



Monthly Newsletter

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com

February 2017

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

Upcoming Meetings & Events

February 2: **Board Meeting 9:00am**
Chamber Office & Information Center
30525 Linden Street, Lindstrom

February 9: **Chamber Member Luncheon**
Time: 11:30am – 1pm
Speaker: **Bruce Messelt, County Administrator**
George McMahon (via Video Conferencing)
Topic: **State of the County Update & Video Conferencing Training**
Caterer: **Brink's Market & Deli**
Location: **Chisago Lakes Library**
11754 302nd Street, Chisago City

2017 Luncheon Prices:
\$10/Chamber Members, \$15 Non-Members

REGIONAL SPEED NETWORKING EVENT

Thursday, February 21 11:30am-1pm



Join us for an exciting opportunity to grow your business contacts across the region by networking with business people from the Forest Lake Area, North Branch Area and Chisago Lakes Chambers of Commerce.

Dine and meet three different groups of eight people during a three course lunch. Bring plenty of business cards and/or brochures to pass out. Promotional items are welcome too!

Space limited. Register by February 14. Chamber Members: \$20/ Non-Members: \$25. [Registration Form.](#)



Welcome New Member!

Tammy Stephens
White Oaks Real Estate

www.TammyStephens.Realtor 651-331-8306

February

What's Happening This Month

| | | |
|----------|---------|----------------------------------------------|
| February | 4 | Paws to Read – Chisago Lakes Library |
| February | 4 | Winter Buckthorn Burn-Allemansrätt Park |
| February | 4 | Winter Celebration – City of Shafer |
| February | 4 | Mini Race Camp – Wild Mountain |
| February | 7 | Irish Music – Chisago Lakes Library |
| February | 8-12 | Picket Fence Gals Sale |
| February | 9 | Chamber Luncheon |
| February | 9 | Hot Pepper Reads – Chisago Lakes Library |
| February | 10 | Daddy-Daughter Valentine's Day Dance |
| February | 10 | Race Training/Anna Levins – Wild Mountain |
| February | 10 & 11 | Dinner and Cabernet Show-Winehaven |
| February | 10-13 | Valentine Tea – Country Bed & Breakfast |
| February | 11 | Ski/Snowshoe/Walk-Wild River |
| February | 11 | Hot Metal Pour – Franconia Sculpture Park |
| February | 11 | Rotary Casino Night |
| February | 12 | Family Fun Night – Trinity Lutheran Church |
| February | 14 | VALENTINE'S DAY! ❤️ |
| February | 14 | doTERRA Essential Oil Class |
| February | 16 | Morning Mentoring – Chamber Office |
| February | 18 | Night Moves – Wild Mountain |
| February | 19 | Musical Extravaganza – Chisago Lake Lutheran |
| February | 20 | KOD Button Design Deadline |
| February | 21 | Regional Speed Networking Event |
| February | 24 | Race Training/Anna Levins – Wild Mountain |
| February | 28 | Author Visit – Chisago Lakes Library |
| March | 4-5 | Home & Business Expo |

2017 Board of Directors

Officers:

President: Josh Soderlund, Soderlund's Wood Mill
Past President: John Renaker, Northwoods Roasterie
Treasurer: Cory Lindgren, Lindgren & Associates
Secretary: Laura Haseltine
Elevate Builders/Victory Lane Quick Oil Change

Directors:

Matt Silver, Chisago County Press
Erin Thorvaldson, Generations Real Estate Group
Greg Paine, Edward Jones
Marlys Dunne, MultiSource Manufacturing
Susan Clayton, Alan Honn Glass & Al's Center Saloon
Missy Glenna, City of Shafer & Franconia Township
Executive Director: Wendy Redland
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:

Matt Silver
Chisago County Press

Well the Celebration of the Lakes has come and gone. Once again, we were at the mercy of Mother Nature. We unfortunately had to cancel a few of the events including the big one, the snowmobile radar runs. Most people would say, "Why bother with the celebration if stuff is cancelled?" To them I would say "Come out and see how the celebration is even with events cancelled". I was out there all weekend long, and the crowds that were there were having a wonderful time. People are still searching for a reason to get out and enjoy our area during the winter months. The weather was great and I didn't see anyone freezing their snow pants off. We are always looking for new events to add to the celebration to make it even better, so if you have an idea or two, please share it with Wendy and Laurie at the chamber.

I would like to personally thank those who worked so hard to make the Celebration happen. The people that organize these events never get their due thanks, so from me and the rest of the attendees of the Celebration of the Lakes - THANK YOU! You are appreciated!

We have the Home Show just around the corner. We have more vendors than the past few years and the show is shaping up nicely. We still have room for your business if you would like to join us. Just give the Community Ed a call at 651-213-2603 and we will get you set up with a booth. The show is a great opportunity to get in front of a couple thousand Chisago County residents that might just want exactly what you are selling.

Finally, here at the Press, we are beginning to put together the 2017 Chisago Lakes Community and Visitor Guide. The guide has grown each and every year. The first year we put the guide out, it was 36 pages. Last year, the guide was 82 pages. It is filled with a ton of information, local events, rich history and makes a wonderful pick-up for residents and visitors. If you ever have thought about local advertising, but are reluctant, this is your one "must buy". By that, I mean by purchasing an ad in the guide, it is an ad that will last the entire year long. How is that bang for the buck? Give the Press a call at 651-257-5115 or email us at chisago@citlink.net we will be more than happy to help you create an eye catching message to get out to the public.

Daddy-Daughter Valentine's Day Dance

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10 6:00-8:00PM
AGES 3 – GRADE 6
CHISAGO LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOL

Join us for an evening filled with dancing and activities for fathers, grandfathers and their daughters! This is your chance to show your little girl how special she is and create a lifetime of memories. Family friendly music will be played. Light refreshments provided. Magic show, photography, activities and more are all included in the fee. Let's dance the night away. \$25/family - Registration deadline is Friday, February 3. After this date cost is \$30/family. Register at 651-213-2600 or www.chisagolakes.k12.mn.us/communityed

Sponsored by: Chisago Lakes Community Education

WINTER BUCKTHORN BURN

Saturday, February 4 11am-2pm
Allemansrätt Park 31316 Olinda Trail, Lindstrom

Needed: 50 Volunteers & 10 Volunteer Supervisors to haul, stack and burn piles of buckthorn bush. You are welcome to bring roasting sticks, hotdogs and marshmallows for roasting on the fire and buckets or chairs to sit on. Coffee, cocoa, cider and a few snacks will be provided. Pre-register at: volunteer@greatrivergreening.org or 651-272-3993.

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January 5th Board Meeting Highlights

Secretary's Report:

December minutes reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report reviewed and accepted.

Committee Reports:

• Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala

Well attended and was a great evening. We plan to mail out invitation next year and new ideas are being shared.

• Celebration of the Lakes

January 27-29. Generous sponsorships are coming in and in-kind donations are offered too. Events continue to be confirmed and created.

• Home & Garden Expo

March 4-5. Businesses pre-registered are up from this time last year. Entertainment is being scheduled and a Maker's Space with barn quilts, chalk paint demos and more are being planned.

• ABC Team

Teams continue to make progress on projects with the final report due in late March. The group is meeting to discuss where and how to house the winnings should we bring them home in April.

New Business:

- Chamber board seat has been filled and we are excited to welcome Missy Glenna, City of Shafer-Assistant Clerk and Franconia Clerk.
- Luncheon topics for the coming year are being decided upon and scheduled.

Old Business:

- Chamber banking was discussed and decided upon.
- Morning Mentoring will begin on January 19 and will continue on the third Thursday each month.
- Vision retreat will be schedule in February.

Executive Director's Report:

Among chamber activities reported to the board were:

- Participated at the December Social Media Breakfast

- Planned and hosted the Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala
- Coordinating Celebration of the Lakes
- Planning Home and Business Expo
- Attended Google Business Training
- One new Chamber Member for December



30525 Linden Street • PO Box 283

Lindstrom, MN 55045

ChisagoLakesChamber.com

651-257-1177

Join Us ...

- Chamber Luncheons 2nd Thursday of the month at 11:30am. \$10/chamber members, \$15/non chamber members. RSVP by 5pm the Monday prior.
- 3rd Thursday Mentoring – 8-9am at the Chamber office. Topic will be 'Employee Retention and On Boarding' facilitated by Tanya Paine. RSVP's appreciated.

UP NORTH FINE ART GALLERY

13025 Lake Blvd, Lindstrom

www.GustafsGalleries.com

651-257-1821



Winter Framing Sale is running the entire month of February. Take **45% off** your second framing order when you bring in two complete orders.

Winter hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10am-4pm

Sunday 12-3pm

Evenings by appointment



PICKET FENCE GALS SALE

FEBRUARY 8-12

Wednesday 3-7pm

Thursday-Saturday 9am-6pm

Sunday 11am-5pm

A large Victorian 2-story house filled with affordable, ever-changing items. Find antiques & vintage items, painted furniture, garden items, home & cabin décor, re-purposed items, textiles and more! Downtown Lindstrom.

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January Membership Meeting



Gail Marek, Organized for Success

January luncheon was held at **Chisago Lakes Library**. **Arby's** catered and **Northwoods Roasterie** provided coffee.

Chamber announcements: Thank you to our Chamber supporters: **Northwoods Roasterie**, **Lindgren & Associates**, **Lindstrom Family Dentistry** and **US Bank**. Make sure that your business is verified on **Google Maps** so customers can find you! The chamber received our Google summary for December and it states that 710 saw us and from there they found directions or called us. We are excited to announce a new networking opportunity through the Chamber: **3rd Thursday Morning Mentoring**. This group will begin next Thursday, January 19 from 8-9am at the Chamber office. Marlys Dunne of MultiSource will be facilitating the topic *How to motivate your employees in non-financial ways*. **Celebration of the Lakes** is January 27-29. Check out the schedule of events on the chamber website and get out and enjoy some great winter fun. Celebration of the Arts activities are intermixed throughout the community as well. The **Home and Business Expo** is March 4-5. Register through Community Ed and remember Chamber members receive \$80 off booth fee. A **Regional Speed Networking** event will be Tuesday, February 21 at SplitRocks in Wyoming. **Free Technology Training** continues through the Blandin Grant with the North Branch Chamber taking the lead. The next training topic is Video & Audio Tools for your Business on January 24 8-9am at NB Area Library. The **ABC Competition** 3rd quarter report is submitted. Stay tuned as we find out how the top 3 winners will be revealed. The area website ChisagoLakes.org which came out of ABC, is now live.

New Chamber members were introduced: **Tammy Stephens-White Oaks Realty** and **Vitalize Wellness Center** (part of Ecumen Parmly LifePointes)

Member announcements: **Susan Clayton-Al's Center Saloon & Alan Honn Glass** promoted the Celebration of the Arts that is a part of the Celebration of the Lakes event. **Darlene**

Shafer-Parmly LifePointes announced their education event coming up. **Loretta Anderson-Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation** announced the Women's Health Conference coming up on March 23 & 30. **Eileen Carlson-Eichtens** gave the bistro updates: closed on Mondays, breakfast club on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and February breakfast specials and cheese sale. **AnnMarie Brink-USBank** said that now is the time to get pre-qualified for a home equity loan. **Bill Mack-CL Rotary** shared the upcoming Casino Royale event that is coming up in February. **Tony Randall-RE/Max** promoted their June 12 Golf Tournament that benefits the Community Support Foundation. **Nancy Grossmann-Chisago Lakes Library** promoted all the event that are coming up at the library in February. **Kerri Higgins-MidWestOne Bank** promoted consumer loans. **Susie Sandberg-Almelund Mercantile** told about the Fur Trade seminar and Old Time Movies that are coming up in Almelund.

Our guest speaker was **Gail Marek** from **Organized for Success**. She gave quick tips on how to stay organized.



The 2017 Home & Business Expo is sponsored by Chisago Lakes Community Education, Chisago County Press and Chisago Lakes Chamber. Chamber members receive \$80 off the booth fee with a paid 2017 Chamber membership.

Registration fee goes up after February 7th. To register, call Chisago Lakes Community Education at 651-213-2603. Registration forms are available at www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com.

Volunteers needed to help for the information booth, set up and tear down. Contact the Chamber at 651-257-1177.

[Registration Form](#) and [Volunteer-Based Registration](#)

CITY OF SHAFER WINTER CELEBRATION!

Saturday, February 4th 1-3pm

Join City Parks Board member for an afternoon of winter fun! Enjoy skating, snow art, snowman making, hot cocoa, cookies & warm bon fire at Shafer Meadow Park.

See [Winter Celebration Flyer](#) for complete details.

Need directions to your financial destination?



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THANK YOU for a wonderful Celebration of the Lakes Event!

Winter weather in Minnesota can be a funny thing and once again, the balmy temperatures moved some events off of the lakes and onto land. A huge thank you to Chisago City for their help with activities at Ojiketa Regional Park.

We thank the community organizations and churches who host wonderful activities during the weekend and the amazing individual volunteers who make all the events run smoothly.

Thank you to the generous business sponsors who provide the funds to help make this event a success.

DIAMOND: Chisago County Press, Frankie's, Lindgren & Associates, Plastic Products, Sno Baron's

EMERALD:

Grand Casino Hinckley, Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, MidWestOne Bank, Polaris Industries, RE/MAX Synergy

RUBY: Al's Center Saloon, Brinks Market, Center City Fire Department, Croix Valley Pick Up, Shaleen Team-Edina Realty, Fairview Lakes Medical Center, Farmers Insurance-Tom Kieffer, Generations Real Estate Group Lake Area Bank, Lakes Veterinary and Surgical Center Mickelson Landscaping, MultiSource Manufacturing Northern Lake Tavern and Grill, Northwoods Roasterie Peterson Companies, Pizza Pub, St. Croix Regional Medical Center, Security State Bank of Marine, Stein Agency, US Bank, Xcel Energy

SAPPHIRE: Chiko's Cocina Mexicana, Chisago GrandStay Hotel and Suites, Deutschland Meats, Ecumen Parmlly LifePointes, Edward Jones-Jim Green, Hazelden Betty Ford Graduate School, Holmquist Chiropractic, Koehn Auto, Picket Fence Gals, Printing Express, SCRED, Security Victor Agency, State Farm Insurance-Mike O'Malley, Waldoch Sports.

Thank You!

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doTERRA Essential Oils

'LOVE IS IN THE AIR!'

Tuesday, February 14 6:30pm

Come and learn about essential oils and you will fall in love! See how doTERRA Essential Oils can help enhance your life. Receive a free hand massage and have fun with a Make & Take 'Date Night Blend' (\$5). For more information call Trudy Lodien at 651-491-0962. This class is held at the Chamber office 30525 Linden St, Lindstrom.

WILD MOUNTAIN / TF RECREATION

37200 Wild Mountain Rd, Taylors Falls
651-465-6315 www.wildmountain.com



2016-2017 SKI & SNOWBOARD SEASON IS NOW OPEN!

Check out the *Daily Snow Report*

- * Home School Days: February 2, 7, 16, 21
- * Mini Race Camp: February 4
- * Race Training with Anna Levins: February 10, 24
- * Friends & Family Fun Days: February 11, 20
- * Night Moves: February 18
- * Scout & 4H Days: February 19
- * Women's Academy: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays

Spring Special
Season Pass Sale!

'Season Pass Special' 2017-2018 season passes are now on sale. If you don't already have a season pass, add the rest of this season for only \$55 with the purchase of your 2017-2018 season pass. Get information [here](#).

For complete details call 651-465-6365
or visit www.WildMountain.com



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DINNER AND CABERNET SHOW!

Friday, February 10 7-10pm
Saturday, February 11 7-10pm

The Choral Company "Unexpected Company" and Winehaven have teamed-up for a unique three-course dinner and Cabaret Show. Listen to some of the area's best singing talent and enjoy a wonderful dinner at the winery.

Entrée choices include Pan-Seared Breast of Chicken; Olive braised Tilapia; or Vegetarian Napoleon. Entrees include salad, bread, cheesecake and choice of coffee, tea, water or soda. Wine is available for purchase.

Tickets: \$65.00 Reservations Required. Online orders include a \$5/ticket processing fee. [Order online here.](#)

WILD RIVER STATE PARK

39797 Park Trail, Center City

651-583-2125 WildRiver.StatePark@state.mn.us

CANDLELIGHT SKI/SNOWSHOE/WALK

Saturday, February 11 6-9pm

Illuminating 6 miles of trails, candles will guide you through this once-in-a-winter opportunity at Wild River. Snowshoers, skiers and walkers are welcome to take the trails this Valentine's weekend! Event is free. Visit [FriendsofWildRiver.org](#) for more details.

Karl Oskar Days Button Design Contest

The 4th Karl Oskar Days Button Design Contest goes through February 20. Entries can be found at Chisago County Press, Chisago Lakes Library and the Chamber Office. Voting for winning designs will take place March 9-14. Public will be able to vote using Facebook, Chisago County Press and local businesses. Winners will be announced the week of May 4.

Happy Valentines Day



FRANCONIA
sculpture park

29836 ST. Croix Trail, Shafer
651-257-6668 [www.Franconia.org](#)

Valentine's Day Hot Metal Pour

Saturday, February 11 Noon-5pm

Each winter, Minnesota artists crawl out of hibernation and join Franconia for an outdoor iron pour-an invigorating mix of fire & ice. We invite you to join in this unique opportunity by scratching a block of sand that will be poured with molten iron, creating your very own iron sculpture at the Valentine's Day Hot Metal Pour.

To make a scratch block, you will want to attend one of our scratch block workshops. Free with the purchase of a sand mold. Whether or not you made a scratch block, come to the park on February 11th with your loved ones and some hot cocoa for a special event totally worth braving the cold for. You can warm your hands by the fire or on your freshly poured sculpture!

Scratch Block Workshops:

February 6 & 7, 10am-1pm or 2-5pm

Mold Prices: \$30/small, \$45/medium \$75/large

Casino Royale

Saturday, February 11



'CHISAGO LAKES ROTARY CASINO NIGHT'

Ojiketa Regional Park - Strom Hall

6:00-7:00 pm - Social Hour

7:00-10:00 pm - Casino & Entertainment

10:00-11:00 pm - Awards

Texas Hold'em, Blackjack, Baccart, Bingo & more!

Tickets: \$50/person includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and \$1000 in 'Funny Money'

James Bond, Bond Girl or Villain Attire is Encouraged

007

To purchase tickets (limited) contact a Rotarian or call Bill 651-402-5429

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29610 Gateway Ave
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CHISAGO LAKES LIBRARY

11754 302nd St, Chisago City
651-257-2817 www.ecrl.lib.mn.us

FEBRUARY EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY!

- > **'Paws to Read'** Saturday, February 4th 10am-noon
Children can have one-on-one sessions reading to a real reading therapy dog at the library! A great way for young readers to gain confidence in their reading abilities while having some fun. The sessions with Scout, the reading therapy dog, will be on a first come, first served basis.
- > **'Noah Rendell and the Lost Forty'** Tuesday, Feb. 7 6:30pm
Featuring Live, Ireland's "Best Irish Vocalist of 2011 and 2012," singer and flutist Norah Rendell heads up a trio with top-notch multi-instrumentalists Brian Miller and Randy Gosa. They perform Irish traditional music with a special emphasis on songs that crossed the Atlantic to become part of the cultural heritage of the Great Lakes and Canada.
- > **'Hot Pepper Reads for Cold Nights'**
Thursday, February 9 6:30-8pm
Players earn points by eating a hot pepper and then reciting a passage from a famous book before getting relief of milk or water. Players can earn fewer points by doing the same with mild and ice-cold versions. Prizes! Ages 16 & up!
- > **'Author Visit-Joel Karsten'** Tuesday, Feb. 28th 6:30pm
As part of the Chisago Author Series, Minnesota author Joel Karsten will be at the library to discuss his book, "Straw Bale Gardens". There will also be time for book signings.



CHISAGO LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1 Summit Ave, Center City 651-257-6300
ChisagoLakeLutheranChurch.org

MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA! Sunday, February 19 3pm

The Worship & Music committee invites you to enjoy an afternoon of music and fellowship. This musical extravaganza will feature the talents of church members and friends performing on a variety of instruments. Vocal solos, duets and ensembles.

This is a fundraiser for a much needed Grand Piano. Free-will offering will be taken. Refreshments after the concert. Let's fill the sanctuary with music and friends!

GRANDPA CHEESECAKE

12710 Lake Blvd, Lindstrom 651-257-6199
facebook.com/grandpacheesecake

We have moved to a new location. You can find us within the Lindstrom Sweet Shoppe. Stop in and try our Lingonberry, salted caramel or raspberry cheesecake. Order your 'heart-shaped' cheesecake for your sweetheart.

COUNTRY BED & BREAKFAST

17038 320th St, Shafer 651-257-4773
www.CountryBedandBreakfast.us



Valentine Tea

FEBRUARY 10, 11 & 12 AT 3:00 PM

Enjoy Chocolate Torte with Whipped Cream, White Chocolate Raspberry Scones, Swedish Cardamom Bread, Swedish Cheesecake with Whipped Cream, Assorted Teas, Cranberry Juice and Swedish Egg Coffee. Adults/\$12, Children 12 & under/\$6. Reservations are required. Call 651-257-4773 or email sallybarott@aol.com



February BOGO Sale

'Roses are Red, Violets are Blue, Country Bed & Breakfast has a BOGO Sale for You! Buy One, Get One Free, happening only during the month of February, 2017. It's a perfect way to plan a 'Date Night' with your Sweetie or a 'Girlfriend Get-Away' for you and your friends. Buy in February and the gift certificates are valid for one year from date of purchase.

FAMILY FUN EVENT

Sunday, February 12
11:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
13025 Newell Avenue - Lindstrom

\$10/family

**Lunch, cookie-decorating, crafts,
Valentine fun!**



Contact sherry@trinitylindstrom.org by February 8.



Matthew Struve DDS • Priya Shaffer DDS

12245 Lindstrom Lane, Lindstrom 55045
Phone: 651-257-4471 • Fax: 651-257-2017
www.LindstromFamilyDentistry.com



11493 Lake Lane
Chisago City, MN 55013
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| | <u>Lobby</u> | <u>Drive-Up</u> |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
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| Friday | 8:30am-5pm | 8:30am-6pm |
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MN Chamber Update

Fighting Workplace Mandates on Two Fronts

By Doug Loon

The Minnesota Chamber continues to challenge workplace mandates in the Legislature and the courts. A recent court ruling underscores the importance of our parallel efforts.

A Minneapolis ordinance is scheduled to take effect July 1, 2017, that requires businesses to provide paid sick time to employees. St. Paul has a similar ordinance scheduled to take effect the same date. Duluth is considering enacting its own set of workplace regulations. It's only time before similar measures come to a city near you.

In October 2016, the Minnesota Chamber brought a lawsuit against the city of Minneapolis asking the court to do two things: #1, issue a temporary injunction prohibiting the city from enforcing "paid sick and safe time" ordinance on any businesses; #2, permanently rule the ordinance unlawful.

The Hennepin County District Court delivered a mixed ruling on January 19. Judge Mel I. Dickstein said Minneapolis may not enforce its ordinance on employers "resident outside the geographic boundaries of the city of Minneapolis." He also ordered that, for now, the city could enforce the ordinance against employers within the city. We are appealing the decision.

The judge's mixed ruling underscores the importance of our efforts at the Capitol to pass the Uniform State Labor Standards Act, which would prohibit local governments from passing their own mandates on wages, benefits and scheduling. The Act would keep Minnesota's laws uniform, our communities open for business, and our economy thriving for all.

The legislation is being spearheaded by the United for Jobs Coalition, a broad-based coalition of local chambers of commerce & business assoc. led by the MN Chamber.

We do not believe the state should dictate private-sector employee benefits. The only thing worse than state government dictating one-size-fits-all mandates on all employers is for local governments to do so, thus creating a patchwork of local laws for businesses to navigate across the state. Minnesota's economic strength is due to a diverse business landscape. Distinctive operations and workplace needs require that employers have the flexibility to develop wages and salaries, benefits, policies and procedures that best serve the mutual needs of employer and employees.

Borrowing a sports phrase, the best defense is a strong offense. Minnesota employers consistently receive national recognition for providing tremendous workplace environments. We will continue to challenge workplace mandates. At the same time, legislators also need to hear about the voluntary wages and benefit plans employers use to attract and retain employees in this competitive marketplace. Minnesota businesses increasingly are offering leave plans that meet the needs of employees such as offer paid maternity and paternity leave, paid sick and safe leave, and other benefits—without state or local mandates. Please share your best practices by contacting Jennifer Byers at 651.292.4673 or jbyers@mnchamber.com.

Doug Loon is president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce: www.mnchamber.com.



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
The Voice of Business



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