

May 2021

[www.winonachamber.com](http://www.winonachamber.com) | (507) 452-2272 | 902 E. Second St., Suite 120, Winona, MN



### A Celebration of Things to Come

Christie Ransom, President & CEO  
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber staff is busy at work getting things together for many upcoming events. It almost feels like a semblance of "normal". While we have many things coming up, we are diligently focused on Covid safe protocols and following the ever-changing restrictions.

Here is a quick outlook on a handful of the fun things that we have in the works!

We just finished our Annual Banquet and Awards on April 30th with an innovative approach to our in-person event, hosting it simultaneously at two locations. We had some amazing sponsors that made it all possible, along with amazing staff at Riverport Conference and Event Center and Visions Event Center.

In May, experience downtown Winona with two awesome events; Dine Out Downtown (kicking off May 21st) and our innovative Touch-a-Truck parade (happening May 22nd)! We are excited about these two events and you can learn more about them on the Main Street Facebook page as well as the Main Street Website. Watch for some promotions from the Chamber as well.

June is busy with our Golf Classic back in action, a new food trailer (donated by Sugar Loaf Ford Lincoln and Chrysler Winona) at Steamboat Days, and Dairy Buckets (back by popular demand). While these things are familiar, we have some new things planned at each of them to make them fresh and exciting! In addition to all of that, watch for our 2nd Annual Car Raffle! Mustang Sally is gone, but we are looking for a name for the brand-new Ford Bronco that is paving its way into our raffle in Sally's place.

While there are many other things in the hopper, I will stop at that. However, I do want to celebrate something quite special. We at the Winona Area Chamber worked very hard last year to do some innovative things and to celebrate the businesses and industries that make our area so wonderful. We are proud to have been recognized by the Mid-America Chamber of Commerce Executives (a 6-state regional organization) with a top 3 nomination in their prestigious chamber awards for two of our initiatives. One of those is Event of the Year for our Agri-Business Dairy Buckets. The second is Digital Campaign of the Year for all our shop local messaging, including restaurant lists, commercials, billboards, banners, and many more digital initiatives surrounding our drive to encourage our community to shop local. We are the only Minnesota chamber to find ourselves in the top 3 for any of the project-based awards. Winners will be announced at the MACE Conference in early May. This is such an honor and I have my amazing team and the support of all of you to thank for that!

## ABOUT THE CHAMBER

### - OUR MISSION -

To Serve Businesses How and When They Need Us

### - OUR VISION -

Be the Foremost Resource and Advocate for Businesses in the Winona Area

#### Officers:

**Michael Charron** – Chair  
**Andrew Puetz** – Chair Elect  
**Dave Jensen** – Past Chair  
**Jolene Vaselaar** – Treasurer  
**Kyle Rupprecht** – At Large

#### Retiring 2021:

Ben Adank  
Joanne Thompson  
Dave Jensen  
Rebecca Lamberty  
Jolene Vaselaar

#### Retiring 2022:

Michael Charron  
Danny Rivers  
Kyle Rupprecht  
Randy Skarlupka  
Ellen Smith

#### Retiring 2023:

Andrea Northam  
Dave Pederson  
Kelly Pronschinske  
Andy Puetz  
Mike Dieter

#### Staff:

**Christie Ransom** – President & CEO

**Kay Mathews** – Vice President of Finance and Operations

**Amanda Steine** – Membership Development and Programs Manager

**Ben Strand** – Main Street Program Manager

**Nicole Schossow** – B.E.N./REACH Program Manager



### Touch-A-Truck is now Parade of Trucks

Ben Strand, Program Manager  
Main Street Program

After receiving council approval in April, the Winona Main Street Program is excited to announce that we will be hosting an altered version of Touch-A-Truck this year called "Parade of Trucks" on Saturday, May 22 from 9 a.m.-Noon.

The event will be held in a quasi-parade style as opposed to how it has traditionally been done in the past with vehicles parking in different lots downtown.

There will be three different phases of the event:

**Viewing Period #1 from 9-9:45 a.m.** where the vehicles will be parked along Cal Fremling Parkway between Levee Park and the Mississippi River. People will be able to walk up and down the street or stand around Levee Park and look at the vehicles.

**Parade Procession from 9:50-10:20 a.m.** people will be able to line up along Levee Park, Johnson Street, and 3rd Street to see the vehicles as they travel the parade route and honk their horns, turn on their sirens, etc.

**Viewing Period #2 from 10:30-Noon** where the vehicles will be parked along 3rd Street from Center Street to Franklin Street. People will be able to walk up and down the street and look at the vehicles.

We chose to do the event this way to best accommodate the state's guidelines regarding COVID. We want to make sure this event is safe and welcoming for everyone, and we felt this would be the best way to ensure that is the case.

Finally, we'd like to give a huge thank you to Winona Health Main Square Clinic and Allstate Peterbilt for sponsoring this event and helping make it a possibility.



If you have any questions about the event or would like to volunteer reach out to Main Street Program Manager Ben Strand at [bstrand@winonachamber.com](mailto:bstrand@winonachamber.com) or call 507-452-2272.

## CHAMBER CHAMPIONS

### - VISIONARY -



### - PREMIER -



### - EXECUTIVE -



### Seeking new internship partners

Nicole Schossow, Program Manager  
B.E.N./REACH

The REACH program works closely with local business partners to offer paid internships to our students. The purpose of an internship and/or guided work experience is to provide an opportunity for a student to receive the guidance necessary to succeed in their first direct employment opportunity. We currently offer internships or paid experience in health and human services and manufacturing and are adding building trades and agribusiness.

Internships are coordinated by the REACH Program Manager with the support and guidance of the Department of Labor Youth Skills Training Program. A great deal of preparation and planning is put into providing a safe and educational experience for each student. We are currently in the process of adding new internship sites, especially now that we have expanded to two more school districts. Please consider becoming an internship site for a high school student in your area. Contact Nicole today to find out more.



**REACH**  
YOUR FULL POTENTIAL

Our REACH students have had such amazing perseverance throughout this year. With only a couple months left, our Seniors are prepping for graduation, and what's to come after. As this hasn't been the easiest of school years, we are beyond proud of their dedication to their education. We also were able to bring four REACH students to our Annual Banquet, thanks to ticket donations from our REACH partners.



### Young Professionals Program / REACH

Mikaela Mohr, Chamber Intern  
B.E.N./REACH

Our Young Professionals program recently hosted Making the Connection Between Well-Being & Your Personal Brand, presented by Tiffany Mattick, owner of There She Grows. Our other events for this quarter include presentations by Steve VanValin, from Culturology, and Mike Dieter, from Express Employment Professionals. Just a reminder, that now through June, we are opening up the YP program for FREE to everyone between the ages of 21 and 40. Come check us out, and enjoy our monthly educational and social networking events. If you are interested, or have any further questions, feel free to contact Christie, Amanda, or myself (Mikaela.) We would love to send you further information, as well as the RSVP links!



**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**  
**WINONA CHAMBER DAIRY BUCKETS**  
**MORE INFO COMING SOON, ON-SALE THIS MAY!**  
**507.452.2272 | WINONACHAMBER.COM**

**NEW MEMBERS**



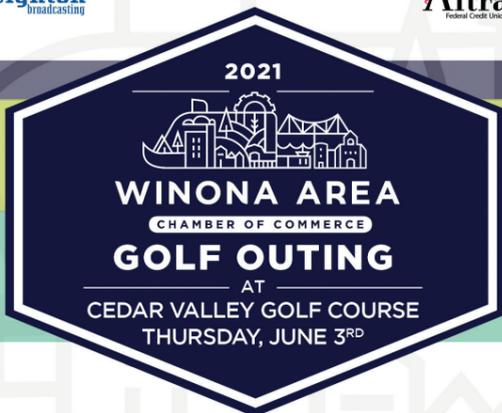
**Sprint Graphics** simplifies the process of ordering custom printed signs, banners, graphics, paper print, display products, custom apparel, and branded promotional products while still delivering friendly local service and attention. Every customer on their easy-to-use web platform has an individualized dashboard to help track orders and make re-ordering a breeze.

On their platform, businesses and organizations can easily create their own customized store or merchandise campaigns for company stores, fundraisers, and easy group ordering. These tools make managing your brand image a breeze!

To learn more about Sprint Graphics contact owner Cory Tomesh at 507.474.7875 or [cory@sprintgraphicsco.com](mailto:cory@sprintgraphicsco.com).



**EVENT SPONSORS**



**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SPONSORSHIP OR TO REGISTER A TEAM**  
**WINONACHAMBER.COM | 507.452.2272 | INFO@WINONACHAMBER.COM**



**National Eagle Center** is a world-class interpretive center located on the banks of the Mississippi River in Wabasha, MN. They are home to non-releasable bald and golden eagles. During a visit to the National Eagle Center, you can experience these magnificent creatures up close. In 1989, the National Eagle Center began as EagleWatch, Inc. (still their corporate legal name); a group of volunteers sharing with visitors to Wabasha views of wintering bald eagles from an outdoor observation deck along the river. In 2000, they opened year-round in a small storefront downtown Wabasha and welcomed their first two Eagle Ambassadors, Harriet and Angel. Then in 2007, in a partnership with the City of Wabasha, they opened their current 15,000 square foot interpretive center right on the banks of the Mississippi River.

From this facility, you can enjoy magnificent views of wild eagles and meet our resident Eagle Ambassadors.

To learn more about the Nation Eagle Center visit them online at [nationaleaglecenter.org](http://nationaleaglecenter.org) or in person at 50 Pembroke Ave. S. Wabasha, MN 55981.



**CHAMBER AMBASSADORS**  
**FOOD TRAILER**

TO SECURE YOUR SPONSORSHIP OR TO ORDER PRE-SALE TICKETS CONTACT  
[INFO@WINONACHAMBER.COM](mailto:INFO@WINONACHAMBER.COM)  
507.452.2272

## STEAMBOAT DAYS

Wednesday, June 16th-Sunday, June 20th

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p><b>PLATINUM \$500</b> (Wednesday &amp; Friday) <b>SOLD OUT</b></p> <p><b>HBC</b> <small>We serve. We connect. We care.</small></p> <p><b>Merchants Bank</b></p> <p><b>SMALL BIZ SATURDAY \$50</b> <b>UNLIMITED AVAILABLE</b></p> <p>American Family Insurance- AJ Kanz, Farmers Insurance-Dave Jensen, Gerard's Small Engine, Holtan's Jewelry, The Refinery, Thrivent Financial</p> <p><b>DUNK TANK SPONSORED BY</b></p> <p><b>FARMERS INSURANCE</b> <small>DAVE JENSEN AGENCY</small></p>	<p><b>GOLD \$275</b> (Thursday) <b>SOLD OUT</b></p> <p><b>Bluff View Estates</b></p> <p><b>CityAutoGlass</b> <small>EMPLOYEE OWNED</small></p> <p><b>Engrav's Decorating</b> <small>Interior Decorating</small></p> <p><b>RIVERSIDE</b> <small>INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS</small></p> <p><b>DIAMOND \$100</b> (Sunday) <b>7 AVAILABLE</b></p> <p><b>Hoff Celebration of Life</b> <b>Morgan Jewelers</b> <b>Pelaez Creative</b></p> <p><b>WINONA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b></p>
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**BE SEEN • BE HEARD • BELONG – JOIN THE CHAMBER!**

It's not just business as usual in Winona. The potential dividends from an investment in the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce are unlimited, because what develops at the Chamber is everyone's business.

97% of employers agreed that soft skills impact job performance

Only 31% of employers reported that their job candidates have satisfactory soft skills

**REACH**  
YOUR FULL POTENTIAL

Learn more at [hotjobscoolcompanies.com](http://hotjobscoolcompanies.com)