



The following members are celebrating Chamber Membership Milestones in December:

Thirty Years

Arnzen Construction & St. Rosa Lumber

Quality Appliance & TV Center

Twenty-five Years

Cold Spring Electric Services, Inc.

Twenty Years

Arnold A. Kahara Ltd.

Ten Years

Ehlinger Lawn Service

Leonard, Street and Deinard

Five Years

Enventis

WebWizard Works, Inc.

Little Dukes Sartell Pinecone

One Year

Alzheimer's Association

Bounce Depot

Complete Nutrition

Profiles, Inc.

American Heart Association

Charisma Loft

Horizon Roofing, Inc.

Sentra-Sota Sheetmetal

Chamber Edge is an exclusive monthly electronic newsletter for St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce members. To learn more about any topic, follow the link provided or visit www.StCloudAreaChamber.com.



St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce News Brief for December 2011

- ***Get Your Business Online with a Free Google-led Workshop
- ***St. Cloud Named One of the Top 10 Winter Cities by Livability.com
- ***Get Organized in the New Year with Lunchtime Learning!
- ***Nominate a Business for the Employer Support Freedom Award
- ***Green Training Grants Available for Minnesota Businesses and Organizations

Get Your Business Online with a Free Google-led Workshop

This free program provides the tools and resources for Minnesota businesses to get online and succeed. Find out how to take advantage of web tools such as Google Places, Google AdWords, Google Analytics, and Google Apps in order to run and promote your business! You can attend the first program from 8:30 a.m.-noon or the second program from 1-4:30 p.m. at the SCSU Welcome Center, 355 5th Avenue S, St. Cloud. The program is free, but parking is \$5. To register, contact **LaRae Ross** at [\(320\) 308-4842](tel:3203084842).

St. Cloud Named One of the Top 10 Winter Cities by Livability.com

Ranked at #5, St. Cloud is one of the best cities to live in during the winter, according to Livability.com. Considering factors such as average temperature, adaptation to wintry weather, and attitude towards cold, St. Cloud was chosen because it also ranks high for other livability factors such as outdoor recreational opportunities, arts and cultural offerings, affordable housing, and low unemployment rates. Check out our ranking and the other cities in the top 10 [here](#).

Get Organized in the New Year with Lunchtime Learning!

On January 4, at Lunchtime Learning, Sharon Sorenson, Heartland Organizing, will teach how to efficiently manage your time, productivity, and stress levels through organization. Sponsored by Executive Express, be inspired to A.C.T. (audit, commit, tackle) in the New Year! The cost is \$15 for members, \$22 for non members, and includes lunch. Register [here](#) by January 2. Watch a video preview [here](#).



Nominate a Business for the Employer Support Freedom Award

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency, is now accepting nominations for the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. ESGR annually honors 15 employers across the nation, and the Freedom Award is the DoD's highest award for civilian employers supporting Guard and Reserve members.

Until January 16, 2012, Guard and Reserve service members or a family member acting on their behalf are encouraged to nominate supportive employers for this prestigious award [here](#). The 2012 recipients will be announced by early summer and honored in Washington, DC during a special ceremony early next fall. For more information, contact **Beth Sherman**.

Green Training Grants Available for Minnesota Businesses and Organizations

The Minnesota State Energy Sector Partnership (MSESP) is accepting innovative proposals from Minnesota-based businesses and organizations to train Minnesotans in occupational skills, support career pathways and achieve successful job placement in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industry. MSESP, an initiative of the Governor's Workforce Development Council (GWDC), is funded by a three-year, \$6 million U.S. Department of Labor grant.

MSESP, which plans to distribute about \$1.6 million, will consider proposal requests ranging from \$25,000 to \$250,000 about training, job placement, and related activities in the energy efficient and renewable energy industries. Broad partnerships and inter-regional collaborations are welcome. For more information, visit [here](#).

Tip of the month: If you provide us with your social media addresses, we can add them to your profile in our business directory so that they can be seen when your profile is viewed. Increase traffic to your social media pages and website just by updating your information with us! Email Ginny with your social media information.

Committee Focus: Each month the Chamber highlights a committee. Read about the Top Hatters in this month's [Committee Focus](#).

For your convenience, here is your personal username and password to access the Members Only Section of www.StCloudAreaChamber.com: USERNAME: kids PASSWORD: spankys

The St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce is the premier representative of the business community. Supported and led by members and a professional staff, we create, enhance and support a healthy business environment for our members. As a regional organization of diverse businesses, we increase business contacts, enhance professional development and provide leadership and information on local and state business issues. We are located at 110 Sixth Avenue South, St. Cloud, MN 56301. To update your email address or unsubscribe from electronic mail, please contact Ginny at [\(320\) 251-2940, ext. 105](tel:(320)251-2940). We encourage business-centered submissions for Chamber Edge. Items must be provided electronically and will be included as space permits and at the discretion of the editor. If you are interested in submitting a Chamber Edge story please send Gail the story and web site link.