

What is the Chamber's Government Affairs Division?

The Government Affairs Division of the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce is comprised of volunteers who have a passion for activities at all levels of government. Locally, statewide, and nationally, they serve as advocates for all Chamber members.

The Chamber has had influence on a variety of issues, including:

- St. Cloud Civic Center Expansion
- Transportation improvements
- Regional community infrastructure
- Tax reform
- Health care & insurance reform

As part of the Chamber's Government Affairs Division, you have direct access to current issues in the legislature. Meet directly with local, state, and federal business and government leaders to ask questions and find out how legislation will affect you individually and professionally. Hear comments from legislative leaders right here at the St. Cloud Area Chamber office.

The Chamber provides you with ways to respond to business issues, including opportunities to meet and interact with our elected officials. Attend one of our annual events, or join us at our regular meetings on the second Friday of the month at 7:30 a.m. at the Chamber office. Any Chamber member with interest in government is welcome to attend.

2010 Legislative Priorities At A Glance

EDUCATION REFORM-Alternative Teacher Licensure: During the 2009 session, the alternative teacher licensure bill passed the Senate with a strong bipartisan vote; however, it was defeated in the House. The potential for Minnesota to receive a "Race to the Top" federal grant has put more focus on the issue in the interim.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING: Streamlining, adding certainty and reducing the cost of the permitting process is important to economic development in the state.

HEALTH CARE REFORM: The potential impact of federal health care reform legislation on Minnesota keeps this topic on the Chamber's priority list.

REPEALING THE NUCLEAR BAN: During the 2009 session, the Chamber was 8 votes in the House shy of sending a bill to the Governor that contained the repeal of the ban on Public Utilities Commission consideration of proposals for new nuclear power plants in Minnesota. The provision passed the Senate on a strong bipartisan vote.

SPENDING REFORM: The spending reform policy will focus on budget process reform, enhancing productivity of state and local government, and reducing overhead costs.

Contact us:

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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMMING

- *Building Relationships*
- *Providing Influence & Advocacy*
- *Providing Education*

Meeting Calendar

All general monthly meetings are at 7:30 a.m. on the second Friday of each month at the Chamber office downtown, 110 Sixth Ave. S., St. Cloud.

Jan. 8, 2010: Monthly Meeting—Legislative Preview

Feb 4, 2010: Minnesota Chamber Session Priorities Dinner
St. Paul - 4:00-9:00 PM

Feb. 12, 2010: Monthly Meeting

Feb. 17, 2010: St. Cloud Area Evening at the Capitol
Best Western Kelly Inn, St. Paul—5:00-7:00 PM

March 10, 2010: Business Day at the Capitol
St. Paul—11:30-3:30 PM

March 12, 2010: Monthly Meeting

April 9, 2010: Monthly Meeting

May 14, 2010: Monthly Meeting

May 17-19, 2010: US Chamber Small Business Summit: St. Cloud Area Goes to Washington D.C.

June 11, 2010: Monthly Meeting

July 2010: SUMMER BREAK—NO MEETING

Aug. 13, 2010: Monthly Meeting

Special meetings will be held with Federal Legislators as opportunities arise. We rarely have more than a week to alert our membership to these events.

Events Calendar

Minnesota Chamber Session Priorities Dinner

An annual gathering for Chamber members to hear from the Governor, Senate, and House leadership. The Chamber Session Priorities Dinner is an opportunity to deliver the year's business agenda to Minnesota legislators and to learn about what is expected for the upcoming year.

Mark your calendar: February 4, 2010
To register call 251-2940, ext. 126; cost \$95

St. Cloud Evening at the Capitol

The St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce is showcasing St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Sartell, Waite Park, St. Joseph and St. Augusta and inviting all of our Minnesota Senators and Representatives to become acquainted with YOU and your organization.

Mark your calendar: February 17, 2010
To register call 251-2940, ext. 126; cost \$45;
Table Sponsor \$175

Minnesota Business Day at the Capitol

An annual statewide event, uniting the Chambers of Minnesota to lobby on legislation and issues. Hundreds of business leaders from across the state use the day to speak on issues critical to Minnesota's competitive business environment. Business Day at the Capitol provides companies of all sizes with the opportunity to influence public policy on business decisions. Join us to make your voice heard.

Mark your calendar: March 10, 2010
To register call 251-2940, ext. 126; cost \$60

"Being a part of Minnesota Business Day at the Capitol was a great experience for all involved. We were able to get in touch with elected officials and discuss business issues in an environment specific to Central Minnesota business."

- Bob Feuling, Westside Liquor

US Chamber Small Business Summit: St. Cloud Area Goes to Washington D.C.

Each spring Chamber members travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Minnesota's Congressional and Senate delegation. The trip is an excellent opportunity to speak with federal officials and the administration of the U.S. Chamber about issues affecting business in Minnesota.

Mark your calendar: May 17-19, 2010
To register call 251-2940, ext. 126;
Approximate cost \$1500

"I love the access and time you get with our federal legislators. They sincerely listen to your needs. Also, it is a great time to get away with fellow business associates to network and talk about business. I always come away with new ideas or new leads. Finally, we just have so much fun, the tours, the food, and learning about our nation's history. While in Washington, D.C. you can feel the pulse of the country. It is so exciting, it is my Disney World."

-Pam Raden, The Johnson Group Marketing, Inc.

Candidate Forums

Hosted by the St. Cloud Area Chamber, these forums provide the opportunity to meet with candidates and to understand the issues that affect business policy. Meetings with federal and state candidates are arranged, as well as city council, mayor, and school officials. Dates are set throughout late summer and fall in preparation for November elections.