



Annual Report

2021-2022

ENERGIZING THE PACE OF BUSINESS

Promote. Advocate. Connect. Educate.

509 HIGHWAY 10, ELK RIVER, MN 55330
763-441-3110 | ELKRIVERCHAMBER.ORG

From the Board Chair

The Elk River Area Chamber of Commerce had an active year that was worthy of both recognition and celebration. I am proud to share just a few of these achievements and milestones.

This past year, our Chamber membership continues to grow both in numbers and engagement. This is highlighted by two successful events: Our Spring Gala and Summer Golf Tournament. Both events broke records on funds raised and the number of golfers at our 31st annual golf tournament.

Another accomplishment was that we successfully installed a new digital sign located at our Chamber office on Highway 10 coming into Elk River. This sign will be a great resource for us to promote events and communicate to our community. This sign is seen by over 30,000 people every day.

I would also like to highlight our advocacy role. The Chamber is proud to be the voice to various government entities to ensure our positions are heard that will benefit or support our members.

Please check our publications and social media platforms for the latest information or reach out to our Board of Directors and staff if you would like to get better connected and engaged this coming year.

To your success,
Brian Bohnsack
2021-2022 Board Chair



By the Numbers

ENERGIZED

333

Regional Businesses



Encompassing
18,652 Jobs
in the Region.

Digital Impact for Your Business

53,818 Web Page Hits
43 Jobs Posted
18 Hot Deals Promoted

Promote
Advocate
Connect
Educate

New Members:

26

Retention Rate:

93%

expanding the Chambers circle of influence

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWS

 2705 | 7.6% ^

 961 | .7% ^

 610 | 23.7% ^

 217 | 158% ^

Member Connections

Over 50 networking opportunities connecting 700 people

CELEBRATED MEMBER MILESTONES

36 Ambassador Visits
& Ribbon Cuttings

Annual Highlights

Annual Meeting

The chamber's Annual Meeting was held September 28th at the Oliver Kelley Farm. Along with a traditional year in review and installation of board officers, Kit Welchlin provided the keynote "Change Stress & Doing More with Less. Kit provided techniques to master change and minimize the damage of stress caused by change.

Business Excellence & Volunteer of the Year

Business Excellence and Volunteers of the Year were celebrated on November 9 at Rockwoods Banquet Center. The businesses of the year participated in a panel discussion. The Business Awards honor member businesses whose primary business positively impacts the Elk River region and who excel professionally, ethically, and responsibly.

The Award recipients were

Employer of the Year - Collyard Chiropractic

Small Business of the Year - Northface Construction

Large Business of the Year - Distinctive Iron

New Business of the Year - TAKEOFF Nutrition

Young Professional of the Year - Katie Shatusky

The chamber is a volunteer-based organization - volunteers make the chamber work.

Ambassador of the Year - Dr. Carrie Collyard-Glinsek

PACE-setter of the Year - Joanna Arbic

Keystone Award - Dan Weber

Holiday Social

The Holiday Social took place at Boondox Bar's Back Forty. Members were asked to bring an unwrapped toy for Gifts Anonymous. Games, Raffles, and great networking were the order of business.

Annual Highlights

Regional Economic Development Update

This forum was held on April 25th at The Links at Northfork. City and County Administrators shared updates from their communities about housing, new projects, property valuations and other impactful changes. The Cities of Zimmerman, Ramsey, Otsego & Elk River along with Sherburne County were represented.

Coconuts & Cocktails

Traditionally held in the fall, this fundraising event was moved to the Spring (where it will stay). Over 130 people attended the sold-out event. The theme "Coconuts & Cocktails – Aloha Back to Business" brought a fun tropical atmosphere with games and an online silent auction. Johnny Pineapple played his ukulele, sang, and taught some in the audience how to do a proper hula dance.

Lunch Mobs & Summer Socials

Everyone enjoys getting away from the office and meeting with new or long-time contacts & friends. These casual networking opportunities are provided throughout the year at a member restaurant.

Irons & Gridirons

Irons & Gridirons was the theme for the sold-out Golf Tournament held at Riverwood National Golf Course in Monticello. Tommy Kramer, former Vikings Quarterback, was a big hit as he attended and golfed with one lucky team. It was a beautiful day on the course and players and sponsors alike contributed to the fun.

Membership Appreciation Picnic

This event was held at 101 Market, where they are celebrating their 25th year in business all year long. Board Member Marilyn Nathe Specht provided a delicious BBQ spread enjoyed by over 100 members' and their employees. This annual event is our board of directors' way of saying thank you for the continued support of the chamber.

Year in Pictures



Year in Pictures



2021 Business Excellence Awards

*Congratulations to the winners of the
2021 Business of the Year Awards.*

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

Collyard Chiropractic

NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

TAKEOFF Nutrition

LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Distinctive Iron

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Northface Construction

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Katie Shatusky



Nominate a business today for the 2022 Awards
Program Planned for November 17th

Advocacy

The Elk River Area Chamber of Commerce prides itself as a strong coalition of business leaders, entrepreneurs and community members who work hand in hand to create an environment where businesses want to build and expand, and families want to put down roots. It is imperative that we work to enact policies at all levels that encourage and allow Minnesota families and businesses to grow and expand throughout the Elk River area and the surrounding communities.

During the 2022 Legislative Session, partnering with the Minnesota Chamber, we advocated for policies that would accelerate economic growth and do no harm to our businesses recovering from the pandemic closures. We found success with:

- PPP Forgiveness Tax Conformity - Minnesota tax law to align with the federal tax law on PPP Forgiveness. PASSED
- UI Trust Fund Fix - use the ARPA funds along with the budget surplus to resolve the \$1.3 billion deficit. PASSED
- Frontline Worker Bonus Program to recognize front line workers effects during the shutdown as essential workers PASSED
- Reinsurance support for individual healthcare plans PASSED

Locally the chamber supported many positive economic development efforts including:

- Letter of support for County Road 4 Interchange in Zimmerman
- Broadband Grant application for Sherburne County
- Ordinance amendment that streamlined the process for Site Plan Review & Approval in the City of Elk River.
- Broad communication plan for Highway 169 Construction

Committees

Government Relations

Melissa Fermoyle
Marilyn Nathe-Specht
John Houlton
Cindy Hemmer
Tom Sagstetter
Kevin Bergstrom
Jennifer Wagner
Dan Weber

Gala

Bill Hannay
Darlene Sogn
Jenine Rumreich
Jenny Friday
Joe Audette
Katie Franaschouk
Lisa Middagh
Patty Bohnsack
Stacy Mohs
Vanessa Moos

Cool Jobs

Amy Lord
Jessica Barthel
Melissa Fermoyle
Nicole Novotny



Ambassadors

Carrie Vesel
Chris Barta
Christie Stang
Darlene Sogn
David Black
Dr. Carrie Collyard-Glinsek
Greg Schultz
Heather Klierer
Jason Ryan
Jenny Friday
Kari McHenry
Matt Johnson
Pamela Artmann
Patty Bohnsack
Ryan Hardin

Connections

Leaders

Jason Ryan, Facilitator
Jenine Rumreich,
Speaker Coordinator

Golf

Alyssa Johnson
Brian Bohnsack
Christie Stang
Gina Artisensi-Skime
Greg Schultz
Joanna Arbic
Melanie Clemons
Ryan Hardin

Workforce

Development

Amy Lord
Chris Bickman
Cindy Hemmer
Dan Weber
Danyell Wendland
Don Hickman
Linda Cockrell
Melissa Fermoyle
Nicole Novotny
Tim Zipoy

21-22 Board of Directors

Brian Bohnsack, Chair
Nicole Novotny, Chair Elect
Linda Cockrell, Treasurer
David Black
Dr. Carrie Collyard-Glinsek
Melissa Fermoye
Ryan Hardin
Cindy Hemmer
John Houlton
Katie Jendro
Deborah Leedahl
Robert McDonald
Marilyn Nathe-Specht
Anne Nelson
Brenda Roux

Fleming Investment Group
Guardian Angels Senior Services
HR & Q, LLC
The Bank of Elk River
Collyard Chiropractic P.A.
Metal Craft
Partners Real Estate Hardin Companies
Distinctive Iron
First Bank Elk River
Hess & Jendro Law Office P.A.
Kemper Drug and Gift
Pizza Ranch
101 Market
Cornerstone Auto Group
Thrivent



Thank You

2021-2022 Event Sponsors

