

Sauk Rapids Chamber Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 25, 2009
Location: Ron's Cabinet's
Sponsor: Ron's Cabinet's

Welcome, introductions, and permanent name badges presented by Amanda Carlson, Good Shepherd Community, Sauk Rapids Chair.

- 60 Second spotlight-Pam Cramer –Bremer Bank

Sponsor Presentation: John Packert, Ron's Cabinet's

- Ron Schmitz was the original owner, company started in 1975. It was, and still is a family owned business.
- John started when there were 3 employees, today there are 37.
- Ron sold the company to two men from the east coast. They moved the business into commercial construction so John asked if they would sell him the residential construction portion of the business. They agreed. The commercial construction became Wilke-Sanderson. John was able to retain the name Ron's Cabinets for the residential construction.
- They do whatever woodworking that you need done, not just cabinets. They will come to you and help you design, build and install what you want done in your home.
- They have a local showroom, use only the highest quality materials, superior finishes, and custom designs.
- In the last couple of years they have been growing. They not only do local work, but they have branched out and do work across the United States.
- They are members of Central MN Builders Assoc., Mid-MN builders Assoc., Sauk Rapids Rotary and St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids Area Chambers of Commerce.
- They are committed to serving their customers with quality service and customer satisfaction. From design to installation of your product, Ron's cabinets will exceed your expectations.

Speaker Presentation: Tom Moore, The Partnership, discussed the Science Initiative of Central MN.

- They work at attracting new science based companies to the St. Cloud area.
- They work with public and private businesses.
- They are in partnership with SCSU in developing programs for testing medical devices. It is felt that MN is a great area for this program because of having major medical organizations/companies in the state—Medtronic, United Health, Ecolab
- They also partner with local companies –DCI, T-O Plastics, Wyman Corp, MicroBiologics to name a few.
- There are 6 science zones in MN and central MN is one of them.

Business Meeting: Chamber Board update: Jodi Speicher, Good Shepherd-

- New board members were confirmed
- This year they will be focused on retention as well as attracting new members
- Leadership retreat was held at the College of St. Benedict on June 23rd
- There will be Business After Hours on July 21, hosted by Habitat for Humanity, held at Donovan Lake
- Chamber Open Monday, August 10th at Blackberry Ridge
- The next Business Central will be the annual Central Minnesota Growth Guide.
- Fall Sauk Rapids Chamber After Hours will be October 15 at K. Johnson Construction
- There will be a Sauk Rapids Chamber event hosted by the National Guard in September. They will provide a ride to Camp Ripley on a Chinook Helicopter. Participation will require registration. Watch your email for details.

Membership update was given by Wendy Franzwa

Sauk Rapids City Update: Paul Weber

- City will be dealing with unallotment issues based on reduced state aid
- Sauk Rapids days held this week with the parade on Friday night, food fest on Saturday
- Rice Building Systems, a coffee shop and Taco Johns will be new businesses coming to town.
- All Occasion Floral has new owners: Dan and Charlene Demars

There is no Sauk Rapids Chamber Meeting in July.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 27, 2009

2-Minute Member Showcase

**Location: C & L Distributing -1020 Industrial Drive South
Sauk Rapids**

PLEASE CONTACT US: For more information about the Sauk Rapids Chamber
---to learn how to host a meeting ----to offer speaker suggestions

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