



Monthly Newsletter

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com

January 2011

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

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- January 12: Board Meeting 4:00 p.m.**
 Chamber Office & Information Center
 30525 Linden Street, Lindstrom
- January 13: Chamber Member Luncheon**
 Time: 11:30 a.m.
 Location: Chamber Office & Information Center
 Speaker: Judge Todd R. Schoffelman
 Chisago County District Court Judge
 Catered By: Becky's In-Home Bistro

Welcome New Member!

Pet Extras

Chisago City 651.257.8534



Celebration of the Lakes January 29-30, 2011

Come enjoy winter! There will be lots of excitement on North Center Lake with many family activities.

There are many volunteer opportunities including the Concession Tent, Dog Sledding, Button Sales, Set up and Clean-up.

COL buttons will be available soon. Donations are needed for the button prizes.

Please call the Chamber Office at 651.257.1177 with your generous donation of time and/or gift prizes. See full Celebration of the Lakes schedule on page 4.



What's Happening This Month

- | | | |
|---------|-------|--|
| January | 1 | New Year's Day |
| January | 5 | Home Show Early Bird Deadline |
| January | 5 | 'Benefit of a Plant-Based Diet' - Fairview |
| January | 8 | Chisago Lakes Library Writing Workshop |
| January | 12-16 | Picket Fence Gals Sale |
| January | 12 | Qigong Classes start - SCRMC |
| January | 21 | Race Training with Anna Levins |
| January | 22 | Leo Kottke Concert – Festival Theatre |
| January | 29 | Frozen Freedom Rally Snowmobile Ride |
| January | 29-30 | Celebration of the Lakes |

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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:

Renee Dabill

Happy New Year! I am not sure where 2010 went but it is gone and we are facing a fabulous 2011. We ended the year with an awesome Holiday Gala. Thank you to everyone who donated items and enjoyed the Live Auction. A special thanks for the generous food shelf donations.

With a new year comes my favorite event, Celebration of the Lakes. So, here are some thoughts on why you want to participate. Hot Air Balloons, Warm Concession Tent, Snowmobile Races, Motorcycle/ATV Races, Kids Games, Sled Dogs, Kiddie Parade, 5k/10k Run, Chili Contest, Medallion Hunt, Coloring Contest, Ice Fishing Contest, ... and more! The weekend is full of family opportunities as well as many volunteer possibilities. This year's event has many of our favorite activities along with the Kids Pro Ice State Championships taking place both Saturday and Sunday.

The Celebration of the Lakes event will kick off the year of many fun Chamber activities. Keep the Home Show,

Golf Tournament, and Triathlon that happen each year. Our Chamber is a great organization and is successful because of the involvement of our members. Please think of how you would like to become more involved. We would love to hear ideas and help you find your best fit for involvement.

Have a wonderful year!

Renee Dabill



LEO KOTTKE CONCERT Saturday, January 22nd, 7:30pm

Acoustic guitar virtuoso Leo Kottke heats up our winter stage with his propulsive fingerpickin' style on a wide range of folk, country, blues and jazz music. With four decades of recording from which to draw, plus current offerings, listeners are in for a lively, rich experience. Tickets: \$50

www.FestivalTheatre.org

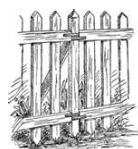
715.483.3387

FAIRVIEW LAKES HEALTH SERVICES

Fairview Lakes presents: 'Benefit of a Plant-Based Diet'

Wednesday, January 5, 2-3pm
Fairview Lakes Medical Center, Wyoming
Conference Room B 651.257.8806

Sue Nielsen, M.D. will share information about the benefits to our bodies and environment by transitioning to a plant-based diet. She will share tips for reducing your risk for lifestyle related to diseases by decreasing your intake of meat, and increasing fruit and vegetable consumption.



PICKET FENCE GALS SALE

JANUARY 12-16

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

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com

December 1st Board Meeting Highlights

Secretary's Report:

November minutes reviewed and accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report reviewed and accepted.

Committee Reports:

• **Tourism - Tangi**

Chamber produced brochure highlighting Small Town Christmas events. Banners were also created for each town. Center City, Lindstrom and Chisago City EDA's will sponsor promotion costs.

• **Celebration of the Lakes - Renee**

Planning is underway and sponsorships are coming in. Button design is complete and marketing materials are coming together. Event changes: Friday night movie location change, no vintage snowmobile display, added additional day for Kids Pro Ice and possible Tribute to the Troops Snowmobile ride.

New Business:

- **Gala 2010** - Board members to help with Gala event set-up and presentation.
- **Chamber Notes** - 2011 Newsletter 'Notes from the Board' will change slightly due to new incoming board members.
- **Chamber Budget** - Executive Board reviewed and approved the 2011 budget.

Old Business:

- **Chamber Board 201** - There will be three open Board member seats for 2011. Board Officers for 2011: John Renaker-President, Jim Green-Past President, Craig Stockel -President Elect, Loretta Anderson-Secretary, Cory Lindgren-Treasurer. New 2011 Board Members: Bob Gustafson, Miriam Aaland and Dan Brown.

Executive Director's Report: Tangi

Among items reported to the board were:

- 21 new members in 2010. Renewal letters, invoices and surveys will be sent out in December.
- November was busy with Small Town Christmas, Chamber Gala and Celebration of the Lakes.
- The Home Show registration for Chamber members only is open until December 1st. Early registration is open until January 5th, 2011.



3rd Annual FROZEN FREEDOM RALLY January 29th 10:00 a.m.

Participate in a benefit snowmobile ride for Tribute to the Troops. Snowmobile Run/Rally will leave at 10:00 a.m. from the Celebration of the Lakes on North Center Lake. Upon return they will lead the Torchlight Parade. To conclude this event, enjoy live music, giveaways and raffles at Chisago Roadhouse, Chisago City at 9:00 p.m.

www.ChisagoRoadhouse.com

651.257.6633



Becky's In-Home Bistro

Becky's In Home Bistro is a service that treats each family to a menu that is planned especially for them. A Personal Chef Service catering to each family's needs allowing you to put balance back in your life, as well as freeing you up to do things you love. Becky will work with you to create a menu that will be filled with healthy, fresh food that just happens to be your family's favorites.

New! Becky's In Home Bistro Low Calorie Lunches!

- * Soups/Stews/Chili's under 350 calories per serving
- * 2 Soups/Stews/Chili's per person every 2 weeks
- * 5 Servings per recipe made per person. That means 10 meals per person
- * All 5 servings packaged together in a large container with instructions on portion size on each container
- * Suggestion of a serving of fruit per meal
- * \$50/person (minimum of 3 people). More than 3 people price would be reduced to \$40/person

www.BeckysInHomeBistro.com 651.208.0060



RACE TRAINING WITH ANNA LEVINS

Skiing 18+

Fridays: January 21, February 4 and 18
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$50.00 per session (lift ticket not included)

Do you take your GS Racing serious? Are you looking for help to improve your performance and drop your handicap? Wild Mountain is offering three two hour sessions with Anna Levins to help you achieve your full potential. Anna brings her years of experience ski racing at the elite levels to focus on your development. Each session is limited to six participants.

Here is a partial list of Anna's major accomplishments:

- * Junior 1 National Champ in G.S. 1990, 1991
- * Member of World Junior Team 1991
- * North American Race Series Overall Champ 1994
- * Nor-American Series G.S. Champ 1994
- * Nor-American Series Super-G Champ 1994
- * World Cup Team member 1992, 1993, 1994
- * Olympic Team Member 1994 Lillehammer, Norway
- * 13th Place Olympic Giant Slalom 1994
- * Ranked 8th Overall in world in F.I.S. points in Giant Slalom 1994

Register at www.WildMountain.com or call 651.465.6315

2011 CELEBRATION OF THE LAKES SCHEDULE



All Events take place on North Center Lake, unless otherwise noted.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

6:30 PM OLD TIME MOVIE
Chisago Lake Lutheran Church, Center City
Sponsored by Center City Historical Society.
Fun for the whole family.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

7:00 AM FOOD CONCESSIONS (Heated Tent)
Yummy hot food and beverages all day long!

FREE FAMILY ICE SKATING 7am-4pm

7:45 AM HOT AIR BALLOON LAUNCH
Weather Permitting - Bring your camera!

10:00 AM 5K/10K RUN/WALK
Register online at www.VacationSports.com
or visit www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com

KIDS PRO ICE SNOWMOBILE RACING
Ice Oval Kitty Kat snowmobile racing with LeMans
Course for 120's. Hot Laps 8-9:30am. Mandatory
drivers meeting 9:30, racing starts at 10am. Ages 4-14
Info at www.KidsProIce.org.

MOTORCYCLE/ATV RACES
Signups 7-8:30am, Hot Laps 8-9:30am, Drivers
Meeting 9:45. Races at 10am-Motorcycles, Pit
Bike, ATV Ice racing.
Contact: info@1down4up.org or
www.1down4up.org

GRAND PRIX CAR RACING (South Lindstrom)
10 am -12 pm practice and qualifying. 12-5 pm sprint
racing. Contact: Mark 651-464-7613

HELICOPTER RIDES
10 am – 4 pm (1 copter = 3 passengers)
\$40 for adults and \$35 for kids 12 & under

SNOWMOBILE RIDE 'FROZEN FREEDOM RALLY'
TRIBUTE TO THE TROOPS Meeting at 10am,
returning to lead the Torchlight Parade.
www.ChisagoRoadHouse.com

12:00 PM KIDDIE PARADE
Dress as your favorite movie character.
Prizes awarded to top participants
Info contact: Erin 651 257-3465

SLED DOG RIDES (Krystal Kennels) \$5
Noon - 4 pm Tickets sold at Concession Tent

MN SNOWMOBILE DRAG RACING SERIES
Side by side racing action! Registration 8-11am,
Drivers Meeting 11:45am, Racing starts at 12pm
Info contact: www.MSDRS.org

KIDS GAMES/SPONSORS Noon - 3 pm
10 tickets for \$5 All proceeds go to Family Pathways
Food Shelf for Chisago County.

- Turkey Bowling on Ice**
- Hockey Goal Shoot** – Edward Jones, Tom Hallberg
- Football Toss**– State Farm Insurance, Mike O'Malley
- Basketball Shoot**
- Hole in One** – Lake Area Bank
- Frisbee Toss** – Lake Area Bank
- Ring Toss** – Lake Area Bank
- Milk Bottle Throw** – Lake Area Bank



1:00 PM BELGIUM HORSE DRAWN HAYRIDE
At Central Bank 1 - 4 pm Free with button

3:30 PM HOT AIR BALLOON LAUNCH
Weather Permitting. Bring your camera!

4:00 PM SPAGHETTI DINNER
Chisago Lakes Lutheran Church, Center City
4-7:00pm Sponsored by Youth Group.

4:30 PM SNOWMOBILE TORCHLIGHT PARADE
Starts at the Concession Tent

5:00 PM OLD FASHIONED SKATING PARTY
Lindstrom Lions Park, 5 - 9 pm



SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

7:00 AM FOOD CONCESSIONS (Heated Tent)
Yummy hot food and beverages all day long!

FREE FAMILY ICE SKATING
Bring your skates. 7 am – 4 pm

7:45 AM HOT AIR BALLOON LAUNCH
Weather permitting. Bring your camera!

8:00 AM PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Trinity Lutheran Church, Lindstrom
8am-2:30pm Sponsored by Youth Group

10:00 AM GRAND PRIX CAR RACING (South Lindstrom)
10 am -12 pm practice and qualifying. Two Hour
Endurance Race. Info contact: Mark 651-464-7613

MEDALLION HUNT \$100 Prize! 10am-3pm
Clues posted hourly in the Concessions Tent starting at
10am. Must have button to claim prize.



HELICOPTER RIDES
10 am – 4 pm (1 copter = 3 passengers)
\$40 for adults and \$35 for kids 12 & under

SNOWMOBILE RADAR RUN
10am-4pm 3 runs/\$20 Sponsored by Rotary
Contact: Karen 651-257-9193

12:00 PM KIDS GAMES 12 pm – 3 pm
10 tickets – \$5 All proceeds go to Family Pathways Food
Shelf for Chisago County. See Saturday's schedule for list
of games.

1:00 PM ICE FISHING CONTEST
Sponsored by Chisago Lakes Lions Club
Bring fishing gear. Contact: Bob Zacher 651-442-1589

GOLF TOURNAMENT Center City Parks Committee
\$50/teams of 4, 9 holes, Limited to 9 teams.
Info contact: Jill 257-1483

2:00 PM CHILI COOK OFF Concession Tent
3 cash prizes: Best Overall, Best Tasting Hot, and Most
Unique \$2 to taste and vote. Ends when Chili is gone.
Sponsored by Bachman's Photography & Lindstrom
Foods. Contact: Laura @ 257-5113 or Shari @ 257-9380
to enter.

BINGO Trinity Lutheran Church, Lindstrom
2-5pm Sponsored by Youth Group

3:00 PM AWARD PRESENTATIONS Concession Tent
2011 Community Ambassador – Winners of the
Chili Contest, Medallion Hunt and Coloring Contest

*Come out and enjoy winter in the
Chisago Lakes Area!*

December Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala



Our 2010 Holiday Gala was held Tuesday, December 7th at Point Pleasant Heights Cedar Dining Room. A delicious dinner was served by On Point Catering. Thank you to Lindgren & Associates who sponsored the Winehaven wine and Eichten's Market & Café for sharing their specialty cheeses for Social Hour. Bruce Hafften's piano music was a great addition and added to the enjoyment of the evening. Lee Ann Vande Kamp entertained us with a lively auction. Thank you to the following for their donations: **Anytime Fitness, Becky's In-Home Bistro, Bob Jennissen, Bill's Auto Body, Bachman's Photography, Brink's Market, Center Lakes Association, Chisago County Press, Chisago Lakes Golf Course, Edward Jones Investments/Jim Green, Farmers Insurance Group/Tom Kieffer, Grand Casino Hinckley, Greg Shaleen/ERA Muske, Meredee's, Midwest Sports, Gustaf's Gallery, Northwoods Roasterie, Parmly LifePointes, Renee Lynn Photography, St. Croix Festival Theatre, Sven's, The Sweet Swede, Wild Mountain/Taylor's Falls Recreation, WineHaven, Xcel Energy.** Thank you everyone for helping make the Chamber Holiday Gala a success.



Small Town Christmas!

The 2010 Small Town Christmas event brought many families and individuals into town. Businesses were open offering event goers treats, beverages, drawings, specials and more. There were lighting festivals, old time movie, craft fairs, refreshments, a parade, kids' activities and even Santa and Mrs Claus! A special thank you to the Chisago City, Lindstrom and Center City EDA's and Park Boards and all participating businesses for their generous support.



Do you have a New Year's Resolution for golf? Maybe it is more consistency, a better understanding of your swing, or looking for a game plan to improve. If your answer is YES to any of these then Boot Camp Golf is for you.

Boot Camp will start the first part of January. This is the third year of Boot Camp and this year we will be including the use of the JC Video System. One of the most advanced golf instruction video system in the market. This will allow you to see the improvement in your swing as they are happening! Days and times for meeting are flexible. There are no more than 4 people in each class and we meet in the Pro Shop or even in your home. Are you finally ready to commit?

You will not hit balls for the first 6 weeks of this 10 week indoor program. Each week you will learn tried and true techniques to improve your swing. Then you practice 10 minutes a day on your own.

For more information contact Todd Kueppers at tkueppers@ChisagoLakesGolf.com or 651.257.1484

Home & Garden Show

February 26-27

Saturday 10 am-4 pm Sunday 11 am-3 pm



Early Bird Registration ends January 5th

Coreen must receive your registration and payment by January 5th in order to be given the Early Bird discount!

- ▶ Exhibit space is still available. 2011 Chamber Members receive an \$80 discount.
- ▶ Volunteers are needed for Set-Up, Traffic Control, Take Down, Greeters, Counters and Chamber Booth.

To register call Coreen at 651.213.2600

To volunteer call the Chamber at 651.257.1177



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

Featured Business – January 2011



Lindstrom Chiropractic Center

For over 30 years, Lindstrom Chiropractic Center has been helping people live healthier, pain free lives. At Lindstrom Chiropractic Center we do not focus on the pain, but rather the cause of the pain. By completing a detailed orthopedic, physical, and neurological examine, we are able to determine and specifically treat the source of the pain. Because everyone is different, we specialize in multiple types of chiropractic treatment. To obtain the best results we may also use physical therapy such as: muscle stretching/strengthening exercises, electrical muscle stimulation, ultrasound, traction, trigger point therapy, and acupuncture.

The staff at Lindstrom Chiropractic Center has years of experience handling insurance claims and will make sure you receive the full benefit of your coverage. Lindstrom Chiropractic Center is happy to work with other doctors and professionals to make sure the patient gets the proper care they deserve. If your condition does not require chiropractic care, we will tell you and refer you to a doctor that can help you most.

Drs. Bob and Rob Waddell have taken extensive post-graduate training to specialize in treating spinal injuries associated with automobile accidents. They have helped thousands of people suffering from conditions such as whiplash, headaches, neck and back pain, sciatica, fibromyalgia, chronic ear infections and many more.

Lindstrom Chiropractic Center is currently accepting new patients and is in network with most major insurance companies. For those without insurance, affordable cash plans are available.

Lindstrom Chiropractic Center
12099 Lake Blvd

Lindstrom, MN 55045

www.LindstromChiro.com

651.257.1103

Quote for the Month

“Some men have thousands of reasons why they cannot do what they want to, when all they need is one reason why they can.”

~Willis Whitney~

LAYSB News!

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.



LAYSB has a team for the Rotary Club of Forest Lake's, 'Winter Plunge-Getting Cold for a Cause!' on February 19. If you are interested in joining the LAYSB "Nordic Warriors" Team, visit <http://winterplunge.kintera.org> to register, pledge, join our team and start raising pledges!



CHISAGO LAKES AREA LIBRARY

11754 302nd Street, Chisago City

Writing Workshop

Saturday, January 8th, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

East Central Regional Library and Chisago Lakes Area Library branch in cooperation with the Loft Literary Center are offering: **STOP. LOOK. LISTEN:** Using Attentiveness to get started in your writing process; a one-day writing workshop.

In-class writing exercises will emphasize how to develop a writing process by learning how to stop, look, and listen. The class is an opportunity to generate new work in response to writing prompts, class reading, and discovery. We will read essays, poetry and memoir from E.M. Foster, Kathleen Norris, Evelyn Underhill, Willa Cather, Annie Dillard, Mary Oliver, William Stafford, Jane Hirshfield, May Sarton, Thomas Merton, Madeline L'Engle and others to find inspiration for the writing process.

The workshop instructor will be Carol Pearce Bjorle from the Loft Literary Center, a nonprofit arts organization offering services for readers and writers at every level. their mission is to foster a writing community, the artistic community, the artistic development of individual writers, and an audience for literature.

This project is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. No experience is required, must be age 16 or older. Please bring a notebook, pencil & bag lunch with you to the class. Pre-registration is required at 651.257.2817. This class is free and class size is limited.

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com



St. Croix Regional Medical Center

ST. CROIX
REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER

Join one of these upcoming classes for your physical and emotional well being.

Qigong: January 12, 19, 26 & February 2, 9, 16

Qigong is a unique exercise where you can build up your health, prevent or treat illness, improve both physical and emotional balance while using simple exercises that anyone of any age or ability can use. Similar to Tai Chi, the movements are easier to perform yet equally effective with similar benefits. Riverbend Conference Center
Fee: \$25 for 6 Sessions Register at 715.483.0431

Hatha Yoga: Saturdays

Beginners 10-11am and Advanced 11:30am-12:30pm
Try Yoga at two free sessions offered January 8th & 15th.
Stretching your body, expanding your mind, opening your spirit. Call Julie at 715.483.5158 to register.
\$5/session or \$25/6 sessions. Physical Rehab Center

Yoga in Sequence: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 6:45-7:45pm

Practice Yoga poses and postures with sequencing grace. "Move with your breathing, Breath with your moving"
Some Yoga experience is recommended. Call Julie at 715.483.5158 to register.
\$5/session or \$25/6 sessions. Physical Rehab Center

MN Chamber Update

Advance priorities at Minnesota Business Day

By David C. Olson

Minnesotans face a dramatically different political landscape in 2011. It's more important than ever – and a real opportunity – for the statewide business community to be unified in its messages at the Capitol. Please mark your calendars for March 16 – Business Day at the Capitol, the largest business lobbying day in Minnesota.

We have a new Governor for the first time in eight years. Sixty new lawmakers are among the 201 legislators in the House and Senate, which means a new lineup of legislative leadership as well. It's a completely new environment for the business community.

These are especially serious times for businesses as the economy continues its slow recovery. It's doubly important that business leaders take time to introduce themselves to their local legislators and familiarize policy-makers with their concerns and priorities. There's no better way than inviting lawmakers for a firsthand tour of your business. Continue that relationship year-round and especially when the Legislature is in session.

And then please join the Minnesota Chamber during Business Day at the Capitol as we lobby with one voice on the issues that will shape the state's economy.

Jobs and the economy will frame the conversation at the Capitol. Central to that debate will be the \$6.2 billion shortfall in the state's general fund for the next biennium. The Minnesota Chamber remains confident that the state can live within the projected \$32 billion in revenues, which is actually a 5-percent increase. The task won't be easy. Policy-makers must focus on funding those programs that are truly statewide priorities. Second, they must identify and implement more efficient delivery of those services.

Resolving the deficit will not be without consequences. Minnesotans, including businesses, will share a collective pain.

But reforms are essential if Minnesota is to forge a path out of the recurring budget shortfalls. Our state, like many others, is experiencing a dramatic change in demographics. As baby boomers retire, more people are requiring public services and fewer individuals are paying taxes to pay for those services.

Witness the current predicament. The state anticipates biennial revenue of \$32 billion, and yet we face a large budget deficit because spending is projected to grow to nearly \$39 billion. The chasm will continue to widen as the costs of government services are outpacing available revenues. We must bring greater discipline to government spending.

Overall, the Minnesota Chamber and its network of local partners will advance four priorities at the Legislature. Government service redesign and spending reform is No. 1. The others: Reform public education, especially in K-12, so employers have a world-class workforce to compete in the worldwide economy; Further streamline the environmental review and permitting process at state agencies; Remove the ban on consideration of additional nuclear and coal-fired energy to ensure a reliable supply of electricity at competitive prices.

We work every day at the Legislature and around the state to improve the business environment. When we speak, policy-makers listen. Our efforts are critical with the many new players in St. Paul – the individuals who will be crafting public policy that directly affects the livelihood of your company and your employees.

We'd like your help in building the largest crowd ever for this year's Minnesota Business Day. The impact of the day depends on the broad-based involvement of business leaders and business organizations. Employers and employees alike will benefit from your participation, and legislators will be impressed that you have taken time out of your schedules to visit them at the Capitol.

Let's plan to meet March 16 in St. Paul.

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