

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.

Our members say...



“The St. Cloud Chamber’s mission to ‘stay local’ speaks to the culture and mission of my company.”

- Joyce Brenny
Brenny Transportation

“Not only is it beneficial to meet new people and prospective customers at Chamber sponsored events, but we value the opportunity to reconnect with current customers, vendors, and friends in a social setting that is outside of the boardroom.”

- Tim Buttweiler
Buttweiler Environmental



“The Chamber membership went from an elective expense to a required expense after I saw what Chamber membership could do for exposure and marketing for my business. You get out of the Chamber what you put into it.”

- Bruce Miles
Big River Group



— JULY —

American Family Insurance District Office
(320) 258-3525
Cartridge World St. Cloud
(320) 258-3148
MainStreet Chamber
Midtown Fitness Center
(320) 253-4990
Ness Plastic Surgery
(320) 230-6377
PPX Professional Portable X-Ray, Inc.
(866) 895-2119
Star of India
(320) 310-3511
Super Smokes
(320) 333-1610

— AUGUST —

3rd Street Hair Company
(320) 252-8560
Creque Law, LLC
(320) 247-3439
Daylily Spa Salon
(320) 258-5459
Granite City Counseling, LLC
(320) 257-1800
Healthy Blends
(320) 257-1680
Insperty
(952) 960-5360
Marty Czech, Realtor
(320) 333-2626
Minnesotadeal.com
(651) 329-9911
Personal Touch Travel
(320) 259-9812
Quality Design & Fire Protection
(320) 253-3254
Skin Fitness MD/The Vein Center
(320) 230-6377
Super Consulting Services, LLC
(612) 281-9381
Wells Fargo Advisors
(320) 980-3356

— SEPTEMBER —

Bayada Nurses Inc.
(320) 251-0668
Charter Business
(763) 241-4152
Evolution Tae Kwon Do
(320) 251-4900
Food Dudes Delivery
(320) 251-1888
Great River Educational Arts Theatre
(G.R.E.A.T.)
(320) 258-2787
Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant
(320) 654-9020
Mastey Financial Group, LLC
(320) 253-8700
Motel 6
(320) 253-7070
Rural Aids Action Network
(320) 257-3036
T. R. Fox Properties
(320) 253-3267
Travelers Country Club on the Mississippi
(320) 743-3133
Vaultas
(320) 443-6700

On Your Behalf... Business & Workforce Development

The St. Cloud Area Chamber's Business and Workforce Development programs include everything from training to scholarships. They all have one important commonality. Each program is created to help strengthen Chamber member businesses by attracting, retaining, and educating the local workforce.

Take the **Business Development Council (BDC)** as an example. The BDC works to provide our members with inexpensive and practical training and development opportunities such as our **Supervisor Development Certificate** and "**10 Principles of Extraordinary Customer Service**" programs. Knowledgeable volunteers offer quality seminars and workshops on topics that range from stress management to marketing techniques through our popular **Lunchtime Learning** program.

We also have an active relationship with area schools through our **Work-Based Learning** Committee. Volunteers organize programs like **Business and Education Partnerships** that bring employees into the schools to volunteer their time and talent, maintaining business' presence in education. The **Unite for Success Scholarship Program** gave away over \$80,000 last year to area high school seniors.

Business and Workforce Development also means encouraging professionals to fine-tune their roles as community leaders. Our **St. Cloud Area Leadership Program** is designed to help current and emerging leaders understand the dynamics of the community and the role leadership shares in building healthy communities.

Our **Executive Dialogue Groups** foster open and frank communication among small groups of business owners. Participants can gain new insight into a broad range of common and uncommon problems. The pooled experience, expertise and talent of the group can often point to better answers to many everyday and long-range questions from individual businesses.

Our **College-to-Career** program focuses on the need to retain college graduates to prevent "brain drain" in the St. Cloud area. **NEXT-St. Cloud** was recently introduced as a networking and professional development program for the NEXT generation of business leaders.

We believe the strength of businesses is directly related to the strength and resiliency of our workforce. That's why the Chamber is committed to providing our members with resources and programs that ensure our members and our community enjoy a prosperous future.

By Definition... Affordable, High-Quality Training

The Chamber offers multiple programs designed to encourage and support area businesses. Audiences range from employees who need a boost of networking self-confidence to owners who would like to pick up tax tips over lunch.

Lunchtime Learning is a compact educational session held over the noon hour at the Chamber. We feature local speakers who present on a topic of interest to business people.

Supervisor Development is designed for those who have received limited training or those who need to improve their leadership skills. The program offers seven different courses giving supervisors the resources to present themselves as teachers, counselors and mentors.

Customer Service Training is a high-energy program intended for front-line personnel, managers and anyone else who needs a reminder about the importance of exceptional customer service. The program will help participants understand the customer, identify characteristics of great customer service, understand why people buy, and deal with difficult customer situations.

In Detail... Volunteer Corner

There's no doubt about it; joining the Chamber boosts your business and helps you meet other Chamber members. As many members have learned, being part of the Chamber is also a great way to make the St. Cloud area an even better place to live and work. We're fortunate to have a team of dedicated volunteers who make sure the Chamber is always moving forward with new ideas and initiatives.

The opportunities for volunteering are endless. If continuing education programs appeal to you, volunteer for one of the Business and Workforce Development programs. Maybe you have been to a Chamber event and would like to get behind the scenes? The Marketing and Membership Division is home to five committees that plan events and promote the Chamber. Or, if you would like to make an impact on state and local politics, try the Government Affairs Division. The Sauk Rapids and Waite Park Chambers are separate divisions that operate much like the larger St. Cloud Area Chamber, planning monthly meetings and organizing their own speakers, Business After Hours events, and other special activities.

No matter what your interest, the Chamber is the right place for your special skills. Contact **Josie Luebsemier**, Automotive Parts Headquarters, Volunteer Coordinating Committee chair, at (320) 252-5411 to get started.

Phone and Contact Information

Chamber of Commerce Volunteer Board of Directors

Terms expire August 31, 2012

Linda Feuling 393-4764
Westside Liquor
lfeuling@westsideliquor.com

Todd Fritz 492-1000
InteleCONNECT, Inc.
todd@inteleconnect.net

Diane Hageman 363-5748
College of St. Benedict
dhageman@csbsju.edu

Dolora Musech 257-8270
Batteries Plus
dolora@frontiernet.net

Bernie Perryman 292-5960
bernie.perryman@gmail.com

Earl Potter III 308-2122
St. Cloud State University
president@stcloudstate.edu

Terms Expire August 31, 2013

Craig Broman 656-7099
St. Cloud Hospital
bromanc@centracare.com

John Herges 293-2265
Falcon National Bank
jherges@falconnational.com

Kris Nelson 654-9600
Custom Accents, Inc.
knelson@customaccentsinc.com

Rick Poganski 253-2730
Principal Financial Group
poganski.rick@principal.com

Jayne Greeney Schill 202-6892
St. Cloud Area School District #742
jayne.greeney@isd742.org

Bill Winter 252-2634
St. Cloud Federal Credit Union
bwinter@stcloudfcu.org

Terms expire August 31, 2014

Jim Beck 257-2000
Minnesota School of Business
jbeck@msbcollege.edu

Gary Berg 654-6901
G. L. Berg Entertainment, Performing Artists & Speakers
gary@glberg.com

Neil Franz 253-7130
Neils-Franz-Chirhart, Attorneys at Law
neil@nfcaw.com

Steve Hahn 253-1463
HahnMark, LLC
sfhahn@cloudnet.com

Scott Johnson 255-8709
Times Media
sejohnso@stcloud.gannett.com

Jodi Speicher 258-9364
The Good Shepherd Community
jodispeicher@goodshepherdcampus.org

Web Perks

At the Chamber, we are continuously finding ways to bring value to our members. One of the ways is by creating and providing benefits and services to you online. Here is a sample for you to check out at www.StCloudAreaChamber.com:

- **Job Bank:** A searchable job bank that allows members to post information about job openings at their companies free of charge.
- **Event registration:** Simply register and pay on-line using our secure credit card processing services.
- **Business calendar of events:** Post your business events on the Chamber's business calendar. Only members can post their events, but the public can view them.
- **Shop online:** Shop for member mailing lists and other information.
- **Member information verification:** This allows you to log on to the web site and update and change your membership information at your convenience.
- **Download your Chamber's decal:** The Chamber's membership decal is available under the "members only" section in high and low resolution.

To use some of these services, you need to have a user name and password. If you have not received your user name or password, or have questions, contact Vicki Lenneman at 251-2940, ext. 122 or vlenman@StCloudAreaChamber.com. (User names and passwords are not company specific; each individual has a unique user name and password.) Log on and enjoy these benefits today!

If you can only choose one... When you join the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce you suddenly receive invitations to what may seem like an unlimited number of events. These programs are all designed to help you promote your business. Most people can't attend everything, even if they want to. If you can only attend one event per month, we recommend the following:

November 1, 2011

Technology & Education Conference:

The Technology & Education Conference will be held from 7:30 a.m.-noon at the Holiday Inn & Suites. Choose from breakout sessions on communications, social media, business finance, information technology, and more. This is a free event! To register, contact Ginny at 251-2940, ext. 105 or

December 13, 2011

Business After Hours:

Stop by the Chamber's Business After Hours hosted by Williams/Integracare Clinic, 100 2nd Street South, Sartell. Take this opportunity to enjoy an evening mingling with associates or meeting new people. Join us from 4:30-6:30 p.m. There is no cost, and registration is not necessary.

January 4, 2012

Lunchtime Learning: Sponsored by Executive Express, Sharon Sorenson, owner of Heartland Organizing, will discuss time management, increasing productivity, and lowering stress levels. Join us at the Chamber from noon-1 p.m. The cost is \$15 and includes lunch. Register by January 2 at Registrations@StCloudAreaChamber.com or by calling 251-2940, ext. 126.

Remember, Chamber events and volunteer opportunities are open to all employees in your company. If you can't attend, encourage others in your company to get involved. It will increase your visibility and we'll welcome them. To make reservations, call 320-251-2940, ext. 126.

For a complete list of Chamber events in the coming months, refer to *Bottom Line* or *Business Central Magazine*. Events are subject to change. For the most current information, call the Chamber hotline at 320-251-2940, ext. 125, or visit <http://events.StCloudAreaChamber.com>.