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## Resources

Please welcome these new members!

Featured Program: Central Minnesota Farm Show

Networking Opportunities

Upcoming Events



# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

A newsletter for businesses that have joined the chamber in the last 12 months

Winter 2018; Volume 19 Issue 1

Membership Testimonial: Rachael Sogge, [Eyecon Graphics](#)

"Being a Chamber member keeps us connected to educational resources and puts us in touch with Government officials and Legislative topics that may affect our business. Not to mention information on upcoming events that keep us in front of current and potential clients. Chamber keeps us connected in our community!"

### Voice in Government

Business owners know that even the slightest changes in state and local policy can have enormous impact on the bottom line. As an influential representative for the business community, the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce uses its voice to serve the best interests of our members and all of Central Minnesota. Small businesses need a powerful voice to act on their behalf on issues such as:

- Transportation
- Tax competitiveness
- Consistent Statewide Laws

The Chamber names legislative advocacy as part of its primary mission. Each year, the Government Affairs Committee takes part in legislative activities including: Evening at the Capital, Business Day at the Capitol, and candidate forums.

Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. The Chamber creates opportunities for volunteers to establish well-rounded positions on significant political issues. Input and participation from our members allows us to accurately represent our business community.

### By Definition - Government Affairs Programs

The Chamber provides multiple opportunities for your voice to be heard in the local, state and national government.

- **Government Affairs Committee**: Participate in important policy-making decisions. The Government Affairs Committee meets the second Friday of each month from 7:30-9 a.m. To receive meeting notices, [contact Kellie](#).
- **Legislative Connections**: The Chamber brings area legislators together to answer questions and concerns related to business and the community at a Legislative Preview and Legislative Wrap-up session each year. Sponsorships are available. To receive notices of upcoming Legislative Connections events, [contact Kellie](#).
- **Minnesota Chamber\***: The state's largest pro-business lobbying organization representing over 3,200 Minnesota businesses on state public policy and regulatory issues.
- **U.S. Chamber\***: The world's largest not-for-profit business federation. The U.S.

Chamber lobbies at a federal level on behalf of businesses and business associations, as well as state, local and international chambers of commerce.

- [Session Priorities Dinner](#): The Minnesota Chamber sponsors a Session Priorities Dinner in St. Paul on the first day of the legislative session. The dinner includes a panel discussion with House and Senate leaders, along with other legislators from around the state. Any interested St. Cloud Area Chamber member is welcome to attend.
- [St. Cloud Area Evening at the Capital](#): Every year, the St. Cloud Area Chamber travels to St. Paul to meet with state legislators and showcase area businesses and organizations. Sponsorships and individual tickets are available. [Don't miss this year's event](#) on March 21st. Cost is \$39. [Register by emailing Kellie](#).
- [Business Day at the Capitol](#): See the legislature in action at Business Day at the Capitol, sponsored by the Minnesota Chamber. Over 800 Minnesota business leaders attend this annual event to learn about state legislative issues and lobby at the Minnesota Capitol.
- [St. Cloud Goes to Washington, D.C.](#): Each spring Chamber members travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Minnesota's congressional delegation. The trip is designed to give our members the opportunity to speak with federal officials and the U.S. Chamber staff about issues affecting businesses in Minnesota. [Contact Teresa](#) if you're interested in learning more.

\*The St. Cloud Area Chamber is a dues paying member of the Minnesota Chamber and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, but has no other affiliation with these organizations.

#### [In Detail: St. Cloud Area Business Showcase](#)

We hope that by now you've had a chance to join us at Business After Hours, a networking event hosted by a different company each month. But if your schedule has not allowed it, or you are waiting for a host that really catches your interest, then now is the time to mark your calendar for the [St. Cloud Area Business Showcase](#) (formerly Business After Hours - Extra!).

Be prepared for plenty of excitement as 90 of the area's businesses and organizations come together for an evening of food, fun and networking opportunities. The event, sponsored by [Central Minnesota Credit Union](#), [ScreenTime Indoor Billboards](#) and the [City of St. Cloud](#), takes place on Tuesday, April 10 from 4-7 p.m. at the St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center, 10 4th Ave. S, St. Cloud. Visitors can look forward to displays, food, games and fun. This is the perfect occasion to get to know area professionals, learn more about local businesses, or set up a booth and spread the word about your own company or organization. For more information or to learn more about participating in the showcase, [contact Sheri](#).

**Our 2017-18 Volunteer Yearbook** has contact information for the Chamber's volunteer committee chairs and vice chairs. [Download your copy today!](#)

Membership Matters is published quarterly by the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce. For subscriptions or change of address, contact us at (320) 251-2940, 1411 W St. Germain Street, Ste 101, PO Box 487, St. Cloud, MN 56302-0487, email: [information@StCloudAreaChamber.com](mailto:information@StCloudAreaChamber.com), or visit our website: [StCloudAreaChamber.com](http://StCloudAreaChamber.com). We welcome your questions or comments. Teresa Bohnen, president; Gail Ivers, vice president; Kelti Lorence, editor.

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. To update your email address or unsubscribe from electronic mail, please [contact Vicki](#) at 656-3822.