

Welcome 2012 New Board of Directors



At the December Board of Directors meeting, the newly elected board members were welcomed including left to right Julie Zupko, Bieganek Insurance and Randall State Insurance (2nd term); Chris Kruschek, ReMax Central Minnesota; Roxanne (Rocky) Thompson, Riitters & Thompson, PA; and Bridget Britz, Horizon Health (2nd term). Congratulations to all and thank you for your service to the Chamber of Commerce. The term of service for these seats is 2012 - 2014.

Chamber Annual Meeting

Thursday, February 23
 5:30 p.m. Social
 6:15 p.m. Dinner
 7:00 p.m. Program
 Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy. 27, Little Falls



Featured Entertainment: Glen Everhart, interactive musician and comedian

Glen Everhart is an accomplished musician with an incredible voice, but his musical and educational credentials aren't the only reason you will want to see him. Born and raised in Maplewood, MN, Glen started his musical life on the back yard swing set with songs from the radio. His singing career continued at church and then in choir in Middle and High School. After graduating from St. Cloud State in 1979 he became an elementary school music teacher in Cold Spring, MN. In 1987 Glen and his wife moved to the Twin Cities where Glen then provided music five nights a week at Metrodome Holiday Inn, followed by a ten year career with an acoustic duo with long time friend Ted Fyder creating "Fyder and Everhart". Glen now puts all his energy into creating the comedic, interactive, musical show he performs.

In addition to some outstanding entertainment, 2011 Chair of the Board, Bridget Britz, **Horizon Health**, will officially pass the gavel to 2012 Chair of the Board, Julie Zupko, **Bieganek Insurance and Randall State Insurance**. At this meeting we will be awarding our 2011 Small and Large Business of the Year and 2011 Volunteer of the Year recipients and acknowledging our 2011 Employees of the Month.

Individual tickets can be purchased for \$30 each.

If you would like to reserve your table or purchase tickets to the Chamber Annual Meeting, visit our website at <http://www.littlefallsmnchamber.com>, or contact Deb or Gina at the Chamber (320) 632-5155 or email to ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com. Remember we now accept Visa and MasterCard!

Thank you to our corporate sponsors:



From the Desk of the CEO

- Debora K. Boelz

Greeting from the desk of the CEO!



What a difference a year makes! As I reviewed my February 2011 newsletter column, it was filled with references to icy sidewalks, snow piles everywhere and a cold nip in the air. I don't miss the cold, but would enjoy a little more snow!

Please join me in welcoming Stacy Zeigler to the Chamber staff as the Office/Financial Coordinator. Yes, this is Stacy, formerly of Lost Lake Design. Stacy is introducing herself to the Chamber community in this newsletter. Having been part of the business community for many years, she needs little introduction to some of you. Stacy will be responsible for the accounting functions of the Chamber, the Outstanding Service Committee, the Arts & Crafts Fair vendors and the front office.

The Chamber-sponsored Legislative Update was well attended. Another opportunity to have direct contact with our elected officials is through Business Day at the Capitol, which will be Wednesday, March 14th. Party leaders in St. Paul will be on hand through this program sponsored by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. This day provides members from chambers from across the state the opportunity to converge on St. Paul to meet with their local elected officials, provide feedback to the MN Chamber lobbying staff and show support of legislation that impacts their business.

Attendance is usually around 800 people.

The event starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront at a cost of \$60 per person, excluding transportation. A continental breakfast with representatives from both parties giving their accomplishments to date and highlights on major legislation starts off the day. This is followed by an update on MN Chamber lobbying efforts. The noon luncheon will feature a speaker, followed by individual meeting with our local elected officials. We head for home again by 3:30 p.m.

If you are interested in attending Business Day at the Capitol, please let me know by March 2nd.

Come celebrate with us at the 123rd Annual Meeting of the Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, February 23rd! With 20 corporate sponsors, we are guaranteed a room full of people to network with, meet for the first time or touch base with again. Individual tickets are \$30. Contact the Chamber to RSVP your attendance.

For those Chamber members wanting more details regarding the work of the Chamber for its members and the greater community, the Business Plan luncheon will be held on Wednesday, March 21st at noon at the Depot. Cost for lunch will be \$15. Mark your calendar now, and watch for more details in March.

In closing, I would disappoint a few of you if I didn't share this information – we are 152 working days away from the 40th anniversary Little Falls Arts & Crafts Fair! Mark your calendar for September 8 & 9!

Membership has its benefits

Here is just one of many:

Networking Opportunities!

Before work, after work, at noon, Golf Outing, Sporting Clays, Annual Meeting and Business Plan Luncheon!

Something to fit everyone's schedule!

Recent Board Action

- ~ Approved the Chair's appointments to the standing committees
- ~ Approved the following ex officio appointments to the Board of Directors: City of Little Falls, Community Development of Morrison County, Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau and Morrison County.
- ~ Approved a motion from the Membership Development Committee for dues for FY 2012-2013.

Norwegian Home Guard Exchange

Tuesday, February 14
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
at Camp Ripley
Recreational Center

15000 Hwy. 115, Little Falls

LTC Todd Kubista invites you to the 39th annual Norwegian Home Guard Exchange Program reception. The Home Guard brings the hors d'oeuvres and beverages from Norway! This popular event is open to the first 50 Chamber members to RSVP. RSVP to Gina or Deb or by calling the Chamber of Commerce at (320) 632-5155.

Leadership LindyLand



Pictured: 2011-2012 LindyLand Participants taking part in the poverty simulation, December 2011. The January Leadership LindyLand session included a tour of the Swanville School, we heard from Morrison Chaplain, Gregg Valentine and we worked on individual leadership skills with Melanie Hartman from High Impact Training. A group community service project was also discussed for a portion of the afternoon.

Thank you to our session sponsor **LeBlanc's Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation**, day chair *Gregg LeBlanc*, **LeBlanc's Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation** and **Century 21 New Horizons Realty** for the use of their van.

February 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.

February guests are **Tim Poland**, *Oasis Central Minnesota* and **Dr. Ken Dodge**, *Falls Optical*.

The Meet Me @ The Chamber programming is an added value to your Chamber membership. Each month two 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.

If you are looking for David Olson's column from the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce it can be found at www.mnchamber.com.

Friday Morning Coffee

Friday, February 17

7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

at **Bank of the West**

65 E Broadway, Little Falls

Sponsored by:



After announcements at 8:15 am up to 4 people will have the opportunity to give a 30 second testimonial for another Chamber member business. Word of mouth is a powerful marketing tool!

Congratulation's to our February Employee of the Month

Joyce Pearson, *Coborn's Superstore*



Pictured left to right: *Tom Walberg*, Produce Manager; **Joyce Pearson**, and *Greg Zylka*, General Manager

Joyce has been employed at Coborn's Superstore for 33 years as a Produce Clerk. Her supervisor, Greg Zylka, states "Joyce is a very reliable 33 year employee. Joyce is very helpful with customers due to her product knowledge. Her familiarity with gluten free products is also a great plus for our store. Congratulations, Joyce."

Joyce states "I am honored to have been nominated for this award. During my employment, I have enjoyed all aspects of working in the produce department. I especially like coaching the younger, less experienced employees in our department. It gives me great pride to share my many years of experience with them. When the customer leaves our department satisfied, I feel good that I have done my job. I want to express my appreciation for the customer who nominated me." In her spare time Joyce enjoys spending time with her three daughters and four grandchildren, watching NASCAR, football and basketball. Congratulations, Joyce!

Lindy Greeter Visits

Lindy Greeters Lori Kush, **Kush State Farm Insurance**, Rosi Przybilla, **Marshik Insurance** and Laurie Whitlow, **PrimeLeading**, conducted visits to our members with changes to their businesses in January.



Kampa Gerbi and Associates

Pictured are Rosi Przybilla, **Marshik Agency**, Kampa Gerbi and Associates owners Mark Gerbi and Paula Kampa, Kasey Wright and Jacki Retka with Lindy Greeter Laurie Whitlow, **PrimeLending**. Kampa Gerbi and Associates is your traditional insurance agency. The name has changed, but our customer service is the same.



Linden Hill Historic Event Center

Pictured are Lindy Greeter Rosi Przybilla, **Marshik Insurance**, Sarah Fyten, Linden Hill, and Lori Kush, **Kush State Farm Insurance**. Linden Hill Historic Event Center offers meeting facilities for any functions and overnight stays. Please stop by to view the MN Homefront traveling exhibit currently on display through March 11th.

2012 Board of Directors

2010 - 2012

Jim Birchem

St. Otto's Care Center

Chris Kruschek

ReMax Central Minnesota

Lori Kush, *Secretary*

Kush State Farm Insurance

Roxanne Matsen

Vice Chair of the Board

Larson Abstract Co., Inc.

2011 - 2013

Kyle Hoggarth

Edward Jones Investments

Doug Veillette, *Treasurer*

Dairy Queen

Jodi Weaver

The Gumdrop Tree

Tom West

Morrison County Record

2012-2014

Bridget Britz

Immediate past chair

Horizon Health

Roxanne Thompson

Riitters & Thompson, PA

Julie Zupko

Chair of the Board

Biegane Insurance and

Randall State Insurance

Chamber Staff

Debora K. Boelz

President / CEO

dboelz@littlefallsmnchamber.com

Gina Vetter

Project & Volunteer Coordinator

ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com

Stacy Zeigler

Office / Financial Coordinator

stacy@littlefallsmnchamber.com

Business Plan Luncheon

Wednesday, March 21

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce

200 1 St NW, Little Falls

cost \$15 per person *(includes lunch)*

The Chamber's current Business Plan has an increased focus on communicating the mission and work of the Chamber to our members and the Chamber's impact on the greater community. Please join us for a detailed look at the programming completed by the Chamber in 2011, including a breakdown of the financial review. Please RSVP to the Chamber by Wednesday, March 14.

Lindy Greeter Visits

Thank you for your membership! Photos are from Member Visits made in January 2012. Lindy Greeters, **Brian Gapinski**, *Rural MN CEP* and **Roxanne Matsen**, *Larson Abstract Company Inc.*, presented the member with a Chamber mug filled with sweets and thanked the following members for their support of the Chamber and community.



Collection Bureau of Little Falls

Pictured are Bob, Dave and Mark Verkuilen with Lindy Greeter Brian Gapinski, **Rural MN CEP**. The Verkuilens recently celebrated 50 years of family ownership of the Collection Bureau of Little Falls. Bob founded and ran the agency for 44 years prior to retiring 6 years ago.

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
February 2012

- 4 ~ Habitat for Humanity Ice Fishing Contest, Noon, Mons
Lake
- 4 ~ Franciscan Sisters Soup Supper Fundraiser, 4:30 - 7:00
p.m., St. Francis Convent
- 5 ~ Our Lady of Lourdes Chicken Dinner, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00
p.m., Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
- 7 ~ **Lindy Greeter Committee Meeting**, Noon, Chamber of
Commerce
- 8 ~ **Leadership LindyLand Session**, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.,
Chamber of Commerce
- 9 ~ **Chamber Board of Directors**, 11:00 a.m., Chamber of
Commerce
- 10 ~ A Toast to Winter, 7:00 p.m. – midnight, Falls Ballroom
- 14 ~ Norwegian Home Guard Exchange, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.,
Camp Ripley
- 16 ~ **Membership Development Committee**, 7:45 a.m.,
Chamber of Commerce
- 17 ~ **Friday Morning Coffee**, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m., Bank of the
West
- 23 ~ **Chamber Annual Meeting**, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m., Falls
Ballroom

Welcome Stacy Zeigler!

Stacy grew up in Pipestone, MN, graduating in 1994. Interestingly, Little Falls Community High School, Principal Tim Bjorge was a teacher in Pipestone while she was in school. She was quite surprised to run into him when she moved to Little Falls. There have been a lot of other interesting connections to her hometown that have popped up over the years. After one year of college in Morris, she moved to Minneapolis and earned a degree in Apparel Design.

Stacy has spent most of her career life in the alterations and costuming businesses, locally and in Minneapolis. Stacy moved to Little Falls with her husband, Mark Christensen, in 2001 and they have a daughter in first grade. In February 2003, she opened Lost Lake Design and her eyes were opened wide by the many challenges of business ownership. Stacy was lucky enough to have her business grow rapidly despite the declining economy and as her business grew so did all of her non-sewing related skills. She has an insider's view of owning a small business, which makes her well suited for this position.

Stacy has also always been a huge fan of the Arts and Craft Fair stating "I love that I get to be part of making it great! I am very excited to begin this new position."

As the owner of Lost Lake Design, Stacy really enjoyed getting to know the community and networking within the Chamber. Stacy is an active member of our local Knit n Stitch group, volunteers regularly at Lindbergh Elementary and was recently elected to the Great River Arts Association Board of Directors.

Stacy is looking forward to being a behind the scenes supporter of the local business and arts community. "I want to be an active part in making the Little Falls Area the best it can be"!

Lindy Greeter Visits

Thank you for your membership! Photos are from Member Visits made in January 2012. Lindy Greeter, **Brian Gapinski**, *Rural MN CEP* and **Roxanne Matsen**, *Larson Abstract Company Inc.*, presented the member with a Chamber mug filled with sweets and thanked the following members for their support of the Chamber and community.



Anakkala, Berns & Co. PLLP

Pictured from left Tere Moehlenbrock, Jason Anakkala, Sara Manlick, Leah Staab and Lindy Greeter Brian Gapinski, **Rural MN CEP**. Anakkala Berns, CPA reminds us that tax season is here! Anakkala Berns specializes in individual, small business and real estate taxes. Payroll and accounting services are also available.



Bon Jos

Pictured are Lindy Greeter Roxanne Matsen, **Larson Abstract Company**, left, with Hilda and Julie from Bon Jos. Bon Jos is expecting their new spring and summer fashions in the coming weeks. Bon Jos also has 3 tanning beds and walk-ins are welcome!



Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
200 First Street NW
Little Falls, MN 56345
Proudly Serving Morrison County Since 1888