

From the Desk of the CEO

- Debora K. Boelz



Greeting from the desk of the CEO!

I hope you have been enjoying a wonderful summer filled with lots of family and fun! As busy as we get, we need to remember to recharge our batteries during these long summer days.

Summer may seem to be a slower time at the Chamber with fewer committee meetings and networking events, but in reality, it is not. We shift to a seasonal work load. For the Arts & Crafts Fair and Golf Outing to run smoothly, lots of behind the scenes work is done. As with any well organized event, it should appear effortless to the participants. Your Chamber staff strives to make both these events run like clockwork!

This is the time of year that I shift into the next calendar year. The Chamber Board will approve the 2011 – 2012 Business Plan at the August board meeting. From that, the 2012 operating budget is drafted. I love budgeting! It makes my heart sing when a column of numbers adds up and I am within a minimal percentage of estimated numbers from the previous year. Having more income to budget would be nice, but we will live within our means!

*August is also the time of year that we start looking for new members to serve on the Board of Directors. The board chair, Bridget Britz, **Horizon Health**, will be appointing a Nominating Committee this month that will take a look at the composition of the board as of January 1st and determine what sectors of the membership are not represented. Board members serve a 3 year term, renewable for one additional term. Members have the option of petitioning names to the ballot prior to final voting by the membership in October. If called upon to serve, I sincerely hope you will say yes!*

We are filling dates for the final quarter of this calendar year. Educational programming will include Business Insights on October 5th and Business Gives on November 9th. Both are free programs.

Business Insights will feature John Rash addressing the next generation of consumers of our goods and services. John is a professor at the University of Minnesota teaching mass media and political science. He serves on the editorial board for the Star Tribune and can be heard on WCCO Radio with his morning program, the Rash Report. The Rash Report explores the intersection of media, culture, society and politics.

Business Gives in November is a program of the MN Chamber of Commerce. Business Gives is presented in a workbook format to assist businesses in formulating an annual giving program. As any business owner will tell you, on an average week, 5 – 10 donation requests are received. Businesses simply can not give to everything. Having a plan in place helps to ease the times when the answer is no and to focus support to programs and issues that are important to you and/or your employees.

In closing, enjoy the summer! Fall will be nipping at our noses before we know it!

Friday Morning Coffee

Friday, August 19

7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Morrison County United Way

(in the Historic Courtroom - upstairs)

107 2 St SE., Little Falls

Kick off your weekend by joining us for a cup or two of coffee while making business connections. All Chamber members and their employees are invited to attend. Friday Morning Coffees are the third Friday of each month from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. Introductions are made around the room starting at 8:15 a.m. A new component has been added to Friday Morning Coffee. After announcements, up to 4 people will have the opportunity to give a 30 second testimonial.

Sponsored by:



Please note that we take a summer vacation from **Business After Hours** for the months of June, July and August. We will resume regularly scheduled Business After Hours in September

August Guests on Meet Me @ The Chamber

Watch Meet Me @ The Chamber every Friday at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. on channel 6 in Little Falls. August guests are *Luci*

Prosapio, **Morrison County United Way** and *Cindy Brey*, **SweetWater Resort**. The Employee of the Month is *Ashley Zimmerman*, **Coborn's Superstore**.

The Meet Me @ the Chamber programming is an added value to your Chamber membership. Each month 2 members are highlighted in a 10 minute segment free of charge! Completing the program is an interview with the Employee of the Month. If you are interested in this FREE opportunity to promote your business to the greater community, please contact Deb.



Business Community invited to Yellow Ribbon Network Informational Meeting

Families of deployed military personnel now have another option to assist them in their daily living challenges. The Yellow Ribbon Network (YRN) has been formed in Morrison County to be a point of contact for families to seek extra help with a variety of situations.

Jodi Weaver, owner of the Gumdrop Tree, is the person organizing the business community component of the Yellow Ribbon Network. A meeting for businesses in Morrison County to learn more about this program is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9th at 12:00 p.m. at the Cass Gilbert Depot. Bring a bag lunch; beverages will be provided.

The goal of the YRN is to establish and sustain a comprehensive support network that connects and coordinates agencies, organizations and resources for the purpose of meeting the needs of service members, military families and employers across the state of Minnesota.

Does your business have resources that you would be willing to donate? Sharpening a child's ice skates, replacing a door lock or other minor home repairs, or hauling a broken wash machine to the landfill is just the beginning of a list of potential needs that our military families may have.

Other sectors of the community that are joining the Yellow Ribbon Network include K-12 education, public safety, faith based organizations, veteran and civic organizations, social services and medical providers.

Please RSVP to Deb at the Chamber at 632-5155 or <http://dboelz@littlefallsmnchamber.com> by August 8th.

Congratulations to our August Employee of the Month

Ashley Zimmerman, *Coborn's Superstore*



Pictured: *Greg Zylka, Coborn's Superstore; Ashley Zimmerman, Coborn's Superstore; Denise Vogl, Outstanding Service Committee, Morrison County Motor Vehicle*

Ashley Zimmerman has been a cashier at **Coborn's Superstore** for four years. Her supervisor, *Greg Zylka* states "Ashley always has a great attitude and a smile on her face. We consistently receive positive comments on her great customer service."

Ashley enjoys rollerblading, painting, drawing, swimming canoeing, gardening and hanging out with friends and family. She also enjoys Sudoku puzzles.



LindyLand 2011-12!

Are you looking for a cost effective, locally held, multifaceted training program for yourself or an employee? If you are, the Chamber of Commerce has just the program for you! **Leadership LindyLand**: dynamic development of community leaders.

Leadership LindyLand is an eight month program created to bring community people together to enhance their knowledge and develop leadership skills that will be beneficial on both a personal and professional level.

There are 2 focus areas with Leadership LindyLand. Participants will be challenged to improve their interpersonal skills and refine their management style through a series of exercises and speakers. Secondly, sectors of the community that contribute to the quality life we enjoy will be highlighted through tours and presentations with the end result being a better understanding of how the various components blend together to create the community in which we live, work and grow.

This program is open to all sectors of the population. Business owners as well as employees will benefit from the training. To obtain registration materials or for more information visit our website at <http://www.littlefallsmnchamber.com/> or contact Gina at the Chamber by calling 632.5155 or emailing ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com. Cost to participate is \$495 for Chamber members and \$595 for non-members. **Early Bird** Registration Deadline August 31, 2011.

Session Sponsorships are now available. Leadership LindyLand provides a marketing opportunity for your business by being a session sponsor. Session sponsorship is \$150 and includes the opportunity for you to present your business to the Leadership LindyLand participants, your logo will be included on the daily schedules and on the Chamber website, recognition in the Chamber newsletter, listing in the LindyLand Presenters Guide and the Chamber Annual Report.

For more information on session sponsorship contact Gina at the Chamber (320) 632-5155 or ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com

Employee of the Month Nominations

Outstanding service is something that should be rewarded. If you have been on the receiving end of outstanding service from a Chamber member employee, nominate that person for Employee of the Month. Nominating is easy, visit our website at <http://www.littlefallsmnchamber.com/> and click on the nomination link to download the nomination form or email Gina at ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com or call the Chamber at 320-632-5155.

The Chamber would like to thank **Silker Studio** for taking a complimentary photo of the Employee of the Month winners each month for the past 27 years.

This has totaled more than 312 photos over the years. A big thank you to **Silker Studio!**

Thank you to the following members for renewing their investment in the Chamber for the fiscal year 2011-2012, since our last newsletter. We appreciate you!

Allied Waste / Republic Services	Alverna Apartments
Anderson, Doug	Atomic Learning
Bieganeck Insurance Agency	Bobick Concessions
BonJos	City of Little Falls
Central Minnesota Electric	Coborn's Superstore
Coborn's Liquor	CTC Consolidated
Diamond Willow Assisted Living	Telecommunications
Edina Realty	Falls Ballroom
Family Medical Center	First Class Auto Glass
Fitness Connection	Friends of Crane Meadows
Grand Casino Mille Lacs	Hanowski, Dan Properties
Head First Salon & Day Spa	Lind Realty Showcase
Little Falls Country Club	Properties
Little Falls Orthopedics	Little Falls Plumbing &
Little Falls Radio	Heating
Minnesota Copy Systems	Minnesota Flying Aces
Morrison County Agricultural Society	NAPA Central Minnesota
Nextera Communications	Premier Financial Resources
Randall Lakes Area Clinic	Randall State Insurance
St. Gabriel's Hospital	Taco John's
Thielen Appliance	US Bank
Wenzel, Steve	



Arts & Crafts Fair Volunteers Needed

Be part of the Arts & Crafts Fair festivities September 10 & 11 by being a block host. Block hosts greet and welcome crafters to Little Falls, ensure that crafters are comfortable with their surroundings and ready to sell their merchandise.

Block hosts are an essential part of the Little Falls Arts & Crafts Fair and are well received by our hundreds of vendors. Volunteers are needed starting Thursday, September 8 to mark booth spaces. If you only have a few hours or the whole weekend to help, contact Gina at the Chamber, (320) 632-5155, for more information.

Your 2011 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

2009-2011

Bridget Britz

2011 Chair of the Board

Horizon Health

Paul Kapsner

Royalton Lumber

Julie Zupko

2011 Vice Chair of the Board

Bieganeck Insurance Agency

Randall State Insurance

2010-2012

Jim Birchem

St. Otto's Care Center

Lori Kush

Kush State Farm Insurance

Barb Lyons

Mid Minnesota Federal

Credit Union

Roxanne Matsen

Larson Abstract Co, Inc.

2011-2013

Kyle Hoggarth

Edward Jones Investments

Doug Veillette

2011 Past Chair of the Board

Dairy Queen

Jodi Weaver

The Gumdrop Tree

Tom West

Morrison County Record

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LINDY GREETER MEMBER VISITS

Thank you for your membership. Photos are from Member Visits made July 19, 2011. Greeters present the member with a Chamber mug filled with sweets, and thank them for their support of the Chamber and community.



Crane Meadows Wildlife Refuge

Lindy Greeter *Lori Kush*, **Kush State Farm Insurance**, middle, with *Paul Soler*, Manager; *Anne Sittauer*, Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge Manager; *Marilyn Emerson*, **Friends of Crane Meadows**; *Ron Beam*, Maintenance & Private Lands of Crane Meadows. **Crane Meadows** encourages you to get your kids back into nature and visit the Refuge. Stop in, call or click for more information.

School groups can use the Refuge as a learning center. There is a paved recreational trail that can be used by the public and is groomed in the winter.



Initiative Foundation

Lindy Greeter *Laurie Whitlow*, **PrimeLending**, middle, with *Cathy Hartle*, Senior Program Manager and *Matt Kilian*, VP for External Relations at the Initiative Foundation. The Initiative Foundation is celebrating their 25th Anniversary. Strengthening the rural community in central Minnesota through economic and community development.



Royalton Lumber

Lindy Greeter *Lori Kush*, **Kush State Farm Insurance**, with owner *Paul Kapsner* of **Royalton Lumber**. **Royalton Lumber** offers a full line of quality building materials and they deliver anywhere in the local area.



Treasure City

Lindy Greeter *Laurie Whitlow*, **PrimeLending** with owner *Bob Janski*, **Treasure City** in Royalton. **Treasure City** has something for everyone!

Did your legislators represent your priorities?

By David C. Olson

There were some accomplishments during the 2011 Legislature. Many votes were cast during the regular session on issues critical to all businesses no matter their size, location or product. The Voting Record can be found at <http://www.mnchamber.com/action-center/elections-center/legislative-voting-records.cfm>.

The laws passed in St. Paul have considerable impact on the well-being of employers and employees alike. The economy continues to be challenging, and it is more important than ever for Minnesota to position itself to compete in the global marketplace.

The Minnesota Chamber and its 2,400 members advanced a multitude of issues important to the future of Minnesota's economy. Four priorities led our agenda in 2011:

- Resolve the state budget shortfall without a general fund tax increase.
- Enact alternative pathways for teacher licensure.
- Streamline the environmental review and permitting system.
- Remove the ban on consideration of additional nuclear and coal power.

Alternative licensure and environmental streamlining were accomplished during the regular session, and we'll continue to work on removing the energy bans in 2012. Overall, the statewide business community lobbies approximately 50 policies. Many of these initiatives are detailed in the Voting Record.

The report has two parts: a list of important roll-call votes and a description of and commentary on key business issues. Just as important as the final floor votes is how legislators work in committees and behind the scenes to advance the business agenda. The legislative scorecard highlights those efforts as well.

For additional information on legislators' voting records, contact Tom Hesse, vice president of government affairs, at these@mnchamber.com.

We encourage employers and employees to review this report, then contact your lawmakers to show your appreciation for their efforts and/or to share your concerns about their records. Paying attention to this year's committee work and voting records will help us promote our business initiatives in the 2012 legislative session and election.

David C. Olson is president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit the Web at www.mnchamber.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & CHAMBER MEETINGS

Chamber events and meetings are in bold. For an expanded list of community events visit our website at www.littlefallsmnchamber.com

August

1 ~ Chamber Golf Outing - Noon shotgun start - Little Falls Country Club

2 ~ Lindy Greeter Committee Meeting - Noon - Chamber of Commerce

2 ~ National Night Out - 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Little Falls Fire Department

3 ~ Little Falls Business Association – Noon - Depot

3 ~ Green Fair Folk Festival - 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. - St. Francis Convent

6 - Paint-A-Thon

6 ~ Children's Day - 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Lindbergh Historic Site

7 ~ GRAA Summer Concert - 3:00 p.m. - Maple Island Park

10 ~ Morrison County Historical Society 75th Anniversary Coffee Party - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Holy Family Church

11 ~ Chamber Board of Directors Meeting - 11:00 a.m. - Chamber of Commerce

11-14 ~ Morrison County Fair

12 ~ GRAA "Rock The Park" - 7:30 p.m. - Maple Island Park

13 ~ FAB Golf Tournament - Little Falls Country Club

16 ~ Friends of Linden Hill Member Annual Picnic

17-28 ~ Sister City visitors from France in Little Falls

18 ~ Membership Development Committee Meeting - 7:45 a.m. - Chamber of Commerce

19 ~ Friday Morning Coffee - 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. - Historic Courthouse *in the courtroom (upstairs)* Hosted by the Morrison County United Way

19 ~ Family Fun & Film Festival - 7:00 p.m. - Pine Grove Zoo

21 ~ GRAA Kids Arts in the Park – 3:00 p.m. - Maple Island Park

21 ~ Morrison County Historical Society 75th Anniversary Reception – Weyerhaeuser Museum

26 ~ Welcome New Teacher Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. - Chamber of Commerce



Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce

200 First Street NW

Little Falls, MN 56345

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