

Monthly Newsletter

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com

April 2017

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

Upcoming Meetings & Events

April 6: Board Meeting 9:00am

Chamber Office & Information Center 30525 Linden Street, Lindstrom

April 13: Chamber Member Luncheon

Time: 11:30am – 1pm

Speakers: **ABC Update** – ABC Team

John Driscoll - Senior VP National Recovery Services Chuck Rice - Executive Director Center City Recovery Services

Topic: HBFF Local & National Updates & ABC Update

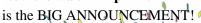
Location: Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation

15251 Pleasant Valley Road, Center CityPlease

RSVP by Monday, April 10 by 5pm \$10/Chamber Members, \$15/Non-Members

The Final Report has been Submitted!

Now the wait.... April 19th







WineHaven 10020 Deer Garden Lane, Chisago City

Chisago Lakes is one of eight communities competing to be America's Best Community. There will be 3winners named and a total of \$6,000,000.00 in prize money.

Join us for the big announcement to hear if Chisago Lakesis one of the winners in the America's Best Communities competition! Listen to Chisago Lakes initial presentation, view the Strategic Plan, the many awards won and of course the Live Stream of the award presentation! Enjoy hor' devours, wine and beverages.

Our goal has been to become America's Best Community by combining our natural and physical assets with the positive energy of the people of five small towns into a unified effort to make **Chisago Lakes** a great place for any person to call home.



What's Happening This Month

April 3 Revii Meeting

April 4 Chisago Co. Tech Training

April 4 CL School Bond Referendum Meeting

April 5-7 Picket Fence Gals Sale

April 6 Tap Dance Class – Vitalize! Wellness Center

April 7 Fish Fry – St. Bridget's Church

April 8 Ready to Shine – Acres for Life

April 8 Chisago City Easter Egg Hunt

April 8 Easter Carnival – Methodist Church

April 8 Annual Mtg/Program – CC History Center

April 9 Paint & Sip – WineHaven

April 10 Revii Meeting

April 11 doTERRA Essential Oil Class

April 13 Paint Party – Vitalize! Wellness Center

April 14-15 Spring Tea – Country Bed & Breakfast

April 17 Revii Meeting

April 19 **ABC Finalist Announcement**

April 19 Open House – Lake Center for Youth & Families

April 20 3rd Thursday Morning Mentoring

April 20-22 Used Book Sale – CL Library

April 22 Paws to Read – CL Library

April 22 Chisago Lakes Lions Cadillac Dinner

April 22 Spring Swing – Lindstrom

April 24 Revii Meeting

April 25 Allemansratt Meeting

April 29 All is Wellness Weekend

April 30 Music Concert Fund Raiser - CL Lutheran Church

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

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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:

Greg Paine, CRPC Financial Advisor Edward Jones

Historic Change is in the Air!

Ice is finally off the lakes and temperatures are staying above freezing. It's Spring! April is full of hope, fresh beginnings, and change. Change can be stressful if you are not prepared. So don't worry too much if you have not heard, but April is also National Stress Awareness Month. Let's talk about what you, as a business leader, can do to manage through this change productively.

First off, you've submitted your tax return congratulations! This earns you the right to take pause, lean back and reflect for a moment on the past year. Savor your moment because I bet that pretty quickly your thoughts turn to what's ahead. Yes, Spring Cleaning takes center stage and a "to do" list a mile long surfaces. So stop and ask yourself in earnest, "What will I make of 2017?" Because, in a word, it's up to you.

Getting organized is an important first step to preparing ourselves and our businesses to succeed. You also need a solid roadmap - a business plan. Right now is

the time to do that. If you need a helpful jumpstart, consider attending one of the upcoming Third Thursday Morning Mentoring sessions at the Chamber of Commerce (call for details).

This advice has been embraced by leaders in our community and the fruits of this labor are at hand. We are all anxious for April 19th when delegates will present the Chisago Lakes strategic plan and roadmap for becoming America's Best Community (ABC) at the ABC final competition in Denver, CO. The work done is nothing short of herculean and the plan is truly inspiring! We are at a historic moment when 5 previously distinct communities have joined together, for mutual benefit, to form a collaborative union. The ABC team has set the stage for a new beginning with key infrastructure recommendations to our physical and natural assets. And winning the competition would give us a wonderful financial boost toward building out those improvement projects. But the true prize is the positive energy of the people from 5 small towns concentrated in a unified effort. No amount of money can compensate for the power of this energy and no absence of money can limit this energy. We as a community have lit a spark that is ours to own. We have already won - the mission, the path and the energy of our people is the enduring wealth that will benefit our community. Lets win that money, but recognize that April 19th is the beginning, not the end of our story.

This is our story and as business leaders in the community, it begins with us. We hold disproportionate influence and responsibility to keep this fire going. We can't control very much in this world, but I can control my thoughts, my actions and most importantly my attitude. How I embrace this opportunity will matter. How you embrace this opportunity will matter. How we embrace this opportunity and accept the responsibility to lead at this time will matter. Lets tell our story in our own words.

Go Chisago Lakes!

We can help get your information out to the community! Share your events/happenings with us.

- > Visit the new community website www.ChisagoLakes.org to share an event on the calendar. Go to 'Submit an Event' under our Events tab.
- > Email the Chamber at clacc@frontiernet.net to include your information in our weekly newsflash or monthly newsletter.



M-F 8 AM-5 PM

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St. Bridget of Sweden

All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry

Lent Fish Fry - Friday, 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

651-257-2474

Welcome New Members!

AEROTEK HEATING. A/C & DUCT CLEANING 34345 Quinton Ave, Chisago City www.AerotekHVAC.com 651-493-8324

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www.GatewaySignCo.com 651-462-8100

> **RODEWAY INN**(NEW NAME) 11490 Lake Lane, Chisago City

www.RodewayInnMN.com 651-257-8088

NORTHWOODS ROASTERIE

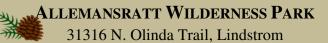


12710 N. First Ave. Lindstrom

Coffee and Pie Night

Every Friday Night! 5-9pm

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



Friends of Allemansrätt Wilderness Park Meeting, Tuesday, April 25 7pm at the Chamber Office 30525 Linden St, Lindstrom If you have any questions call Rich at 651-257-9380.

CHISAGO GRANDSTAY HOTEL & SUITES

29579 Sportsman Drive, Chisago City www.facebook.com/chisagograndstay 651-213-3400

APRIL SPECIAL!

Enjoy a fun filled getaway close to home! Any room type for \$79.99 - based on availability.



PICKET FENCE GALS SALE

APRIL 5-9

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, repurposed items, textiles and more! Downtown Lindstrom.

www.PicketFenceGals.net

651-334-1444

REVII/GUS GULBRANSON 651-246-9027

http://672127.myrevii.com/



'THE THYROID SECRET' Monday, April 3 7pm Weekly meetings: Mondays 7pm

Revii is a company whose goal is to remove toxins from your life and replace them with products that help improve quality of life.

We are starting a 9-week series 'The Thyroid Secret'. Hear about thyroid issues and how to support thyroid health. On Monday, April 3, Karen Stene Finch, CNHP (certified natural health professional), CNC (Certified Nutritional Consultant) and Herbalist will be on hand to answer any health questions. At the Chisago Lakes Chamber office 30525 Linden St. Lindstrom. Free and open to the public. Questions? Call Gus Gulbranson 651-246-9027



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"How to Stay Focused on Goals" Thursday, April 20 8-9am

Tanya Paine, Revant LLC
Marlys Dunne, MultiSource Manufacturing

Discuss the topic of the month 'How to Stay Focused on Goals', facilitated by **Tanya Paine**, & **Marlys Dunne** Light refreshments, RSVP's appreciated but not required. Chisago Lakes Chamber, 30525 Linden St. Lindstrom.

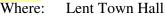
March Summary:

Practical Steps to Manage a Difficult Employee



CHISAGO LAKES LIONS

'Cadillac Dinner' 🬉



33155 Hemingway Ave, Stacy

When: **Saturday, April 22, 2017**Time: Social Hour 5:00-7:00 pm

Dinner: 7:00 pm Program: 8:00-10:00pm Ticket Price: \$150 per couple

Entrée Choice: Prime Rib or Cornish Game Hen

For Reservations call:

 Steve Levey
 651-257-2966

 Gary Gerke
 651-257-5679

 Jeff Vitali
 651-253-8416

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

"Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending."

~Maria Robinson~



doTERRA Essential Oils

'ALLERGY SEASON'
Tuesday, April 11 6:30pm

If you have, or know someone who has seasonal allergies, don't miss this class. Lemon, lavender and peppermint can help! And there's a new product in capsule form to make life easier! Come learn all about it. More information: Trudy Lodien, 651-491-0962. Class is held at the Chamber office 30525 Linden St, Lindstrom.

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

Want to be a vendor or know someone who should? Find more info and the application at <u>chisagocityfarmersmarket.com</u>. 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.



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March 2nd Board Meeting Highlights

Secretary's Report:

February minutes reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report reviewed and accepted.

Committee Reports:

ABC Team

Going into the final few weeks, working on a place to house the funds moving forward. Chamber will remain a contact for ABC questions. Working on setting up a live stream event for the awards announcement on April 19.

Home and Business Expo

Taking place this weekend, ABC information will be available at the chamber booth. About the same number of booths as last year, entertainment this year as well as demos; barn quilt and chalk painting.

Triathlon

Had a meeting with DuTriRun to discuss their donation to the Chamber for support and volunteers. They base the amount on the number of volunteers and hours volunteered. Discussed an after party with beer and activities; we would need a committee to head this up.

New Business:

Office Hours: Wendy and Laurie will both be gone a few days. Will see if a volunteer can come in for a few hours during those days.

Old Business:

Vision Retreat

May 4th will be an extended Board Meeting/Vision Retreat.



ACRES FOR LIFE

ACRES
11720 256th St, Chisago City
651-257-4159 AcresForLife.org

ARE YOU READY TO SHINE FROM WITHIN?

Saturday, April 8 9:30am-4pm

Join us as we journey down the path of self-discovery with the amazing horse! Cost is \$125 (lunch provided). Email Heather at info@acresforlife.org for more information or to register.

CHISAGO COUNTY TECHNOLOGY TRAINING Opportunities for Business

Cloud Computing Migrating Your Business to the Cloud

Tuesday, April 4 8-9am North Branch Library 6355 379th Street

We will look at the hurdles for entry, compare costs and look at the different levels of Cloud Computing. RSVP to Kris@NorthBranchChamber.com

The North Branch Area Chamber will be continuing the FREE technology training classes that were started last year by the Chisago County Blandin Committee. Our goal is to help area businesses learn or improve their marketing and communication skills through technology. Open to all Chisago County businesses.



First United Methodist Church

30828 Irene Ave, Lindstrom 651.257.4306 www.LindstromMethodist.org



EASTER CARNIVAL

Saturday, April 8 10-11:30am



Children will enjoy Games, Arts & Crafts, Face Painting, Cake Walk, and Special **Prizes** Entertainment! Bring your camera for great photo ops! Event is free to the public. A free will offering will be taken. Flyer





LAKES CENTER FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

20 Lake Street N, Suite 103, Forest Lake 651-464-3685 www.LC4YF.org

OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, April 19 4-6pm

Let the Celebration begin! Please join Lakes Center for Youth & Families (formerly Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau) as we celebrate our new location. There will be tours of our new home and refreshments.







North Branch 38844 14th Ave. 651-277-1000 **Chisago City** 29610 Gateway Ave. 651-257-2111

March Membership Luncheon



March luncheon was held at **Chisago Lakes Library**. **Meredees Bistro** catered and **Northwoods Roasterie** provided coffee. Thank you to **Grand Casino Hinckley** for raffle prizes.

Chamber announcements: The Home and Business Expo went well. Thank you to all who participated. About 1500 people attended and 80 groups showcased their businesses and organizations. Join the facebook competition to help promote the new community tourism website; chisagolakes.org. Thank you to Wild Mountain for providing prizes for the winners. The 3rd Thursday Morning Mentoring group is going well. Marlys Dunne and Tanya Paine will facilitate the topic of Managing a Difficult Team Member on March 16. The recap from February is on the Chamber website calendar. April 13th Luncheon will be hosted by and at Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation and will be a final ABC competition update with information on the live stream awards event held on April 19th. Plan to attend a conversation on Climate Change and Stewardship with Paul Douglas and Mitch Hescox on Monday, March 27th, 7pm at the CLHS PAC. New Chamber members are A-Pro Pool and Spa new owner, Chad Hansen.

Member announcements: Loretta Anderson, Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation announced the upcoming Women's Health Fair Conference that will be held two Thursdays in March. Jerry Erickson, Friends of the Library invited people to attend a meeting around the future of the library and shared upcoming library events. Karl Kornowski, St. Bridget of Sweden updated the group on how the church is looking to help people in need, the upcoming parking lot renovation and the great opportunity to engage visitors to attend the weekly Friday fish fry.

Guest speakers: Darlene Shafer, Marketing Director of Housing-Ecumen Parmly LifePointes and Kim Rathsack, Wellness Director-Vitalize! Wellness Center at Parmly. Darlene shared the organization's history and information about current services and amenities. Kim highlighted assets at Vitalize and tips on how to work with the aging population.

Some simple things to do when working with older customers: speak slower and louder and be patient. Take time to learn names and personalize conversations as you help customers seek out what they need. The older population is using social media so when marketing to them use language that they understand and type large enough for them to read. Parmly does a great job of bussing residents into the community to shop and use services so watch for the bus or connect with Parmly to have your business added as a stop.

CHISAGO CITY ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

'Baseball Caps & Bonnets'
Saturday, April 8th 2pm at Paradise Park

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



the local food shelf. Also collecting items for 'Birthday Boxes'-cake mix, frosting, 24 cupcake liners, sprinkles, candles, birthday napkins, birthday plates and a \$5-\$10 small gift for a child.



CHISAGO LAKES LIBRARY

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

APRIL EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY!

- > 'Used Book Sale' April 20-22 Swing on by the library for the Chisago Lakes Friends' gently used book sale. We have books for all kinds of readers, including those who enjoy the classics, nonfiction and bestsellers.
- > Paws to Read' Saturday, April 22 10am-12pm Children can have one-on-one sessions reading to a real reading therapy dog! This is a great way for young readers to gain confidence in reading abilities while having fun. Sessions with Scout, the reading therapy dog, are on a first come, first served basis.



Matthew Struve DDS · Priya Shaffer DDS

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



Lobby

11493 Lake Lane Chisago City, MN 55013 Phone: 651-257-9074 www.USBank.com

8:30am-5pm

8:30am-5pm

9am-12pm

Monday-Thursday Friday Saturday <u>Drive-Up</u> 8:30am-5pm 8:30am-6pm 9am-12pm



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PARMLY LIFEPOINTES

28210 Old Towne Road, Chisago City

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

> 'Wood Burning Workshop' Thursday, April 6, 5-7pm David Freemore, a local artist specializing in wood burning art will bring his beautiful art here. You will learn the skills needed to create this unique style of art. Each participant will bring home a piece of wood burned art after the class. \$20/Member, \$30/Non Member

> 'Paint Party' Thursday, April 13 5-7:30pm Paint a beautiful sunflower on a 16x20 canvas. All materials included. For all skill levels. \$15/Members, \$20/Non Member

> 'Tap Dance' 6 Week Session

Thursdays: April 6, 13, 20 May 4, 11, 18 6-7pm

This is a beginner class for all skill levels. Tap classes are designed to develop rhythm, style and sound. Students will learn a variety of tap exercises that focus on building flexibility and coordination of the knees and ankles. Learn a new skill or practice something you have done before in this fun class! Cost: \$20/Members, \$30/Non Members

Chisago County Historical Society

13112 3rd Ave N, Lindstrom 651-257-5310

www.ChisagoCountyHistory.org



CHISAGO COUNTY'S NATIVE AMERICANS Saturday, April 8 2pm Amador Town Hall, Almelund

Bruce White, award winning author will be our guest speaker for our upcoming 75th Annual Membership Meeting. This is also our Volunteer Recognition Event and Pie & Ice Cream social. Free and open to the public. Bring your children and/or grand children for a history lesson about local culture prior to the European settlement.

CCHS Research Library Hours: Tuesdays & Fridays 12-4pm. Call to schedule an appointment outside of these times.



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

PAINT & SIP! 'LIBERATE YOUR RIGHT BRAIN' PAINTING PARTY SUNDAY, APRIL 9 12-3PM

An afternoon of fun and relaxation among Winehaven's vineyards and wine barrels. Sip your favorite wines and enjoy step-by-step instruction with local artist Linda French. Leave with a one-of-a-kind creation and a new found talent you'll want to explore!

Bring a spirit of adventure to try something new. We provide all the supplies and clean-up afterwards. No experience necessary! The cost is \$25.00 per person and reservations required by calling Linda at (651) 343-9691 or pre-register online at the <u>JLaurene "Liberate The Right Brain" painting class on Facebook</u>. Click on the link, then go to the bottom of the screen and click "pay with a debit or credit card."

FAMILY PATHWAYS

10625 Railroad Ave, Chisago City www.FamilyPathways.org



BARN BASH

Thursday, May 18 5:30pm Bloom Lake Barn, 17147 Bloom Lake Road, Shafer

Experience a true Family Pathways style celebration with dinner, auction, live music, games and more! All proceeds benefit our Hunger Relief, Aging, Youth and Refuge Network domestic violence services. Early bird registration is now open: \$50 until May 1/\$60 after May 1. 651-674-8040.



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. Conference price of \$399 includes 2 nights stay at the casino hotel. Full Details Here

Need directions to your financial destination?



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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 session on **April 4 6:30pm** at Lakeside Elementary Gymnasium. For additional information, visit ChisagoLakes.K12.MN.US

DESIGNERS SALON SPA

11495 Brink Ave, Chisago City 651-257-9477



www.DesignersSalonSpa.net

A 'Smooth' Special through April 30th

Make a *smooth* entrance to summer with personalized and professional waxing services.

Designers SalonSpa is offering bikini or Brazilian wax services at 50% off with any regularly priced brow waxing. Plus, to keep things smooth well into the summer, re-book your next Brazilian or bikini wax and get 25% off that service. These expertise services are provided by Tess, Designers' experienced body waxing specialist and es theticia n. Tess joined Designers on the heels of her work at Wax in the City in the Twin Cities.

Call today to schedule your appointment! Mention this ad to reserve your discount. Regular pricing for waxing services: Brow - \$18 Bikini - \$40 Brazilian - \$65



CHISAGO LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FAITH COMMUNITY MUSICAL CONCERT! Sunday, April 30 3pm

We welcome you to another Grand Piano Fund Raiser featuring the talents of our local Community Churches. There will be musical instruments, vocal solos, ensembles and more! A free-will offering will go toward the continued fundraising for a Grand Piano for our sanctuary. Refreshments served following the concert. If you like to donate to the fundraiser, a check may be written and mailed to: Chisago Lake Ev. Lutheran Church, Attn: Grand Piano Fund Raiser, PO Box 175, Center City, MN 55012. Questions, call 651-257-6300.

COUNTRY BED & BREAKFAST

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



Spring Tea

FRIDAY, APRIL 14 & SATURDAY, APRIL 15
TWO SERVING TIMES EACH DAY: 1:00pm & 3:00pm

Spring has sprung! Come and enjoy a Spring-Time Tea and homemade desserts at Country B&B just north of Shafer. The menu includes: Rhubarb Cake with Whipped Cream, Coconut-Rhubarb Macaroons, Blueberry Scones with Lemon Curd. 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).

SWING DANCE Saturday, April 22 5-9:30pm Lindstrom Community Center

4:30 pm Doors Open

5:00 pm Music by Jeremiah Peer

6:00 pm Swing Instruction by Tracy Heinze

6:30 pm Music by Retro Swing

Food and beer available for purchase from Deutschland Meats. Free Admission. Sponsored by Lindstrom Park Commission and Security Victor Agency.





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MN Chamber Update

Advance your priorities in Washington By Doug Loon

Minnesota businesses have their hands full navigating the global economy and dealing with circumstances out of their control. That's why the Minnesota Chamber and our local chamber partners work every day at the Legislature to bring certainty to rules and regulations and to advance policies to strengthen the business environment.

Though our primary focus is at the State Capitol, we keep our eyes peeled on the nation's capital, too. Actions there can have an equally significant impact on everyday business operations. We invite you to join the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Executives and business leaders June 14-16 in Washington D.C., to meet firsthand with federal lawmakers.

President Trump promised sweeping actions as the nation's new chief executive, and he's wasting no time His administration is gaining more and more of attention of Minnesota businesses. Look at a sampling of headlines.

"Mexican border tax could throttle Minnesota farmers." "Some Minnesota businesses concerned with immigration order." "NAFTA, Minnesota and what comes next?" "Minnesota regulators feel caught in middle as Feds pare rules." "Minnesota health care groups don't back GOP replacement bill."

The national dynamics have changed significantly as the Trump administration and Congress give greater visibility to

critical business issues ranging from tax reform, trade and immigration to health care, the regulatory environment and infrastructure investment. The debate and uncertainty around issues like these gives some urgency to business advocacy in Washington. Organizations like the U.S. Chamber and National Assoc. of Manufacturers can't do this on their own. They need grassroots muscle that comes from when you talk with our congressional delegation.

We had a hugely successful Business Day at the Capitol. With more than 600 business leaders from across the state joining together in St. Paul to meet with their elected officials, the statewide business community's agenda before the Legislature received a big boost.

The next stop is our annual trip to Washington, D.C. We look forward to another strong showing of Minnesota business leaders. As a business leader, employer and constituent, you are in a distinctive position to advise lawmakers on decisions that will help keep Minnesota businesses strong and help grow our state's economy.

Details are being filled in, but our Washington agenda will include meetings with key administration and agency leaders plus appointments with the Minnesota congressional delegation. We will coordinate a "Minnesota dinner" for our attendees. If you are interested in receiving the agenda and registration information, please contact Jennifer Byers at ibyers@mnchamber.com.

Together we will make an impact and advance policies to make Minnesota ready for the future.

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



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce The Voice of Business

