCEA.

This is an important presentation for business owners, featuring guest speaker Tom Gillaspay who has served as the Minnesota State Demographer since 1979.

Learn about demographics, the characteristics of a human population such as age, race, income, and how it impacts your business, programming and planning. With an aging population, increased retirements, state budget problems and slower economic growth, this session examines the dramatic changes we are experiencing and the implications for business and education in Minnesota.

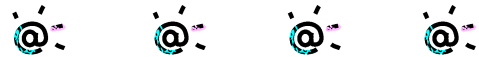
Registration fee is \$12.00 and forms are available at www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com or www.MN-MCEA.org.

LAYSBS News!

Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau is seeking candidates for the annual LAYSBS service to youth awards. Winners will be honored at special presentations in front of family, friends and community members and also in local publications. Awards are given for service during 2010 in the following categories:

- > "**On Behalf of Youth Award**" honors individuals who demonstrate a passion for the well-being of youth. This award will be given to one adult and one youth.
- > "**James Trudeau Award**" honors a licensed police officer for service or activities related to youth.

Nomination deadline is Friday, March 11, 2011. Nominations may be made by any area resident (not family members), local business owner or any area civic or service group. A connection to LAYSBS is preferred but not necessary. Nomination forms available at LAYSBS or online at www.ytblakesarea.org by clicking on *LAYSBS Awards*.



The @ Generation: Online Behavior of Youth Workshop

Tuesday, February 8 Wyoming United Methodist Church

Presented by Elizabeth Griffin M.A., LMFT

Morning session \$35: The psychology of the internet, including the good, the bad and the ugly and developing basic assessment skills for identifying problematic online behavior.

Afternoon session \$35: Creative and fun strategies to engage youth in the treatment process and how to practice effective prevention for working with youth in the future.

Attend both sessions for \$50. CEU's will be available.

Co-sponsors: Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau and The Refuge Network. For more information or to register call 651.464.3685.

Featured Business – February 2011



Chisago Lakes Area Library

There's a hidden gem just off Hwy 8 in Chisago City tucked into the landscape—the Chisago Lakes Area Library. The Chisago Lakes Area Library is a branch of the East Central Regional Library (www.ecrlib.org). East Central Regional Library is a consolidated library system with 14 libraries and an Outreach van that serves residents in the counties of Aitkin, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine.

The library is not just a depository of great books anymore. You can find something for everyone at the Chisago Lakes Area Library including adult, teen and children's books, book on CD, online magazines, copy machines, wireless access, public access computers, and more. Researching your family tree? Want to fix your 2004 Honda Civic? The library offers online databases to help you find that information, too.

Programming is a great way to show the community that the library is a dynamic and active place and the Chisago Lakes Area Library is the place to be. Bring the kids to preschool or toddler story time, practice reading out loud to our Paws to Read dog or participate in the annual summer reading program. Adults can share in the fund by attending local author visits, book club discussions, entertainment programs and more.

One of the upcoming programs sponsored with funds from the Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage fund is the Chisago Lakes Community Wide Read program. Everyone is invited to read the same book, *Sweet Land* by Will Weaver, and then join us for discussions and other programming events. Events scheduled thus far include author/photographer Doug Ohman, Tuesday, March 15 at 7 pm; author Will Weaver, Tuesday, April 19 at 7 pm and the *Sweet Land* book discussion, Thursday, April 21 at 6:30 pm. A companion young adult title, *Memory Boy* by Will Weaver has also been chosen.

Don't have a library card? It's easy and it's free. Just visit the Chisago Lakes Area Library and bring two forms of identification, one with your current address. It's as simple as that. Contact the Chisago Lakes Area Library for more information about its materials, events and more

at 651.257.2817. Library hours are Mondays 12:00-6:00, Tuesdays 12:00-8:00, Wednesdays 10:00-6:00, Thursdays 10:00-8:00, Fridays 12:00-6:00 and Saturdays 10:00-2:00.

Chisago Lakes Library
11754 302nd Street, Chisago City
www.ECRLIB.org 651.257.2817

Celebration of the Lakes *A Special Thank You to the 2011 Sponsors*

Balloon Sponsors

Gold

- * Plastic Products * Chisago County Press
- * Federated Co-op of Chisago City and Osceola

Silver

- * Wally Carlson & Sons
- * Fairview Lakes Health * Grand Casino Hinckley
- * Hazelden Foundation * Polaris Industries

Bronze

- * Stein Agency * The RiverBank
- * Re/Max Complete Real Estate * Edward Jones/Jim Green
- * Farmers Insurance/Tom Kieffer * US Bank

Event Sponsors

Diamond

- * Holiday Inn Express * Xcel Energy
- * Sno Barons Snowmobile Club

Emerald

- * The Shaleen Team/ERA Muske
- * Lake Area Bank * US Cable * Tribute to the Troops

Ruby

- * Lindgren & Associates * Security State Bank
- * Brink's Market * Central Bank * Waldoch Sports
- * Johnson, Grundhoefer & Alliegro * Culvers
- * Lakes Orthodontics * Bernicks Pepsi * Shafer Contracting
- * Croix Valley Pick Up * Coldwell Banker Burnet * Dairy Queen
- * Bachman's Photography * Northwoods Roasterie * Frankie's
- * St Croix Regional Medical Center * Haley Comfort Systems

Sapphire

- * Al's Center Saloon * Casterton Title & Closing
- * Deutschland Meats * Holmquist Advanced Chiropractic
- * Koehn Auto * ConAgra Foods * Chisago Roadhouse Tavern
- * Lindstrom Foods * Security Victor Agency * Virga Chiropractic
- * Whispering Bay Resort * Wyoming Mills

Kids Games

- * Lake Area Bank * Edward Jones/Tom Hallberg
- * State Farm Insurance/Michael O'Malley

Prize Sponsors

- * Deutschland Meats * Wild Mountain * Eichten's
- * Designer's Salon * Renee Lynn Photography * Sven's
- * Meredee's Bistro * Chisago County Press * Vista Hair Salon
- * Victory Lane * Bachman's Photography * Festival Theatre
- * Chisago Lakes Golf Course * Midwest Sports * Holiday Station
- * Lindstrom Wheelhorse * Bayside Bar & Grille

2011 Community Ambassador



Marlene Messin & Plastic Products

The chamber is pleased to recognize one of the top 25 women-owned businesses in Minnesota, **Plastic Products Company, and owner Marlene Messin**, as the 2011 Community Ambassadors! Marlene has a long history of outstanding commitment to this community, a passion for preserving historic landmarks, protecting the environment and drawing tourists to the Chisago Lakes Area.

Marlene was born in St. Paul, Minnesota and graduated from Forest Lake High School. Marlene married Eugene Carlson in 1956 and they moved to Lindstrom to raise their family. She has four children: Ron (Tina) Carlson, Rick (Bonita) Carlson, Debbie Greenhow and Lori (Jason) Bjork. In 1975 Marlene married Willard "Smitty" Smith, owner of Smith Metals, (established in 1957), Plastic Products Co., Inc. (established in 1962) and Glomer, Inc. (established in 1967). Sadly Smitty died in 1975. He is the last person buried at historic Glader Cemetery in Lindstrom.

Marlene was left with a 35-person injection molding shop and a tool and die business that were failing as the result of a recession, a resin shortage the year before, and premium pricing for their main production materials. Instead of giving up and forcing people to lose their jobs, Marlene decided to fight to keep the business. Marlene not only made it work, but as owner and president, Marlene has turned a company of 35 employees and \$1.2M in annual sales in 1975, into a thriving, award-winning business. Today, Plastic Products is one of North America's largest molders with nearly 750 employees, and \$110M in annual sales. Her success is the result of good business sense, hard work and loyal employees who exceed customer expectations.

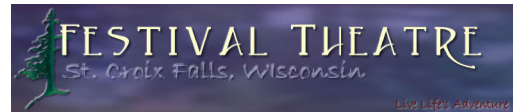
This is the 20th anniversary for the Celebration of the Lakes and Plastic Products has been a sponsor of the event every year. They are a long-standing member of the Chamber and provide support for other Chamber events, as well as community celebrations such as Karl Oskar Days and Ki Chi Saga Days. Plastic Products also supports church and school activities, the boy scouts, events and activities sponsored by the Lions Club and the Rotary Club - the list goes on and on. Parmlly Partners was formed in 2006 and Marlene is recognized as a Founder on their list of contributors. She has contributed to Family Pathways, the American-Swedish Institute and numerous other organizations and causes throughout the state. When a local family has suffered a loss, or is in need, Marlene is there to lend

support, many times anonymously. She helps to sustain local businesses, both personally and professionally and you'll often see her at the local stores or dining in a local restaurant.

Marlene is responsible for the original renaissance in the Chisago Lakes Area. She fought for the preservation of Lindstrom's water tower, now a prominent Swedish "Coffee Pot" - a landmark for our area. As the former owner of Gustaf's World of Christmas, Marlene donated the historic Gustaf Anderson House to the Chisago County Historical Society. When a development was being built on the shores of Green Lake in Chisago City Marlene purchased Cheewin Lodge, originally built in 1902 for the first YMCA camp in Minnesota. This log lodge was moved to the Chisago County Fairgrounds in Rush City. Marlene purchased a 19th century Swedish immigrant farm house, had it moved to Ki Chi Saga Park in Lindstrom and restored by the Chisago County Historical Society as the Karl Oskar House. Marlene has contributed to the preservation and renovation of Camp Ojiketa.

Marlene is proud of all four of her children and is blessed with 18 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. She adores each one of them. Some of her family works at Plastic Products. Her son Rick works in Lindstrom and her daughter Lori manages Smith Metals. Her grandson Nathan works at a plant in Tennessee and grandson Jake works at the Princeton plant.

Marlene is very humble about her accomplishments. She says she "just did what she had to do". With the loyal support of her employees, together they have made Plastic Products a very successful, award-winning company.



Sunday, February 13
Hopelessly Romantic Program

An evening of music, poetry, improvisational theatre, sketch comedy and dessert. The North Star Minstrels, led by Dave Frank, will present music and the Twin Cities-based Improv Troupe 'Diction Fiction' returns to join forces with Festival's 'Sew Good' Improv team for date night laughter. Admission of \$15 includes dessert. Reservations recommended.

www.FestivalTheatre.org

715.483.3387

Bayside Bar & Grille

Bayside Bar & Grille, formerly The Dinnerbel, is under new management! Now featuring head cook George Beimert (George's Smokin' BBQ). Stop by and enjoy great food, entertainment and a fun time. Watch for many changes happening spring 2011.

17th Anniversary Sale! February 11-21



Lindstrom Antique Mall

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

Downtown Lindstrom

651.257.3340



CHISAGO LAKES AREA LIBRARY

11754 302nd Street, Chisago City

Each year the Friends of the Chisago Lakes Library sponsor part of the library’s children summer reading program and it’s always a huge success. So the Friends of the Library thought, “Why should the kids have all the fun?” and decided to sponsor an adult winter program called *Hot Reads for Cold Nights* this winter.

The adult winter reading program will run through February 26. To participate, simply read or listen to a library item, then fill out the review and entry form. Detach the bottom of the form and put it in the drawing box and give the review part of the entry form to a staff member. Reviews will be posted in the library.

Enter as often as you'd like. Drawings for your choice of a coffee mug or calendar will be held on January 16, 29 and **February 12. On February 26 a \$25 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble** will be given away. So stop by the Chisago Lakes Area Library and pick up one of our “hot reads” and curl up with a blanket on a “cold night” during January and February. It will warm not only your body, but your mind. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Chisago Lakes Library.

MN Chamber Update

2011 Legislature: High Stakes for Jobs

By David C. Olson

The 2011 Legislature convened with clear signals that Minnesota will be “open for business.” It’s customary that the first bills introduced in the session mirror the priorities of the majority party. These bills, in both the House and Senate, reflect the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce’s 2011 agenda.

Senate File 1, the “jobs” bill, proposes to reduce the corporate income tax by half in the next six years, roll back and freeze business property taxes to 2009 levels, and ease regulations and streamline the environmental permitting and review process.

House File 1 also takes steps to streamline environmental permitting and review.

Other noteworthy measures provided alternative pathways to

teacher licensure, abolished many local government mandates, and lifted the ban on consideration of additional nuclear power plants.

The proposals are refreshing and send a welcome message to the statewide business community. The Minnesota Chamber and its network of local chambers stand ready to advance those measures necessary to assist businesses in locating and expanding in Minnesota. That’s vital to the economic livelihood of all Minnesotans.

Developing the economy is important business and a competitive business. Look no farther than our neighbor to the east. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker made recent headlines when he erected signs at the Minnesota-Wisconsin – as well as Illinois-Wisconsin – borders declaring: “Open for Business.”

“The pro-growth initiatives I support stand in stark contrast to those policies being discussed in our bordering states,” Walker said in a prepared statement. “These signs are aimed directly at job creators to make them aware that they are welcome here.”

Minnesota policy-makers cannot sit still. Businesses face intense competition not only from other states but also across the globe.

Incorporating incentives for businesses to locate and expand in Minnesota is essential. The task of building a budget on anticipated revenues of \$32 billion – up \$1.5 billion from the existing biennium – won’t be easy. But the intent from the new legislative leadership is clearly promising.

What’s the No. 1 reason why Minnesota businesses are not adding jobs? Uncertainty.

We enter the 2011 legislative session with fundamental questions. How will business be treated by the new governor and Legislature? Will taxes be going up? Will rules and regulations be expanded? Or will our new leaders send a message that one way out of this recession is to make it easier for private-sector job-providers to create more jobs?

The Minnesota Senate and House have certainly identified their job priorities. Governor Dayton also has made it clear that his No. 1 priority is jobs and helping our economy get moving again. All in all, good first steps to what will be a very difficult legislative session.

The task won’t be easy. We all must share the pain, including the business community. Completing this assignment is essential for Minnesota to address its most pressing problems and build the infrastructure necessary to develop and grow our economy.

David Olson is president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. For more information visit www.mnChamber.com.



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
The Voice of Business