

Visit us at www.StCloudAreaChamber.com

The St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce, a regional organization of diverse businesses, increases business contacts, enhances professional development, and provides leadership and information on local and state business issues.

How to register for Chamber events

For all events in this issue, unless otherwise noted, register by calling the Chamber at 251-2940, ext. 126, emailing registrations@StCloudAreaChamber.com, online at <http://events.StCloudAreaChamber.com>, or complete the form on the back side of this page.

Board approves Federation Partnership

At their Nov. 23 meeting, the Chamber's Board of Directors voted to continue their membership as a partner in the Minnesota Chamber Federation. To be a partner, the St. Cloud Area Chamber must be a member of the Minnesota Chamber, represent private sector business on public policy issues, participate in Business Day at the Capitol and Grow Minnesota!, and review and adopt the annual Federation Legislative Priorities. The Chamber Board approved the continuing partnership with the understanding that should local priorities conflict with Federation priorities, the local priorities would take precedence.

Government Affairs hosts meeting with legislators

On December 9, the Government Affairs Division will host a meeting titled "Legislative Session Preview." Legislators are invited, and you can be there, too! The Government Affairs Division meets from 7:30-9 a.m. at the St. Cloud Area Chamber office. There is no cost, but register by December 7.

Find the Chamber on social media!

Find the Chamber on Facebook! If you "like" us, you can see event updates, post your own announcements, and connect with other "fans" of the first 5-Star Accredited Chamber in the state. Check it out at www.facebook.com/SaintCloudAreaChamberofCommerce.

We're also on LinkedIn! If you're a member, be sure to join the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce Linked In Group, a members-only benefit. In the group, you will find members representing the best of the St. Cloud business community. We provide places and spaces for our members to do business as part of our mission to create, enhance, and support a healthy business environment. Visit www.linkedin.com and search under Groups for "St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce."

The Chamber is also on YouTube and Twitter. Subscribe to our YouTube channel, St. Cloud Area Chamber, and view our latest videos, such as "St. Cloud Area Chamber - Supervisor Development 2012." Also, you can follow us on Twitter at #StClcAreaChamb!

Inviting all young professionals to join *Next-St. Cloud* on December 13

Next-St. Cloud is a program for the next generation of business leaders. Participants have the opportunity to enhance their management skills, networking, and career development; expand their knowledge in the areas of sales, marketing and management; and build strong relationships with other participants and current business leaders. The cost is \$195 per person annual registration fee; all lunches are included. Guests may attend one meeting for \$20, applicable to the annual fee.

Meetings occur every second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is Dec. 13 from noon-1 p.m. at Array Services Group, 200 14th Ave E, Sartell, featuring Hayden Creque, Creque Law, LLC, discussing the legal complexities of social media. Registration is required by Fri., Dec. 9.

When Tami Johnson, Northwestern Mutual, was suffering from neck pain and swollen glands, she tried everything to feel better. Then, she thought of Dr. Mark Roerick at Advantage Chiropractic. "I had immediate relief after my first visit! Dr. Mark has also been educating me about what may have caused my problems in the first place- it's been helpful, and I've been pain free!" Thanks, Tami, for Thinking Chamber First!

Have you made a decision recently to do business with someone because they are a member of the Chamber? If so, we'd like to hear from you. Call Gail at (320) 251-2940, ext. 109 or email givers@StCloudAreaChamber.com.



Attend Business After Hours on Dec. 13

Williams/Integracare Clinic hosts Business After Hours on Tuesday, Dec. 13, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at 100 2nd Street South, Sartell. Join us for food and fun! Members and guests are invited to this complimentary networking event. No registration required.

Reservation form

Did you know?

In October, the Chamber:

- ✓ had 363 visitors
- ✓ received 377 phone calls
- ✓ referred 160 members

Get your exhibit space for the Central MN Farm Show now!

Waite Park Chamber meets December 21

Sauk Rapids Chamber meets December 22

On Jan. 4, Lunchtime Learning addresses "Get Organized Month"

Nominate outstanding businesses today!

Seeking MN Business Ethics Award nominations

Chamber to host "Diversity Town Hall" Dec. 15

- Government Affairs meeting, December 9: # _____ attending
- NEXT-St. Cloud, December 13: # _____ attending @ \$195 per person/year or \$20 per person
- Waite Park Chamber, December 21: # _____ attending
- Sauk Rapids Chamber, December 22: # _____ attending
- Lunchtime Learning, "Get Organized," January 4: # _____ attending @ \$15 per person
- Obtain exhibit space at the 2012 Central Minnesota Farm Show, February 28-March 1, 2012

Registration/member information update:

Name _____ Company _____
Address _____ Phone _____ Fax _____
 Bill me Payment enclosed American Express Discover MasterCard VISA
Card number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____
Register with credit card at <http://events.StCloudAreaChamber.com>. For user name/password call Vicki, 656-3822.

Exhibit spaces for the 2012 Central Minnesota Farm Show are now available! This show is the largest of its kind in the Upper Midwest with over 4,000 people from the agriculture industry attending. Showcased in the new St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center, you can become part of the all new 2012 Central Minnesota Farm Show taking place Feb. 28- Mar. 1. For more information, contact Ginny at vkroll@StCloudAreaChamber.com or (320) 251-2940, ext. 105.

Join us for the Waite Park Chamber meeting Dec. 21, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., hosted by Sentry Bank at the Moose Family Center, 1300 3rd Street N, Waite Park. The program includes lunch, a presentation, and special guests St. Cloud Tech High School Chamber Singers, sponsored by Forsberg Investments and Insurance. There is no cost, but registration is required by December 19. Unregistered attendees pay \$5 for lunch.

360 Chiropractic hosts the Sauk Rapids Chamber meeting Dec. 22, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Fellowship Hall, 325 11th Street N, Sauk Rapids. All St. Cloud Area Chamber members are welcome and encouraged to bring guests who are interested in Sauk Rapids community issues. The program is a special networking event and includes lunch. There is no cost, but registration is required by December 20. Unregistered attendees pay \$5 for lunch.

Sharon Sorenson, owner of Heartland Organizing, will discuss "Get Organized Month: Learn to A.C.T." Sponsored by Executive Express, this informative lunch will teach you new ways to reduce stress and ensure efficiency in your life. Join us at the Chamber office from noon-1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 4. The cost is \$15 and includes lunch. Register by Jan. 2.

The Chamber's Business Awards Selection Committee is seeking nominations for three business awards: Small Business of the Year, Entrepreneurial Success, and *Business Central* Mark of Excellence. To nominate a business, contact Gail Ivers by December 30 at (320) 251-2940, ext. 109 or givers@StCloudAreaChamber.com.

The Minnesota Business Ethics Award recognizes Minnesota businesses that have exemplified and promoted ethical conduct for the benefit of the workplace, the marketplace, the environment, and the community. Businesses are recognized based on size, with one winner from each category: Small (under 100 employees), Midsize (100-500 employees), and Large (over 500 employees).

Nominate an outstanding Chamber business for this prestigious honor. Visit mneticsaward.org and recommend a business by January 27, 2012. The Minnesota Business Ethics Award is a collaborative effort of the MN Society of CPA's, the Society of Financial Service Professionals, and the St. Thomas Center for Ethical Business Cultures. The St. Cloud Area Chamber is a partner in this effort.

The Chamber's Marketing & Membership Division has a goal to help members more effectively do business with the region's growing diverse population. Join us Thursday, Dec. 15 from 7:30-9 a.m. in the Chamber President's Room as we hear personal stories from local professionals -- business owners, employees and customers -- who know firsthand what it's like to be different from the norm. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required by Tuesday, Dec. 13.