

From the Desk of the CEO

- Debora K. Boelz



Greeting from the desk of the CEO!

Membership renewal time is approaching. Watch your mailbox around June 3rd for your invitation to renew your membership with the Chamber. As the economy recovers, maintaining your membership with organizations like a Chamber of Commerce is more important than ever. *There is no increase in dues again this year* - which means there has been no increase since 2005 - making your Chamber membership a "heck of a deal".

A Chamber Membership makes a good gift! I certainly appreciate those members who place such a high value on their Chamber membership that they help others in the community enjoy the benefits of being part of the Chamber as well. As a donation to a non profit, it is not uncommon for another Chamber member business to pay the dues for these organizations. But why stop there? Is there a new or existing area business that you know of that would benefit from a Chamber membership? Why not invite them to a Chamber event and surprise them with a paid Chamber membership or offer to split the cost for the coming year?

The Chamber has a commitment to its members to provide value for dues paid. This is a two-way street. Members chose to take advantage of what is offered. ***FREE*** advertising through the Chamber is one of the easiest ways to get a return on your membership investment. The Chamber maintains a website with your contact information plus it has active links to member sites. Hot Deal listings are ***FREE***. Meet Me @ the Chamber is ***FREE*** (see below for details). Placement of your marketing materials in a pamphlet rack in the Chamber Office (Depot) is ***FREE***. Attending networking events is ***FREE*** and should be viewed as an investment in your business. People do business with people they know and trust.

When your membership renewal materials arrive, please write the check; continue to value the work of the Chamber not only for its members but for the greater community. Thank you!

Meet Me @ the Chamber has interview openings starting in July. The programs run on Friday's at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. on channel 6 in Little Falls for the entire month. The 10 minute program is a great way to showcase your business to the community. The program is filmed at the Central Minnesota Access Television studio located in the Great River Arts Association building. Let me know if you would like to book a spot. Two businesses are highlighted each month.

In closing, congratulations to Gina Vetter, Projects & Volunteer Coordinator for the Chamber of Commerce, as she assumes the Chairperson position for the Board of Directors for the United Way of Morrison County. This is a great example of sharing time and talent for the greater good of the community.

Friday Morning Coffee

Friday, June 17

7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

ReMax Central Minnesota

118 NE 11 St. Ste. 2, Little Falls

Kick off your weekend by joining us for a cup or two of coffee and a donut 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*

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.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Charter Communications

400 Sundial Dr.

Waite Park, MN 56387

1-888- GET CHARTER

<http://www.charter.com>

Telephone, internet, cable TV,
telecommunications
for business

Sweet M's Farm

Shannon Malzahn, *owner*

21134 Co. Hwy. 45

Osage, MN 56570

sweetmsfarm@gmail.com

<http://www.sweetmsfarm.com>

A fun family farm that specializes in producing and sourcing pasture-raised, all natural meat and dairy products that they deliver right to your home. Visit their food booth at the Little Falls Arts & Crafts Fair

Looking ahead . . .

Chamber Golf Outing

Monday, August 1, 2011

Little Falls Country Club

Noon Shotgun Start

Sporting Clays

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation

4:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

Little Falls Arts & Crafts Fair

Saturday, September 10

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 11

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Congratulation's to our June Employee of the Month Bruce Fogle, *Walmart*



Pictured: **Bruce Fogle, Walmart**

Bruce is the Department Manager for Walmart Garden / Seasonal Center. He has been employed at Walmart for 20 years. Manager, Craig Warren, states "Bruce has extensive knowledge and experience as it pertains to lawn and garden. His compassion for customer services makes him an asset to our store and community." Bruce states "I've always tried to help my customers find what they are looking for, even if it means sending them to another local business." Bruce and his wife, Mary, have two daughters and a son-in-law. He enjoys hunting, fishing, gardening and traveling.

Recent board action for May

~ Approved an additional \$1,000 donation for the Camp Ripley State Veteran's Trail Study.

~ Approved a request from the Friends of Dewey Radke House to display the miniature train caboose in the Cass Gilbert Depot for an undetermined length of time.

Start Planning for Leadership 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 web-site at <http://www.littlefallsmnchamber.com/> or contact Gina at the Chamber Office, by calling 632.5155 or e-mailing ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com. Cost to participate is \$495 for Chamber members and \$595 for non-members. **Early Bird** Registration Deadline August 31, 2011.



Pictured: 2009 - 2010 LindyLand Participants Touring Precision Tool Technologies

Chamber Golf Outing

**Monday, August 1, 2011
Little Falls Country Club**

1 Edgewater Dr., Little Falls

Plans are now underway for the 22nd annual Chamber Golf Outing. This scramble format Golf Outing accommodates golfers of all skill levels. Take advantage of the Early Bird discount by getting your team or individual registration in before June 30. Prior to June 30 cost is \$75 per golfer. After June 30, cost is \$85 per golfer. Included with your registration fee is 18 holes of golf, cart, boxed lunch, dinner, 2 beverages, prizes, networking and a day of fun!

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Hole sponsorship is \$75 per hole and includes signage at the Golf Outing event, acknowledgement in event materials, listing on the Chamber website, recognition in the Chamber newsletter, name recognition to over 150 potential new customers, recognition in the Chamber's Annual Report and much more.

Corporate sponsorships are available. For \$500 you can register your team and receive logo and name recognition for this event. Become a Corporate Sponsor and receive the following: Foursome in the Golf Outing, 8 drink tickets, 4 boxed lunches, 4 dinners, carts, logo inclusion on event materials, logo inclusion on Chamber website, acknowledgement the day of the event, recognition in the Chamber newsletter, professionally designed banner with your logo included, inclusion in the Chamber Annual Report and the exposure of your business name and logo to over 300 Chamber members.

If you are not a golfer but would like to be part of the festivities, join us for dinner. Cost is only \$10 for dinner.

If you would like to register for golf, dinner, or become a sponsor visit our web-site at <http://www.littlefallsmnchamber.com/>. If you would like more information about the Chamber Golf Outing contact either Deb or Gina at the Chamber by calling 320.632.5155 or e-mailing Gina at ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com.



*Pictured 2010 Corporate Sponsor team
Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union*

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

Chamber Staff

Debora K. Boelz,

President/CEO

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Rachel Czech,

Financial Coordinator

rachelc@littlefallsmnchamber.com

Sylvia Ryden,

Office Coordinator

sylviar@littlefallsmnchamber.com

Gina Vetter,

Projects & Volunteer Coordinator

ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com

LINDY GREETER MEMBER VISITS

Thank you for your membership. Photos are from Member Visits made May 24, 2011. Greeters present the member with a Chamber mug filled with sweets, and thank them for their support of the Chamber and community.



CentraSota

Lindy Greeters *Jon Vetter, Pine Country Bank*, left, and *Jocelyn Majerus, BW Insurance*, far right, with *Ken Trettel, Jordan Przybilla* and Manager, *Lon Johnson*. **CentraSota** offers a full line of feed supplies for their farmer members and pet owner non-members.



Meyer Teleservices

Lindy Greeters *Jocelyn Majerus, BW Insurance*, left and *Tom Scherling, Century 21 New Horizons Realty*, far right, with *Kelly Weiss, Jessie Dunn* and Supervisor *Stacy Kronbeck*. **Meyer Teleservices** provides Democratic fundraising, survey and subscription telecommunication services.



Cygneture Title & Abstract

Lindy Greeters *Jon Vetter, Pine Country Bank* left and *Tom Scherling, Century 21 New Horizons Realty* far right, with Manager *Bonnie Lampert*. **Cygneture Title & Abstract** offers a full line of real estate title and closing services.



West Side Discount Liquor

Lindy Greeters *Jon Vetter, Pine Country Bank*, left and *Tom Scherling, Century 21 New Horizons Realty* far right, with *Kay Carlson, Bev Kempenich* and *Troy Bellefeuille*. **West Side Discount Liquor** would like you to try their new Classic Margarita by Mike's (Hard Lemonade). There's a **West Side Discount Liquor** near you.

Call for Comprehensive Federal Immigration Reform

By David C. Olson

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The federal government is failing Minnesota by not adopting comprehensive federal immigration reform. The resounding message was delivered at a series of forums conducted earlier this year by the Business Immigration Council, of which the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce is a leading member.

Immigrants contribute broadly to Minnesota from their role in the social fabric of our communities to being a source of new business starts. Especially important, immigrants are a vital ingredient in the workforce today and in the future. Yet their potential is not being fully realized due to primarily to the lack of comprehensive federal immigration reform.

Frustrated by the federal inaction, many state and local governments have become involved. The result, unfortunately, is a patchwork of proposals, making a national system almost impossible. Employers increasingly report that they spend inordinate time and resources recruiting and determining if immigrants are authorized to work in this country.

Seven forums were conducted and made possible, in part, by the Minnesota Funders Collaborative, which is comprised of the Minneapolis Foundation and other organizations. The audiences were a blend of local business owners, teachers, religious leaders, labor leaders, farmers and government representatives.

Though they represented diverse backgrounds, participants were aligned that comprehensive reform must include four things:

- A means of resolving the status of anyone who is in the country, but not authorized.
- A more accurate and efficient means of checking the immigration status of potential employees.
- A plan for adjusting the flow of immigrants to our rate of economic growth.
- Provisions to make sure our borders are secure.

The Business Immigration Council pledges to bring these concerns to the attention of federal policy-makers. Among our goals, we seek to ensure that: Unauthorized immigrants can become documented; immigrants waiting to work can be brought in; verification of workers is affordable and accessible; plans for future immigration can expand and contract with the needs of the business and immigrant communities.

Minnesotans are clearly frustrated with what they view as a broken immigration system. The problems are well documented, and now we must convince our federal lawmakers to take action on comprehensive reform. I've personally delivered the message to Minnesota's congressional delegation. Local Chamber of Commerce representatives reinforced the concern during their annual trip this month to Washington D.C.

Immigrant workers can help fill our worker shortage if we have a federal immigration system that works. Reform, to be successful, must modify existing policies without creating more obstacles for workers to connect with employers.

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

June

- 1 ~ Little Falls Business Association ~ Noon ~ Chamber of Commerce
 2 ~ Animal Antics & Escapades "Avian Adventure" ~ 1:00 p.m. ~ Pine Grove Zoo ~ *every Wednesday through Labor Day*
 3 ~ Animal Antics & Escapades "Feast With A Feline" ~ 1:00 p.m. ~ Pine Grove Zoo ~ *every Thursday through Labor Day*
 4 ~ Little Falls Golf Extravaganza ~ Little Falls Country Club
 4 ~ Rural Schools Reunion ~ Morrison County Fairgrounds
 4 ~ "Creepy Crawler Encounters" ~ 1:00 p.m. ~ Pine Grove Zoo ~ *every Saturday through Labor Day*
 5 ~ Little Falls Dandee Lions Waffle Breakfast ~ 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. ~ Little Falls VFW Club
 5 ~ Family Fun Day ~ Little Falls Attractions
 5 ~ Animal Antics & Escapades "Canine Capers" ~ 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. ~ Pine Grove Zoo ~ *every Sunday through Labor Day*
 5 ~ August 7 ~ GRAA Summer Concert Series ~ 3:00 p.m. ~ Maple Island Park
 7 ~ Free Personal Paper Shredding Day ~ 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ~ Mid MN Federal Credit Union
 7 ~ Lindy Greeter Committee Meeting ~ Noon ~ Chamber of Commerce
 8 ~ Legislative Update ~ 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. ~ Little Falls City Hall Council Chambers
 8 ~ Dairy Month Celebration ~ 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. ~ Marshik Insurance Agency
 9 ~ Chamber Board of Directors ~ 11:00 a.m. ~ Chamber of Commerce
 13 ~ Habitat for Humanity Golf Tournament ~ 12:30 p.m. ~ Pine Ridge Golf Club
 16 ~ Membership Development Committee ~ 7:45 a.m. ~ Chamber of Commerce
 17 ~ Friday Morning Coffee ~ 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. ~ ReMax Central Minnesota
 17 - 19 ~ Little Falls Dam Festival
 18 ~ Prairie Pointers Quilt Show ~ 9:30 - 4:00 p.m. ~ Linden Hill Historic Event Center
 20 ~ Hands of Hope Golf Tournament ~ 1:00 p.m. ~ Long Prairie Golf Course
 22 ~ Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Listening Session ~ 7:30 a.m. ~ Atomic Learning
 23 ~ Horizon Health Better With Age Fundraiser ~ 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. ~ Linden Hill Historic Event Center
 24 ~ Relay for Life Golf Tournament ~ 10:00 a.m. ~ Eagles Landing Golf Course
 25 ~ Living History Day ~ 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ~ Charles A. Lindbergh Historic Site
 25 ~ Little Falls River Rat Run / Walk ~ 8:30 a.m. ~ Belle Prairie Park



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