

Monthly Newsletter March 2017

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com

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

Upcoming Meetings & Events

March 2: Board Meeting 9:00am Chamber Office & Information Center 30525 Linden Street, Lindstrom
March 9: Chamber Member Luncheon

Time:	11:30am – 1pm	
Speaker:	Darlene Shafer, Ecumen Parmly LifePointes	
Topic:	Reaching the Aging Population	
Caterer:	Meredee's Bistro	
Location:	Chisago Lakes Library	
	11754 302 nd Street, Chisago City	
2017 Luncheon Prices:		

\$10/Chamber Members, \$15/Non-Members



Bright Ideas for Home, Garden & Family! March 4–5, 2017

Be sure to come and enjoy the Home & Business Expo! Vendors, Aladdin & Jasmine Meet & Greet, Entertainment and a chance to visit with friends.

Exhibit space is still available. <u>Registration Form</u> and <u>Volunteer-Based Registration</u>

Volunteers needed for set-up, traffic control and take down. Call the Chamber 651-257-1177 if you can help.

Welcome New Members!

Veritas Academy 34888 Kable Ave, North Branch www.VeritasClassical.org 651-462-3894

A-Pro Pool & Spa 11876 Lake Lane, Lindstrom www.AProPoolNSpa.com 651-257-6718



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: <u>www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com</u>



A Note from the Chamber Board:

Marlys Dunne MultiSource Manufacturing

Another exciting achievement has transpired through the ABC competition. After months of collaborating and research, the Chisago Lakes ABC team is proud to announce the creation and launch of the Chisago Lakes Higher Education HUB. The mission of the Education HUB is to be a conduit between local employers, our high school, community residents and multiple higher education institutions to provide education opportunities that develop and advance our current and future workforce. Through initial partnership with Pine Tech, our education HUB has an opportunity to help individuals participate in classes geared towards skills and careers in manufacturing at a drastically reduced cost. A serious of 8 courses, that would normally cost approximately \$5k, is now available for approximately \$900. Classes are offered via a hybrid online media to live campus classes, which will be hosted at one of two sites locally, those being the Chisago Lakes Library and the Lindstrom Office Center. Each location provides the high speed internet students will need to stream these live classes, and the library location will utilize the latest in video, teleconferencing equipment. Upon completion, participants will earn a Production Technician certification that is nationally recognized, and one that creates the pathway to numerous higher level degrees, including CMC machining, welding, and automation careers. The goal of the HUB is to bring educators and employers together to develop curriculums that are in demand for the current and future workforce, as well as to help provide information and support to employers and participants that may not otherwise be Orientation sessions will be held in early available. March with classes beginning March 27th. Going forwards, the HUB envisions future courses to expand into professions such as health care, technology, and construction. Class information is available on the chamber website. by emailing chisagolakeshighered@gmail.com or visiting the chamber booth at the upcoming home show. Please help us launch our HUB by sharing this information with employers, friends, and family.

CHISAGO CITY FARMERS MARKET Vilhelm Moberg Park

10656 Railroad Ave, Chisago City www.ChisagoCityFarmersMarket.com



CHISAGO CITY FARMERS MARKET FRIDAYS, May 19-October 20, 2-6:30pm

Planning for the 2017 Chisago City Farmers Market is underway! The Market starts Friday, May 19 with the annual Spring Plant Sale; June brings a season of the best local produce, as well as live music, handmade goods, and ready-to-eat fare. Want to be a vendor or know someone who should? Find more info and the application at chisagocityfarmersmarket.com.

CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM Monday, March 27 7pm

CL High School PAC 29400 Olinda Trail, Lindstrom

Paul Douglas is coming to Lindstrom to speak about climate change. He is partnering with Mitch Hescox, the president of the Evangelical Environmental Network to speak about their new book, "Caring For Creation" We are tying this in with Chisago Lakes ABC, America's Best Community application and the connection to our Energy Hub. This talk will marry science with scripture and add to the story of why solar energy is so important.... explaining the environmental concerns to the 70% of Americans who are described as "tepid" in their views of climate change. Hopefully....it will give even more motivation to many potentially new solar subscribers and add even more evidence to our "Solar Capitol of Minnesota" distinction.

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February 2nd Board Meeting Highlights

Secretary's Report: January minutes reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report reviewed and accepted.

Committee Reports:

ABC Team

Tangi Schaapveld was present to give an update of the America's Best Communities competition. Chisago Lakes has sent in 3rd quarter report. Final winners are announced the end of April.

Celebration of the Lakes

Celebration of the Arts was a great addition to COL. A lot of activities were going on throughout the community. Wrap-up meeting scheduled for February 7.

Home & Garden Expo

March 4-5. 61 businesses are pre-registered, up from 54 this time last year. Entertainment, Maker's Space with quilt squares, chalk paint and pallet demos, ABC update and Cloggers are some of the activities planned.

Triathlon

Meeting is scheduled for February 27 to talk through routes and triathlon basics.

New Business:

CGI Video

Discussed CGI creating videos for the Chamber and decided not to go forward at this time.

• Lodging Tax/Tourism Bureau Discussion on proposed lodging tax in Chisago Lakes. Meetings with cities are being scheduled to share and gather more information.

Old Business:

- Morning Mentoring began 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:

• Attended meetings for: Celebration of the Lakes. Regional Chamber Meeting, Central MN Jobs and Training Services, ABC all Team Leaders, President Josh Soderlund to review policies/procedures.

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CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP TESTIMONY:

"Al's Center Saloon joined the Chamber to help advertise the 2015 pop up shop that featured Al's handblown glass next to the bar in Center City. We appreciate the Tuesday What's Happening messages, and look forward to using the interactive event section of the new chisagolakes.org. Above all, in these 'virtual' days, we like the many opportunities to interact 'in real life' with our neighbors at meetings and Chamber sponsored events. We've found that the best marketing - and inspiration - is person to person!" Al Honn & Susan Clayton

> Al's Center Saloon Alan Honn Glass

> > St. Bridget of Sweden All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry

Fridays during Lent March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7 5-7pm

Enjoy delicious pub battered cod and baked fish! French fries, coleslaw, dinner roll, beverage & dessert! (Meatless spaghetti also available) Adults/\$11, Seniors/\$9, Children/\$6

Kids 5 & under/free

www.StBridgetofSweden.org

NORTHWOODS ROASTERIE

12710 N. First Ave, Lindstrom

ORTHWOOD

Coffee and Pie Night Every Friday Night! 5-9pm



Come enjoy coffee and fresh baked pies! www.NorthwoodsRoasterie.com 651-257-5240



651-257-2474



After signing up with the Hub for a residential energy efficiency assessment; we will contact you to walk through the process, answer any questions, and schedule a convenient time for your assessment.

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FAX: 651-257-9774

Please be prepared to sign a release authorizing Xcel Energy to provide 12 months of past utility bills to assist the Home Energy Squad. Review of these bills will help to evaluate the value and benefits of energy efficiency improvements.

SPECIAL PRICING FOR EARLY SIGN UPS

For a limited time, Chisago Lakes Area home owners may take advantage of reduced cost energy assessments. Through donations of generous Chisago Lakes community members, the \$120 assessment is lowered to just \$70. This incentive will be applied to the next 50 residential energy efficiency assessment sign ups.

Sign up online at Chisago Clean Energy Hub



A large Victorian 2-story house filled with affordable, ever-changing items. Find antiques & vintage items, painted furniture, garden items, home & cabin décor, repurposed Lindstrom.

www.PicketFenceGals.net

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your life and replace them with products that help improve your quality of life. Following with that theme, we have started a Facebook group "Take Control of Your Health With Nutrition". This group is open to anyone wanting to improve their health and join a group of like minded people. Besides Facebook, we meet weekly on Mondays at 7pm at the Chisago Lakes Chamber office, 30525 Linden St, Lindstrom. The evening consists of viewing videos from different series on how to use nutrition to increase your health. The meetings are open to the public and the goal is to create a group of people living a healthy lifestyle and promoting health to the surrounding community.

Ouestions? Call Gus Gulbranson 651-246-9027

doTERRA Essential Oils

'ESSENTIAL OILS 101' Tuesday, March 14 6:30pm

Using essential oils can be a safe, natural option to protect and maintain your family's health. doTERRA offers a large selection of natural wellness products for a customizable health and beauty routine. More information: Trudy Lodien, 651-491-0962. Class is held at the Chamber office 30525 Linden St, Lindstrom.

Elevate Builders



651.245.4809

February Membership Meeting



Kirsten Vaughn, Chisago Lakes Library February luncheon was held at Chisago Lakes Library. Brink's Market & Deli catered and Northwoods Roasterie provided coffee.

Chamber announcements: Thank you to all who have renewed membership for 2017. We are finalizing information for the Community Guide and chamber members receive a free listing. Please let us know if you have had any information change in the past year. Ad space is also available, contact Matt Silver at Chisago County Press. Remember to email the Chamber information that you want included in the monthly newsletter and weekly newsflash. Through the ABC process, the community asked for a landing place for all area events and activities, so the ChisagoLakes.org website was created and recently launched. We ask that you place the link on your website. Also, submit your events to the calendar and we will put them on the site. When using social media include **#ChisagoLakes** and **#ABC8.** A group of 15 people joined the 3rd Thursday Morning Mentoring Group in January. Marlys Dunne of MultiSource led a well engaged discussion on 'Non Financial Ways to Motivate Employees.' Join February 16 8-9am at the Chamber where Tanya Paine will be facilitating the topic 'Employee Retention and on boarding.' Home & Business Expo is March 4-5. Space is still available and Chamber members receive \$80 off of booth fee. Regional Speed Networking with North Branch and Forest Lakes Chambers is February 21 at SplitRocks. Register by Tuesday, February 14. Free Technology Training is continuing through the Blandin Grant. Next training is Tuesday, February 28 8-9am at North Branch Area Library: How Google Works with WebDuck Designs presenting.

New Chamber member was introduced: Veritas Academy.

Member announcements: Gary Gerke, Chisago Lakes Lions promoted their upcoming Cadillac Dinner and a Food Drive for the Area Food Shelf on April 27. Loretta Anderson-Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation announced the upcoming



North Branch 38844 14th Ave. 651-277-1000

The Oven Mitt

12780 Lake Blvd, Lindstrom

651-213-3310

TheOvenMittShop.com

Chisago City 29610 Gateway Ave. 651-257-2111

Women's Health Fair Conference that will be held two Thursdays in March. Matt Howard-LAYSB informed everyone about their upcoming move to a better and larger space just down the street, and also their name change to Lakes Center for Youth & Families. Jason Gamble-Chisago Lakes Rotary promoted their upcoming Casino Night. Nancy Hoffman–Chisago County HRA/EDA stated that CGI is making videos for the county. Tangi Schaapveld-ABC Competition gave an update. Newly created are water trail maps and window clings with the Chisago Lakes logo and website. The Chisago clean energy hub is and has been offering energy audits at a reduced price. Several members gave testimonies of how nice this program is.

Our guest speakers were **Kirsten Vaughn-Chisago Lakes Librarian**, **Bruce Messelt-County Administrator** & **Ben Montzka Commission Chair**. Kirsten demonstrated how the teleconferencing equipment works and connected with Bruce. Bruce and Ben gave a County Update. Among the information given were stats on housing and business growth, lake quality improvement, solar energy, grant applications, land usage, parks and trails and the annual budget & levy for 2017.





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ECUMEN **PARMLY LIFEPOINTES**

28210 Old Towne Road, Chisago City

VITALIZE! WELLNESS CENTRE CLASSES 10720 282nd St, Chisago City 651-257-7968

> '**Painting Class**' Thursday, March 9, 4-8pm

A 4 hour class focusing more in depth on technique talking about different brush techniques as well as color and composition. Some painting experience is good, but not necessary. Cost: \$25/Members, \$30/Non Members

> 'Tea Party' Tuesday, March 14 4-6pm

Bring your Granddaughter or Daughter and join us for a tea party! Treats, story time, face painting and more! Dress in your most creative fun tea party attire! Cost per pair: \$10/Members, \$15/Non Member

> '**Repurposed Pendant!**' Thurs., March 16 5:30-7:30pm We provide the spoons and an assortment of small jewels, glitter and such to personalize your own vintage repurposed necklace pendant. You are welcome to bring your own beads or jewels. We will be working with resin during this class, please bring with a mask if you are sensitive to this. Cost: \$20/Members, \$25/Non Members



10020 Deer Garden Lane, Chisago City www.Winehaven.com 651-257-1017

> **CABIN FEVER DAYS!** Saturday, March 4 10am-5pm Sunday, March 5 11am-5pm

Got cabin fever? We have the cure! Come and taste some of our vintage selections that we will bring out of hibernation for this special event. Compare these wellaged classics to wines from the current vintage and learn about how wines change over time! This is the only weekend of the year where visitors can taste, Winehaven's selections that have been aging in the cellar for years!





ANNUAL GARDEN EXPO! Saturday, March 4 9am-3:30pm

Class sizes are limited and fill up fast. Pre-registration encouraged cost is \$10 for the entire day. Same day registration is \$15. Schedule for the Day:

8-9am	Check-in	
Walk-in registration for remaining class spaces		
Garden Marketplace Opens		
9-10:10am	Session 1	
10:30-12:00am	Keynote Speaker	
12:00am-12:50pm	Lunch break	
(Lunch can be pre-purchased for \$6)		
12:50-2pm	Session 2	
2:20-3:30	Session 3	
More info: Chisago County Extension Off	ice 651-277-0151	
Brochure/Registration		

BACHMAN'S PHOTOGRAPHY 13000 Sylvan Ave, Lindstrom 651-257-9380 www.BachmansPhotography.com



Guess the 'Official Ice Out Date'



Guess the correct "Official Ice Out" date for the Chisago Chain of Lakes and win a \$25.00 Gift Certificate. To enter your guess, call 651-257-9380, Facebook us or email

rich@bachmansphotography.com by March 10. If more than one person guesses the correct date we will draw for the winner, if no one guesses the correct date the closest without going past will be the winner. Good Luck!

CHISAGO GRANDSTAY HOTEL & SUITES 29579 Sportsman Drive, Chisago City www.facebook.com/chisagograndstay



651-213-3400 **SPRING BREAK RATE!**

Enjoy a fun filled Spring Break Getaway close to home! We supply the pool. You supply the kids. \$80 room special for the month of March. Any room Sunday-Thursday. Stay and Play!



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www.ScandiaElectric.com



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

MARCH EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY!

- > 'Paws to Read' Saturday, March 11 10am-noon Children can have one-on-one sessions reading to Scout, the reading therapy dog at the library! This is a great way for young readers to gain confidence in their reading abilities while having some fun. Sessions will be on a first come, first serve basis.
- > MN Author Visit-Erin Hart' Tues, March 14 6:30pm Welcome to the Chisago Author Series, Erin Hart and Paddy O'Brien. Hear about Erin's Irish Mystery series. This project was funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.
- > 'The Role of the Library' Monday, March 20 6-7pm Come to the library and discuss the current and future role of the library in our community. Can't make it to your local branch? Keep an eye on the calendar and find the discussion at another ECRL location.
- > 'Learning to Surf the Internet' Tues, March 21 1-3pm This class is geared to seniors who have little or no experience with computers. Pre-registration is required. Register by calling 1-800-333-2433.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 13025 Newell Avenue, Lindstrom 651-257-5129 www.TLCLindstrom.org

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS/SCRAP BOOKERS



Anybody that wants a day to do your own thing! Scrapbook, card making, stamping, Pinterest projects, sewing, fellowship. Cost: \$20 with all proceeds going towards Path to Home-supporting homeless families in our community. Includes large work area, lunch, dinner and snacks, game, prizes, fun. Spend the entire day or just a few hours. Reserve your spot by March 8th on our face book event page (Crafting/Scrap-booking Event) or by contacting Jolene at 651-271-3538 / jolene3737@hotmail.com



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Chisago County Historical Society 13112 3rd Ave N, Lindstrom 651-257-5310 www.ChisagoCountyHistory.org



CHISAGO COUNTY'S ARCHEOLOGICAL TREASURES Tuesday, March 7 7pm Community Center, 38799 Seventh Ave, North Branch

Amanda Gronhovd, MS. RPA. Minnesota State Archaeologist. Co-sponsored with the North Chisago Historical Society, North Branch.



Two FREE Programs

Thursday, March 23 & Thursday March 30 Hazelden CORK Center, Center City (Hwy 8 to 15245 Pleasant Valley Road, follow signs)

March 23 rd	What's My Purpose?
5:30-6:30 pm	Free Interactive Health Fair
6:30-7:00 pm	Who Am I? – Deb Goldberg
	Deb helps understand who, what and how
	outside influences have affected our life.
7:30-8:30pm	Who Are You Going to Be, When You Do
_	What You Do? – Barbara McAfee
	Barbara blends practical content,
	sophisticated humor and thought provoking
	questions on topics including voice,
	leadership and engagement.
March 30 th	Life on Purpose
5:30-7:00 pm	Free Interactive Health Fair
7-8:00 pm	Living Life on Purpose - Jennifer Embery
-	There's always a path forward. Jennifer
	will help you believe in yourself & take the
	next steps – one at a time at your own pace.
Sponsored by:	Chisago County Public Health
· · ·	Fairview Lakes Medical Center
	Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation
	St. Croix Regional Medical Center
	Polk County Public Health



Matthew Struve DDS · Priya Shaffer DDS

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

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUTH & FAMILY 38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch 651-674-4085 CommunityPartnershipYF.org

Painting Fundraiser Saturday, March 18 Noon

Come and enjoy a family friendly afternoon of fun and painting to support Community Partnership with Youth and Families. Cost is \$35 which includes all materials and instruction along with a small snack and drink. Space is limited so register early.



Chisago Lakes Senior Class Party

This year 269 students will be graduating from the Chisago Lakes High School on June 5th. Each year the parents and community sponsor a party to recognize the senior's success and provide a safe environment for them to celebrate their achievement.

The Chisago Lakes High School Senior Class Party is asking you to support this exciting event with a tax deductible donation. Some of the ways you can show your support are by providing: Food and Beverages: gift cards for food, pizza, subs, snacks, cookies, fruit, candy, bottle water, soft drinks, coffee, etc.

Set-up and Decorations: donations of gift cards to be used for balloons, lighting, party supplies.

Prizes: gift cards/certificates, electronics, clothing, jewelry, tickets to upcoming events, sports equipment, dorm room necessities, luggage and services, baskets for raffle, etc.

Gift Bag Items: each attendee will receive a bag that can include coupons, small items, sample products, etc.

Cash Donations/Sponsorships: Cash donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. Make checks out to CLHS Senior Class Party.

More info: visit http://tinyurl.com/hd4r9z3, call 651-257-2567 or email clhsgradparty@gmail.com.

REGIONAL CHILD CARE CAPACITY BUILDING SUMMIT Monday, March 20 7-9pm

Learn about resources and services available for those wishing to start a new child care business, expand their existing one or help promote child care opportunities in the region. Summit Flyer





Phone: 651-257-9074 www.USBank.com Drive-Up 8:30am-5pm 8:30am-5pm

8:30am-6pm

9am-12pm

Lobby

8:30am-5pm

9am-12pm

Monday-Thursday

Friday

Saturday

wilsonco1.biz scarrwilsonco@aol.com 651-485-6907



Lakes Center for Youth & Families 20 Lake Street N, Suite 103, Forest Lake 651-464-3685 LC4YF.org

Be a Part of the Next 40 Years!



After leasing our current space from the City of Forest Lake for the past 20 years, LAYSB must now move. We FORTY YEARS have purchased a space in the Town Square Building in downtown Forest Lake! Now, we need your help for a seamless transition so we can continue to provide our services to the community that we have done so well vears! for the past 40 Visit us online www.LakesArea40Years.org

EXCITING NEWS! Lakes Center for Youth & Families (formerly Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau) has a new name and address! Our New location is located in the Town Square Building at 20 Lake Street North, Suite 103 Forest Lake, MN. Our phone number remains the same. We're planning an OPEN HOUSE in April 2017 and hope you will join us! For updates on how we are doing and more information check out: WWW.LC4YF.org



Easter Mini's March 28, 29 4 30

Packages (includes session fee)

\$90 (2) 5x7 & (8) wallets

- \$110 4x10 desk art print, (2) 5x7 & (8) wallets
- 10 image bunny book, (2) 5x7 & (8) wallets \$130
- \$145 (3) accordion books, (2) 5x7 & (8) wallets
- \$140 (3) digital images

Call now to schedule your session. 651-257-9855.

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Member SIPC

Chisago Lakes School District BOND REFERENDUM

The District will be holding a special election on May 9, 2017, seeking voter approval of a ballot question that would authorize the issuance of \$64.95 million in general obligation school building bonds for acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities. Highlights of the bond referendum include:

- 1. Construction of an Elementary School (grades 2-5) to replace Lakeside
- 2. Additions and renovations at Taylors Falls Elementary School and remodeling at the Middle School
- 3. A manufacturing-agri science lab along with a Community Center located at the High School
- 4. District-wide safety and security upgrades.

Please join us at our community information sessions:

- March 21 6:30pm at Taylors Falls Elementary Cafeteria
- March 28 6:30pm at CLHS Performing Arts Center
- April 4 6:30pm at Lakeside Elementary Gymnasium • For additional information, visit ChisagoLakes.K12.MN.US

A-Pro Pool & Spa

11876 Lake Lane, Lindstrom 651-257-6718 AProPoolNSpa.com

2017 SEASON PASS

Spring is just around the corner! Have you signed up for your Season Pass? You pass includes:

- Pool Opening: including chemicals
- Weekly Maintenance Service (15 visits)
- All chemicals required for sanitizing and balancing
- Pool Closing: including chemicals
- 10% discount on any additional products and services all year long

Save up to \$150 on your Season Pass when you pay by March 11, 2017. Call or email to get signed up at 651-257-6718 or sales@apropoolnspa.com

> Season Pass Flyer Sale Flyer

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COUNTRY BED & BREAKFAST 17038 320th St, Shafer 651-257-4773 www.CountryBedandBreakfast.us



Irish Tea FRIDAY, MARCH 17 & SATURDAY 18 11AM-5 PM

Enjoy an "Irish Tea" at Country B&B with lovely Irish home-made desserts and hot tea. Serving Irish Tea Cake, White Chocolate Raspberry Scones, Irish Cream Chocolate Cheesecake and Blarney Stones...no Blarney, just frosted pound cake cubes rolled in chopped peanuts! Enjoy a variety of hot teas served in the formal dining room and comfy country kitchen. Seating for 14. Reservations requested. Contact Sally Barott at 651-257-4773 or sallybarott@aol.com The price is \$10.00 per person (tax and tip included).



NATIONAL LEADERSHIP **DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE Grand Casino Hinckley** June 19-21

The National Leadership Development Conference is a premier educational and motivational experience dedicated to helping people become and remain consistent, committed and engaged leaders.

Tickets purchased before March 31, will receive an early bird discount of \$100 off the regular conference price of \$399. This includes 2 nights stay at the casino hotel. Full Details Here



AMERICA'S BEST COMMUNITIES

FINALIST

Winners Announced April 19, 2017

Chisago Lakes has been working hard for the past two years in this ABC Competition. The winners will be announced on April 19 in Kirkland, WA. Stay tuned for details as they come in.

MN Chamber Update Join Us March 8 for Business Day at the Capitol By Doug Loon

It's difficult enough to compete in today's global economy and the ever-changing circumstances that are out of our control. That's all he more reason to bring stability to Minnesota's business environment. Owners and managers need as much certainty as possible if they are to invest dollars to start and expand operations in our state.

The Minnesota Chamber works every day to strengthen the business climate to the benefit of all Minnesotans.

We're most successful in our efforts when the statewide business community sends a united message to the governor and legislators. March 8 is the perfect opportunity. Join us and our local chamber partners for our annual Business Day at the Capitol.

Our legislative priorities this year are focused on Making Minnesota Ready for the future – ready for change and ready to grow. We seek to bring peace of mind to all Minnesota businesses no matter your size, location or industry.

Leading our agenda this year:

Enact tax relief: Reduce uncompetitive taxes to encourage investment, innovation and growth among all businesses.

Expand health care options: Ensure access to quality, affordable health care for employers and their employees by expanding options, especially for small and midsize companies.

Pass long-term transportation investment: Pass strategic and sustained funding of roads, bridges and transit.

Minimize workplace mandates: Pass the Uniform State Labor Standards Act to explicitly preempt local governments from enacting their own wage & benefit mandates on private employers.

We've had some significant early successes.

The Governor has signed legislation which brings immediate relief to all Minnesotans who buy health insurance in the individual market. The bill contains important provisions to increase small employers' options for providing health insurance to their employees.

Read ID legislation has passed the House and is headed toward a Senate floor vote. Conforming to federal law is important to Minnesotans of all rank and file. Unless the Minnesota Legislature passes REAL ID legislation this year, you will not be allowed to use your Minnesota driver's license to get on a commercial airline flight in January 2018. Already, since 2015, you can't get into a federal building or a military facility with your Minnesota license.

Several other bills addressing Minnesota business priorities have been introduced and are advancing, thanks to the support of our members and local chamber partners. This is an especially critical time at the Capitol. The Legislature faces a fast track with all three committee deadlines in March 10, 17, and 31.

At our forefront is reducing uncompetitive taxes and high cost burdens that are undermining investment, growth, innovation and entrepreneurship in Minnesota. The budget surplus presents a great opportunity. It's noteworthy that of the \$2.57 billion surplus from the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions, only 1 percent was used for tax relief and nearly half of the surplus went toward new spending. Governor Dayton's tax proposal for the next two-year budget cycle provides for only \$54 million in net tax relief out of the \$1.65 billion surplus in the general fund. His proposal actually increases taxes on businesses by \$100 million.

Rest assured, the Minnesota Chamber and our local chamber partners lead the charge year-around to improve your bottom line for the benefit of your company and your employees – to bring stability to the business climate so businesses can grow and prosper. We support your needs at the Capitol by advancing and passing policy with the goal of securing the health of our state's economy so we can adapt to changing competitive pressures. Please join your peers March 8 and send a united message. Together, we will ensure that Minnesota's economy continues to change and grow.

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