



MINNEAPOLIS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Chamber Courier Spring 2019

## Chamber Banquet & Auction now March 30th, 2019



The Dixons & friends at a previous Banquet.

The annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet & Auction will be at The Blue Store, coming up on March 30th. We will be honoring our Citizen of the Year! We will again be having a live auction with Terry Zimmer as our Auctioneer. Piano Pals of Delphos, who are half of the Forty Fingers piano quartet will be performing. New member Bernard's Catering is serving. Yum! Banquet Tickets are on sale for \$15 each. Of course the Platinum, Gold, and Silver level members receive their tickets as part of their membership package.. Other members can purchase tickets from Chamber Board Members The Crooked Nail, Gene's, or Coldwell –Banker Realty or at the Chamber Office on Tuesday through Thursday from 1-5 PM. If you have things you wish to donate to the auction, please bring them to The Crooked Nail. RSVP to Sharon by phone or email soon! See you all at the Banquet!



## BAK Comes June 12th

Biking Across Kansas or BAK is coming to Minneapolis to spend the night on June 12, 2019. With possibly as many as 850 riders and also that many support staff, our community will be needing to feed and entertain them. This is a money making opportunity for every civic organization, church, Extension Club, 4-H Club, Scout Troop, and food vendor in our area. We are having another Community Planning Meeting March 20 at 7 pm in the Courthouse Basement Meeting Room. Please come!

## 10 Reasons To Shop Local!

1. Dollars spent locally support vital local public services in out town and county.
2. Our community is unique and we have one of a kind businesses. Local ownership ensures decisions are made locally by people that live in our community.
3. You can grow relationships with local merchants. They can get to know you and cater to you preferences.
4. Local merchants care about the community and invest dollars back into our community.
5. Local purchases support local jobs.
6. When you shop local, you're supporting a host of other businesses. (Banks, restaurants, and others).
7. Local shops are more accessible to everyone; regardless if they have transportation.
8. You save money when you shop at home. (Spend less on travel, less travel time)
9. Your purchases help our town attract new entrepreneurs, skilled workers and families to our community.
10. 45% of each dollar spent locally goes back to the community in which it is spent.

## Share your News...

Does your business or organization have something newsworthy they would like to share? Well, by all means, let The Chamber know. We want to promote exciting things happening throughout our business community. It's one of the benefits we have for you. So whether it's an event you are putting on, a special recognition or award you have received, or a big milestone in your business, we'd like to know. We are always looking for content in our Newsletters and would love to cover your story!

Keeping you connected...

MINNEAPOLIS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## New Chamber & Tourism Website In the Works

The new, merged Ottawa County Tourism and Minneapolis Area Chamber of Commerce website is becoming a reality. Greg German, a web designer originally from Glen Elder in nearby Mitchell County, has been creating our new website, with much input from Phil Aumick, Ottawa Economic Development Director. The Strategic Doing Committee chose well. The new site looks very good so far. The site has new content being added weekly. The new website will be a great asset for showcasing our county to visitors and will be well worth all the e-planning that has gone into it. We will let everyone know when it is finished.

### *Update for Members on Prosecution of Former Chamber Director*

Many of you have inquired when I have visited with you over the past several months about what is happening with bringing the young woman hired in the Fall of 2017, who embezzled a lot of money from the Chamber in early 2018, to justice. She stole over half of the new membership payments for 2018 before the Board figured out what she had done and fired her. The board prosecuted her but since she had stolen the bulk of our income we could not afford to hire an attorney to represent us. So the County Attorney represented the Chamber in the proceedings. She pled guilty in September at her hearing, which VP Aumick attended. She was sentenced to pay restitution and be on Probation for 5 years. The wheels of justice turn slowly, it seems. She was finally assigned a Probation Officer in early November and met with them in mid-November. The Probation was downgraded to only a year somehow. How is she supposed to pay \$8,300 restitution in a year? Meanwhile the Judge sat on her sentencing paperwork until mid-December. This was the impetus for her to start making restitution, of which the first over \$700 went to Court costs. She finally paid the Chamber a sum total of \$87 which we received towards the end of January. We received nothing in February. After receiving no payment in February, I went and asked at the Clerk of the Court's Office about this. I was told that we will have to wait 90 days before turning it over to collections if she does not pay. The County Attorney's Secretary said that is what the procedure is. They have no way of making the person on Probation pay! Then they will garnishee her wages to pay us more, but not before! If this unacceptable to you as Chamber Members please complain to the County Attorney & tell them that as a Chamber member you want a better outcome & better representation than we have so far received.

### *Happenings at the Chamber Office*

I am in need of things to put in the Welcome Bags from some of you. Some of you I have contacted and asked for replacement gift certificates or promotional things which you have given me. But others of you I have not heard back from and the current bags in progress cannot be completed until I hear from you, about what you want to include for your business. Please let me know if you have something to include. Call 392-3068 or stop by Tuesday –Thursday 1-5. Thank you all for all the things you provide to put in the Welcome Bags! This is a wonderful service!



Keeping you connected

Minneapolis Area Chamber of Commerce

## Upcoming Events in Our Chamber Area

### ~Happy Spring 2019~

- March 11-15 Spring Break at USD 239& USD 240 Happy Vacation!
- March 20– **Biking Across Kansas Planning Meeting –Courthouse Meeting Room 7PM**
- March 21- MHS Winter Sports Banquet 6:30 PM
- March 22- MHS FFA Banquet 6:30 PM
- March 29-- Minneapolis HS Baseball vs Bennington HS 4 PM at Rupert Field, Minneapolis
- March 30– **Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting at new Member Hometown Outdoor Power  
8 AM– NOON Door Prizes Pancake Breakfast 8-10:30 AM All invited!**
- March 30-- **Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet & Auction at The Blue Store  
Drinks at 5:30pm Dinner at 6:30 Entertainment & Auction at 7:30**
- April 1– District FFA Banquet in Concordia 6PM
- April 4-FFA Aggie Days at CCCC
- April 6– State Science Olympiad for all schools
- April 13 MHS & THS Prom
- April 21-Easter Have Blessed Day!
- April 22– No School USD 239
- April 27-State Music Contest
- April 27– MGS Carnival 5-8 PM
- May 4– State Forensics
- May 9-- MHS Band & Vocal Concert 7PM
- May 11– MHS Senior Trip
- May 13- Regional Golf
- May 13– MJH Band & Vocal Concert 6:30 PM
- May 13-15 Regional Softball, Baseball
- May 17– Regional Track
- May 19– MHS Graduation
- May 20– State Golf
- May 20-MGS Field Day 1—3 grades
- May 21– MGS Field Day 4—6 grades
- May 22– Last Day of School USD 239
- May 23-24 State Baseball & Softball
- May 24-25 State Track
- May 27- **Memorial Day– Cemetery Ceremonies -Federal Holiday No Mail**
- June 12– **Biking Across Kansas comes through Tescott & spends the night in Minneapolis!**
- July 16-19 **Ottawa County Fair– Baby Show –Chamber Event**

### Minneapolis Area Chamber of Commerce Membership Drive for 2019

The Chamber belongs to you the members. I received 2019 dues from many of you . Thank you so much! I especially want to thank those members who paid early and helped us get through the end of 2018. Your membership and dues from all of you are most appreciated,. I enjoyed meeting a number of you delivering your Banquet Tickets , Window Clings, and Membership receipts. Thank you for putting your faith in me.

Sincerely, Your Executive Director, *Sharon Foust*