



MINNEAPOLIS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Chamber Courier Summer 2019

## Chamber Banquet & Auction March 30th, 2019



Above: Sharon presents Tom with his award  
Below: Verna Davidson & Jenna Carver, Piano Pals



Chamber Executive Director, Sharon Foust, was emcee. She & Chamber President Rebecca Charbonneau spoke about the Chamber year and how grateful the Chamber is for all of our members, especially given the past year. Sharon made an appeal for new Chamber Board members being needed. Phil Aumick was recognized for his service to the Chamber as he is retiring from the Board after Biking Across Kansas comes in June. The Chamber is recovering from difficulties of the previous year and is looking towards the future. A good time was had by all!

The annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet & Auction was at The Blue Store, on March 30th. After being postponed a month because of a snowstorm, we woke up to snow on March 30th as well! Thankfully the snow stopped and it was a cold but nice evening. A crowd of over 55 attended. We honored, Tom Schur, as our Citizen Volunteer of the Year for his work at Rock City! Piano Pals of Delphos, Verna Davidson & Jenna Carver, who are half of the Forty Fingers piano quartet performed a delightful concert of popular, patriotic and spiritual music. New member Bernard's Catering served the dinner of roast beef and grilled chicken with rice & cheesy potatoes, vegetables, salad, bread and cake or cobbler for dessert. The auction was very spirited with Auctioneer Terry Zimmer auctioning off 20 different items of various values donated by Chamber member businesses and local citizens, ranging from receiving blankets to an oil change, pictures, decorative items, a Weber grill, to 2 different weekend getaways, one in Breckenridge and one at Acorns Resort, that raised over \$2,000 for the Chamber!

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### 10 Reasons To Shop Local!

1. Dollars spent locally support vital local public services in our 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. Take advantage of the Electronic Bulletin Board. All members can advertise on it. It's one of the benefits we have for you. So whether it's an event you are putting on, an award you have received, or a big milestone in your business, we'd like to know. We can feature it in the newsletter.



## NEW CHAMBER & TOURISM WEBSITE IS LIVE!

THE NEW, MERGED OTTAWA COUNTY TOURISM AND MINNEAPOLIS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WEBSITE IS NOW 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, RETIRED OTTAWA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR. AND YOUR CHAMBER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SHARON FOUST, ALONG WITH MEMBERS OF THE STRATEGIC DOING TOURISM COMMITTEE KATE DIXON, KIM BIRD, DENNIS KELLEY, AND JENNY NICHOLS. THE STRATEGIC DOING TOURISM COMMITTEE CHOSE WELL IN CHOOSING GREG. HE WAS WONDERFUL TO WORK WITH. THE NEW SITE LOOKS VERY GOOD. THE SITE FEATURES INCREDIBLE PHOTOS SHOWCASING OUR COUNTY FROM LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS, ELDON CLARK, & DANTON MCDIFFETT, ALONG WITH SOME TAKEN BY GREG HIMSELF AND COMMITTEE MEMBER JENNY NICHOLS. 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. THE CHAMBER IS MOST GRATEFUL TO THE DANE HANSEN FOUNDATION FOR AWARDING US THE GRANT WHICH FUNDED THE WEBSITE. ALSO THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ALL THEIR WORK ON SEEING THIS THROUGH TO COMPLETION. THE NEW WEBSITE CAN BE FOUND AT [ottawacountykansas.com](http://ottawacountykansas.com) GO CHECK IT OUT!



### BAK Came June 12th! Thank You Minneapolis!

Biking Across Kansas or BAK came to Ottawa County on Wednesday, June 12th, 2019 to spend the night at Minneapolis Jr-Sr High School. With 805 riders and staff along with dozens of family members who came along for the week in campers & tents, there were close to 900 visitors. This was a money making opportunity for civic organizations, churches, Extension Clubs, 4-H clubs, and local food vendors in our area. Some had lunch in Tescott. And Minneapolis did not disappoint!

The Park Board offered free swimming to the bikers & a free movie at the MHS Auditorium. The OCSC ran the Carnival that evening with great crowds. The Arts & Humanities Council sponsored "Brews, Tunes & Food" with Eldon's Catering at the old gas station on the corner of 9th & Rock, with an Art Show & live music from Jon Strowig. They sold out! The VFW ladies served lunch & dinner & sold out of food. Pizza Hut did Pizza in the Parking Lot! Fun! Bernard's Catering, Chamber Member, served dinner at the school and sold out! Bernard's & Noon Lions served breakfast at the school the following morning with some other groups and sold out! Not everyone sold out but many did. Thank you Minneapolis. Some bikers stopped for breakfast in Bennington as well! Kudos to all who helped in any way! Thank you communities of Ottawa County for welcoming BAK!

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

Many of you have inquired when I have visited with you about what is happening with the young woman, who embezzled a lot of money from the Chamber in early 2018. As I reported to you in March she had paid us restitution of a grand total of \$87 in January. Then we received a check for \$100 in April just before the 90 days was up, whereby we could have garnished her wages. The first part of July we received another \$200, another \$60 in August., and now \$100 in September So she has repaid a grand total of \$547 so far. Nearly \$7600 to go...

### *Happenings at the Chamber Office*

I have given out a number of Welcome Bags this Summer. Over a half a dozen. I had run out of things from some of you, but you graciously provided me with more. Thank you to all of you who did. Please let me know if you have something to include. If I have not contacted you recently. 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

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Minneapolis Area Chamber of Commerce *Chamber Courier*

## Upcoming Events in Our Chamber Area

### *Happy Summer & Back to School!*

**Sept 2- Labor Day-Federal Holiday** *No mail Enjoy the fruits of your labors!*

Sept 5-BHS & THS CC MHS CC

Sept 6-BHS Football @Wakefield, THS Football @ Lincoln, MHS Football vs Republic County

Sept 7-MHS FFA goes to State Fair

Sept 9- MHS Band Goes to State Fair

Sept 13-BHS Football vs. Moundridge, THS Football @ Scandia, MHS Football @ Sacred Heart

**Sept 14-Minneapolis City-Wide Garage Sale-Chamber Sponsored Event -Begins at 8AM**

Sept 14- MHS hosts VB 6 Team Tournament C Team

Sept 20-BHS Football @ Little River, THS Football @ St John's, MHS Football @ Beloit

Sept 21-BHS & THS VB Tournament @ Tescott, MHS VB Tournament @ Russell

Sept 27-BHS vs Canton-Galva, THS Homecoming vs Lakeside, MHS Homecoming vs Ellsworth

Sept 28-MHS hosts VB 8 Team Tournament, BHS @ VB Tournament @ Wakefield

Oct 4-BHS FB @ Solomon, THS VB & FB @ Mankato, MHS FB @ Norton

Oct 5-MHS VB @ Concordia 7 Team District Tournament

Oct 11-BHS FB Homecoming vs Peabody, THS FB @ Linn, MHS FB @ Hoisington

Oct 12-MHS VB Quad @ Washington

**Oct 14-Colombus Day- Federal Holiday** *No mail!*

Oct 18-BHS FB @ Herington, THS FB @ Onaga, MHS FB vs. Hays-TMP

Oct 19-BHS VB @ Marion, THS VB League Tourney, MHS VB @ Hillsboro

Oct 25-BHS FB vs Goessel, Tescott FB @ Miltonvale, MHS FB vs Phillipsburg

Oct 31-BGS Halloween Parade downtown Bennington early AM BHS & THS District FB Playoffs

**Oct 31-Minneapolis Downtown Halloween Parade-5 pm** *Chamber Sponsored Event Be There!*

Nov 1-MHS District FB Playoffs

Nov 1 & 2- State VB All Classes

Nov 8- FB Regionals All Classes

**Nov 28-Thnaksgiving Day- Federal Holiday- No mail! Be thankful for God's gifts to you!**

**Nov 29- Black Friday- Largest Shopping Day of the Year! Chamber wishes its members well!**

**Nov 30- Santa Comes to Minneapolis- 4 -7 pm-Small Business Saturday Downtown Stores Open**

### **Chamber Board**

**2019-2020**

**President**

**Rebecca**

**Charbonneau**

**Vice President**

**Lexi Kirn**

**Treasurer**

**Vicki Lance**

**Secretary/Ex Dir**

**Sharon Foust**

**Board Members**

**Bob Bergman**

**Michael**

**Charbonneau**

**Virginia Hoover**

**Gary Kay**

**Lisa Keating**

**Katrena Nichols**

**Jason Parks**

**Leah Robinson**

With Phil's retirement, we have an open spot on the Board if anyone is interested in serving. Also, Lexi has been serving for 8 years now. She plans to go off the Board in 2020. The Board meets at 5pm the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Chamber Members are welcome..

### *2020 Membership Drive Will Begin in November*

As we approach the end of the year, we think about our Chamber Membership Drive. This past year saw several of our business members close for retirement or health reasons. We currently have 80 members. This includes several business members who have returned to Chamber membership who had not belonged for several years. Thank you most gratefully to those members! But several of our new memberships for this year, are individual members or Community members who have joined at the \$25 or \$50 levels, not the true business levels at \$150 and up. While we appreciate all members, we want to attract more members who are actually businesses. There are a number of businesses in the county who are not Chamber Members, unfortunately. If you know of a business who is not a Chamber member please encourage them to join. We are planning on bringing back M-Day/Minne-K Day next Spring. This year BAK Day took the place of that, as the Board did not think we could do both, back to back. So plan for sponsoring things at M-Day, in your business budgeting for next year. Please plan for getting advertising items to put in the Welcome Bags. Please fill out the backs of the membership applications to show where your business can help to do things. If you would like to host an After Hours Event please let me know. If you would like to upgrade your membership to the next level, that would be most appreciated. The Chamber is only as good as our Membership supports us. Please keep this in mind as your business plans for 2020. I plan to send out the 2020 Membership Applications in November. Please, if your business is able, pay your dues early. That would be most appreciated. If you cannot that is fine, we will look forward to receiving your dues in January.

I, as your Executive Director, am most grateful for the support you have given me this year, there has been a true learning curve on my part. I kind of feel like I know what I am doing now. But, I do miss Phil's help a lot. Phil Aumick in his capacity as Ottawa County Economic Development Director & Board VP, was an invaluable help to me this past year. I have really missed his input and help these past 2 months since his retirement. If you see Phil around, please tell him "Thank You for all the help he gave the Chamber!" I could not have done my job this past year without him. I am thankful for each Board Member and the advice and help they have given me. The Chamber has a really good Board. Our new members who joined in the Spring have been great at giving input. Thanks to them & to you all! God Bless You! *Sharon Foust*