

THE COMMENT

January 2011 • VOL. XVII NO. 7

THIS ISSUE



New Members

Dakota County Business
After Hours

Member News

Renewing Members

Energize Educate Empower

These are the three E's the upcoming WomEn's Conference, hosted by the DCR Chamber, will be focused on. This is the first time the chamber has hosted a women's conference but expectations and excitement for the event are high.

For 2011 the Board of Directors wanted to create an event that would extend the influence of the DCR Chamber throughout the region. The idea of a women's conference was suggested by Membership Director Rhonda Baack. Having been involved in similar type of national conferences, that brought women together from all walks of life and different career paths, provided the inspiration for Baack's suggestion. "I enjoyed the fact that this gave women another opportunity to network beyond their normal business contacts and also the opportunity to hear from highly successful women was very inspiring and rejuvenating for me and the other attendees", said Baack. The chamber staff tapped a talented and resourceful group of women to get this event going.

The chair is Cindy Haas, Vice President of Private Banking at

Gateway Bank, Mendota Heights. Haas formerly served on a national board that developed conferences each year attracting executive women throughout the United States. "I knew Cindy would bring not only a wealth of expertise to the table but her overall enthusiasm and enterprising spirit for events will be an essential part of a successful event," said Batulis.

When asked why women should attend this event Haas said, "This conference is an excellent opportunity for all women who have a desire to advance their personal and professional lives. The DCR conference committee will deliver an extraordinary experience for attendees to hear dynamic and inspirational speakers, learn success secrets from outstanding professional women, and network with other influential women."

The WomEn's Conference

March 31, 2011

Eagan Community Center, 1501
Central Parkway, Eagan

Registration begins at 11:30am

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Welcome To Our New Members

Al Baker's Restaurant

3434 Washington Drive, Eagan
651.454.9000
Cheryl Burnette
www.albakers.biz
Restaurants, Cafes & Taverns

Buck Hill Ski Area

15400 Buck Hill Road, Burnsville
952.435.7174
www.buckhill.com
Recreation Center

Crystal Lake Golf Club

16725 Innsbrook Drive, Lakeville
952.432.6566
Lori Keerguard
www.crystallakegolfcourse.com
Golf Courses, Public

mendoberri Cafe and Wine Bar

730 Main Street, Mendota Heights
651.209.3270
Hope Kobb
www.mendoberri.com
Restaurants, Cafes & Taverns

Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc.

3426 Cromwell Trail, Rosemount
612.272.0997
Jeanne Schwartz
www.prepaidlegal.com
Legal

Sensaria

3690 Willbrook Court, Eagan
612.280.0734
Lisa Carmichael
www.mysensaria.com/spagal
Health & Wellness

Welsh Companies

971 Sibley Memorial Hwy
Ste 300, Lilydale
952.837.3060
Eric Rapp
www.welshco.com
Real Estate - Commercial

New Member Orientation

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Noon- 1:15pm at the
DCR Chamber Office

For new members, new representatives
and non-members that would like to
learn more about how the chamber can
benefit their business.

RSVP to mtighe@dcrchamber.com

Dakota County Business After Hours Event

The annual Dakota County Business After Hours Networking Tradeshow in November was again a very successful and well attended event. Held this year at beautiful Brackett's Crossing Country Club in Lakeville, there were over fifty vendors and approximately 500 attendees. With attendees and vendors from all over the region the networking possibilities were endless.



Above: Emily Fox Williams and Gary Huusko representing Severson, Sheldon, Dougherty, & Molenda, PA - Apple Valley.



Michael Ferber and others work the Eagan's 4th of July FunFest table. This organization were one of the DCR Chamber's 2010 Survive and Thrive Business Award Winners.



Tim Dunn (Lifeworks) tells Don Chapdelaine (SKB Environmental) about the great services Lifeworks has to offer.



New to Eagan, Think Mutual Bank took the opportunity to gain some exposure to the over 500 attendees.

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The day will start with keynote speaker Julie Gilbert. A groundbreaking business woman, Julie is founder and CEO of WOLF Means Business and former Senior Vice President of Best Buy. WOLF (Women of Leadership Forum) was developed to transform companies to serve the largest market in the world - women. Julie has recently been featured in TIME magazine and will inspire you to explore your passion for the possible!

The next session will consist of a panel of Extraordinary Women that will also share their amazing stories and secrets of success, moderated by Tammy Mencil, publisher and CEO of Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal.

These panelists include...

- Darlene Miller, President CEO Permac Industries, a custom manufacturer of precision parts for customers worldwide.
- Sona Mehring Founder and CEO CaringBridge, a service that provides free websites that connect people experiencing a significant health challenge to family and friends.
- Sharon Sayles Belton who in 1993 became the first female and first African American mayor of that largely white-populated city and is currently the VP of Community Relations and Government Affairs for Thomson Reuters Legal business.

- Patsy Skiba co-founder of The Fun Sisters boutiques, who after being prosecuted for selling knock-off designer accessories, which at the time was unknowingly illegal, did not let misfortune deter from the love of selling quality purses, but this time with known legal merchandise, and started a partnership under the name "The Fun Sisters".
- Kathleen Mock as is senior vice president of public and health affairs at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota she is responsible for public relations, internal communications, policy and legislative affairs, the Center for Prevention, the BCBS of Minnesota Foundation, the Minnesota Institute for Public Health (MIPH), community affairs and marketing communications.

In between the conference sessions there will be a marketplace full of products and services to enhance your personal and professional lives. Exhibitors will not only have a chance to market their goods and services to the 300+ expected attendees but they will also receive one complimentary ticket to the conference!

The International non-profit organization, Dress For Success will have a collection site for gently used, professional attire for attendees to donate.

The mission of Dress For Success is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

The conference will conclude with brilliant stand-up comedian Mary Rowles, who is sure to delight attendees with her heartwarming characters, side splitting stand-up comedy and hilariously inspired songs, which create a contagious laughter that begins the moment she walks on stage and lasts for weeks. The day will end with a causal reception where attendees can relax, network and enjoy wine and appetizers.

The conference is open to anyone including non-DCR Chamber members and men as well. The goal of the conference is to energize, educate, and empower attendees and ignite a new passion and inspiration toward career, community, and personal life.

Visit the DCR Chamber website or [CLICK HERE](#), to get registered TODAY!!

Thank you to our premier sponsor



THOMSON REUTERS

Important Changes to Cafeteria Plans Effective January 1, 2011

By: Attorneys Douglas P. Seaton and Emily L. Ruhsam

As employers continue to grapple with the seemingly unlimited number of changes resulting from the health care reform law, this article serves as a reminder about two upcoming changes involving cafeteria plans.

Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Changes

Beginning January 1, 2011, the cost incurred for over-the-counter medication and drugs may no longer be reimbursed through a flexible spending account, health reimbursement arrangement, or health savings account. If the individual obtains the over-the-counter medication with a prescription, the medication will be reimbursable. This change does not affect medical supplies (i.e. bandages), medical equipment (i.e. bandages), prescription drugs, insulin (even if purchased without a prescription), diagnostic

devices such as blood sugar test kits, contact lenses, eye glasses, medical devices, co-payments or deductibles. In addition, for plans that issue a debit or credit card to pay for over-the-counter medications or drugs, the cards must be reprogrammed so the card can no longer be used to purchase over-the-counter medications.

Simple Cafeteria Plans for Small Employers

Beginning after December 31, 2010, small employers that provide simple cafeteria plans meet the nondiscrimination testing rules so long as the employer is required to make certain contributions to the plan. Generally, for these purposes a “small employer” is one that had an average of 100 employees or less during the last two years. Once a qualified employer establishes a simple cafeteria plan, it continues to meet the nondiscrimination

requirements (and therefore avoids testing in subsequent years) until the employer has an average of 200 or more employees during a year. Under a classic cafeteria plan, nondiscrimination rules, if the plan fails the nondiscrimination testing, any benefits received by highly compensated employees lose their tax exempt status.

An employer can stay at the forefront of these changes and maintain the tax benefits for employees by simply amending its cafeteria plan(s). If you need help amending your plans to meet these new requirements or would like further information, please contact the authors of this article, or any Seaton, Beck & Peters attorney, at (952) 896-1700.

Doug Seaton and Emily Ruhsam are attorneys with Seaton, Beck & Peters, P.A., “The Lawyers For Employers.” The firm has been a member of the Chamber for many years and dedicates its practice to advising and representing employers in handling every type of labor, employment, and human resources law issue, problem, planning need, audit, dispute, complaint, charge or lawsuit.

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Member News

The Minnesota Zoo was awarded the Association of Zoos and Aquarium's Education Award for the interactive video game "Wolfquest".

Jackie Jennifer was hired as senior vice president of operations for **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota**.

The telephone and internet company **Frontier Communications** recognizes the people behind its service with the promotional documentary film "Faces of Frontier".

Burnsville based **Pawn America** was named "outstanding example of positive community involvement" by the Financial Services Centers of America.

Saint Cloud based **Marco**, a provider of technology advising has expanded its Twin Cities' operations to a new 15,000 square foot facility in Saint Louis Park.

To avoid traffic concerns due to construction on the interchange of Interstate 494 and Highway 169, **Rasmussen College** will move its Eden Prairie campus to Bloomington.

CFO of **Ecolab Inc.**, Steven Fritze was ranked as the ninth hardest working CFO in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal.

Thomson Reuters ranked third in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Journal for Minnesota operations owned by companies outside of state, ranked by Minnesota employees. Midwest Coca-Cola Bottling Co. ranked fifteenth in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Journal for Minnesota operations owned by companies outside of state, ranked by Minnesota employees.

Lockheed Martin ranked twenty-sixth in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Journal for Minnesota operations owned by companies outside of state, ranked by Minnesota employees.

Flint Hills Resources ranked thirty-three in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Journal for Minnesota operations owned by companies outside of state, ranked by Minnesota employees.

Thomson Reuters announced on November 29th that they will be donating about 1.2 million dollars worth of law books to Africa.

Scott Keefer was named vice president of public policy and legislative affairs for **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, Eagan**.

Sigfrid Muller was named vice president of business development for **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, Eagan**.

Adam Weliver was named vice president of key accounts for **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, Eagan**.

Erin Hager was hired by Eagan based **JBL Companies** to join the brokerage services team.

The Mendota Plaza is the winner of the 2010 MSCA's Shopping Center Tribute for Retail Estate Awards in Design & Aesthetics Renovation/Remodel: Exterior Retail over 25,000 SF.

The North Western Financial Review named Cindy Hass of **Gateway Bank** in Mendota Heights as 2010s Outstanding Women in Banking.

Baskets On Occasion Inc. owner Mary O'Rourke moved the retail/design shop to 1380 Duckwood Drive in Eagan.

President of **Anchor Bank, Eagan**, Arleen Sullivan will chair the YPartners annual giving campaign for the Southwest Area YMCA.

With the support from **Flint Hills Resources**, more than 5,600 students at metro-area schools will attend school programs about topics like dinosaurs, Antarctica, electricity, water and rivers.

MRCI WorkSource starts shipping its new candy, Quality Sweets to Menards. The business has been created to provide work to individuals with disabilities served by MRCI.

The St. Paul based firm, **Mahoney, Ulbrich, Christiansen and Ross** was named one of the 2010 Best Accounting Firms to work for by Accounting Today and Best Companies Group.

Kevin Baur was promoted to Business Banking Officer of **Anchor Bank, Eagan**.

Lost Spur Golf Course plans to build a new 22,500 square-foot Club house that is expected to be completed at the end of July.

Langer Real Estate Services is celebrating 20 years in business.

Carol A Keyes, one of the owners of **Complete Health, Environmental & Safety Services, Inc (CHESS, Inc.)**, an occupational health and safety consulting firm based in Woodbury, MN, has completed all requirements for certification as a Certified Safety Professional (CSP).

Thank you for your Continued Support

Every issue of The Comment will recognize members that have renewed their investment with Dakota County Regional Chamber in the past months. In this issue, we list members who renewed their membership in October 2010 and November 2010. Thank you for your continued investment in your local chamber of commerce.

31-35 Years

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota,
Saint Paul
First State Bank of Rosemount,
Rosemount
Gregory Mailand, West Saint Paul

26-30 Years

Dr. Robert A. Casper, Jr., Eagan
Mahoney, Ulbrich, Christiansen & Russ
PA, Saint Paul
Mendota Heights BP Amoco,
Mendota Heights

21-25 Years

AAA Auto Salvage Inc., Rosemount
Burger King, Eagan
Mendota Plaza & Doddway Shopping
Center, Saint Paul
UMore Park, Rosemount

16-20 Years

Agility Logistics Corp., Eagan
Cedarville Lanes, Eagan
Dakota Awards and Engraving, Rosemount
Hampton Inn of Eagan, Eagan
La Fonda de Los Lobos, Eagan
Office Depot, Eagan

11-15 Years

David Agency, Edina
Old Chicago, Eagan
Pine Bend Paving, Inc., Vermillion
Round Bank, Farmington

6-10 Years

Anchor Bank, Eagan
Dakota Communities, Eagan
Girl Scouts of MN and WI River Valleys,
Saint Paul
Neighbors, Inc., South Saint Paul

1-5 Years

American Family Insurance- Phillips
Agency, Eagan
Corner Piece Web, Burnsville
Ecolab Inc., Eagan
Family Vision Clinic Farmington,
Farmington
Gorton Studios, Eagan
HealthEast, Saint Paul
Keller Williams Preferred Realty,
Lakeville
Michael Wold Associates, Inc, Eagan
Northwood Dental, Eagan
Provincial Bank, Lakeville
Sears of Rosemount, Rosemount
State Farm Insurance, Mendota Heights
Team Worldwide, Eagan
Village at Mendota Heights, Minneapolis

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Koch Companies Public Sector

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Home Federal Bank

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Director Paul Eggen
State Farm Insurance

Director Michele Engdahl
Thomson Reuters

Director Allen Glynn
KLC Financial, Inc.

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Ecolab, Inc.

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Molenda, PA

Director Jeff Indovina
Midwest Coca Cola Bottling Company

Director Greg Konat
Community Action Council

Director Carol Keyes
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Director Matt Miller
Interstate Partners

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Director Roz Peterson
Cerron Commercial Properties

Director Kelly Schaeffbauer
DanburyIT

Director Phil Stalboerger
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota

Director Leslie Strohm
ProTec Environmental Consultants, Inc

Director Arleen Sullivan
Anchor Bank- Eagan

Ex Officio Director Brent Cory
Executive Director, Eagan Convention &
Visitors Bureau

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Ambassador Activity

The Dakota County Regional Chamber Ambassadors were hard at work over the last few months welcoming new businesses to the area with ribbon cuttings and groundbreakings. These events are great opportunities to celebrate new construction, new business openings, anniversaries, or any other significant business changes. Call Michelle to schedule your event at 651.452.9872.



mendoberri Cafe and Wine Bar
730 Main Street
Mendota Heights, MN 55118
651.209.3270
Contact: Hope Kobb

New
Business



Dakota County Technical College
1300 - 145th Street East
Rosemount, MN 55068
651.423.8000

Campus
Renovations



Lost Spur Golf Course
2750 Sibley Memorial Highway
Eagan, MN 55121
651.454.2330
Contacts: Geri Lockrem

Ground
Breaking



Thrivent Financial-Dakota Valley Associates
1895 Plaza Drive, Suite 225
Eagan, MN 55122
651.493.8605
Contact: Bob Ward

New
Location

