

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.

Supervisor Development training begins Jan. 19

This program is designed for new supervisors, supervisors with limited training, or those who need to strengthen their leadership skills. With five required and two elective sessions between Jan. 19 and April 12, the Supervisor Development Certificate Program will help you become a more effective supervisor by improving your leadership skills, conflict management, commitment to goals, and interpersonal communication. Only \$325 for Chamber members, you must register for this program by January 17! All sessions are at the Chamber office.

Govt. Affairs to discuss Convention Center progress

On January 13, the Government Affairs Division will host a meeting titled “The River’s Edge Convention Center – Expansion Update and Bonding Progress.” Learn more about the newly expanded former St. Cloud Civic Center. 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 January 11.

Government Affairs Session Priorities Banquet on Jan. 24

The Session Priorities Banquet with the Minnesota Chamber will be held on January 24 at the St. Paul RiverCentre, 175 West Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul, from 4-9 p.m. Grow Minnesota! will give an economic recovery update, and 2012 legislative priorities for Minnesota businesses will be highlighted. Governor Mark Dayton will address the administration’s priorities for the 2012 session, and a panel featuring the Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), Speaker of the House Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove), and House Minority Leader Paul Thissen (DFL-Minneapolis) will share their views on the major issues facing Minnesota businesses and the economy. To register, contact Sharon at shenry@StCloudAreaChamber.com or 251-2940, ext. 124. All members are encouraged to attend.

Inviting all young professionals to join *Next-St. Cloud* on January 10

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 Jan. 10 from noon-1 p.m. Check the Chamber website for more information on the location. Registration is required by Friday, January 6.



Attend Business After Hours on January 12

Northwest Professional Center hosts Business After Hours on Thursday, January 12, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at 2351 Connecticut Avenue, Sartell. Join us for food and fun! Members and guests are invited to this complimentary networking event. No registration required.

New member reception January 26

A new member reception is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 26 from 7:30-9 a.m. at the Chamber office. Learn how to receive the greatest value from your Chamber membership, and meet the Chamber staff and volunteers as well as other new members/employees! All Chamber members are welcome, but you must register by Tuesday, Jan. 24. Bring 30-40 business cards to share.

Reservation form

Did you know?

In November, the Chamber:

- ✓ had 356 visitors
- ✓ received 329 phone calls
- ✓ referred 271 members

- NEXT-St. Cloud, January 10: # _____ attending @ \$195 per person/year or \$20 per person
- Government Affairs meeting, January 13: # _____ attending
- Waite Park Chamber, January 18: # _____ attending
- New Member Reception, January 26: # _____ attending
- Sauk Rapids Chamber, January 26: # _____ attending
- Lunchtime Learning, "50 Sales Tips," February 1: # _____ 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.

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

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.

Business Award nominees sought

The Chamber's Business Awards selection committee is looking for nominations for the following awards: Small Business of the Year; Entrepreneurial Success; Women in Business Champion; and Family Owned Business. For details, contact Gail at 251-2940, ext. 109 or givers@StCloudAreaChamber.com. You may nominate your own or someone else's business. A total of three awards will be presented in May. Nominations are due by January 13.

Waite Park Chamber meets January 18

Join us for the Waite Park Chamber meeting January 18, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., hosted by Rejuv Medical at Moose Family Center, 1300 3rd St. N, Waite Park. The program includes lunch, a presentation, and speaker King Banaian discussing "Central Minnesota's Economy." There is no cost, but registration is required by January 16. Unregistered attendees pay \$5 for lunch.

Sauk Rapids Chamber meets January 26

BankVista hosts the Sauk Rapids Chamber meeting January 26, 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 includes lunch and speaker Julia Krengel, Rejuv Medical, discussing a post-holiday plan with realistic health goals and nutrition tips. There is no cost, but registration is required by January 24.

On Feb. 1, Lunchtime Learning gives 50 sales tips in 60 minutes!

Scott Plum, an instructor at the Minnesota Sales Institute, will give 50 sales tips in 60 minutes at Lunchtime Learning on Wed., Feb. 1. Sponsored by High Impact Training, this informative lunch is for the new salesperson or the experienced veteran! Improve your sales techniques, and join us at the Chamber office from noon-1 p.m. The cost is \$15 and includes lunch. Register by Jan. 30.

Promote your business in Chamber Pack!

Each month, up to 15 Chamber members are promoting their businesses, products, or services to 1,000 of the area's top decision makers through Chamber Pack! You, too, can be included in Chamber Pack by contacting Vicki at vlnneman@StCloudAreaChamber.com or 251-2940, ext. 122. The deadline for Chamber Pack is the last Monday of each month (Tues., Dec. 27 this month because of the holiday).

Seeking MN Business Ethics Award nominations

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.