



# CONNECTIONS Quarterly



# A Look Back At 2023

### **Enhanced Chamber Members**

### Inspire Level Member



### Visionary Members







### **Invest Members**







### **Engage Members**





### **Elevate Members**

AFC MATERIALS AMERICAN COMMUNITY CAMFIL BANK BLACK DIAMOND BMO

CURRAN CANNAWERX CASTLE AUTO PLEX GENERAL KINEMATICS HAMPTON LENZINI & RENWICK INSPERITY MARIANO'S MILLER VERCHOTA NORTHWEST HERALD PROFESSIONAL WEALTH ADVISORS WALMART

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### Meet The Chamber Staff



Catherine Peterson President and CEO cpeterson@clchamber.com



Nikki Paolelli Executive Asisstant to the President npaolelli@clchamber.com



Jay Hyde Director of Membership jhyde@clchamber.com



Katie Sinde Marketing & Member Engagement Manager ksinde@clchamber.com

### **REGISTRATION OPEN!**

CHAMBER MEMBERS: \$250 NON-CHAMBER MEMBERS: \$300

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE · APPLY AT CLCHAMBER.COM

2024



Become a better leader and more valued team member by attending this 7-week, presenter-led course.

For ove<mark>r 45 years, Leaders</mark> in Action has offered business professionals a credible space to explore new concepts and gain necessary skills.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER



### From the President's Desk

Dear Chamber Members,

I recently completed my first month as President/CEO of the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce, and thank you for the warm welcome from our members and the community at large. I am grateful that you have been incredibly supportive and positive in your outlook.

As a part of my ongoing meetings with members, I have also heard some concerns with your Chamber. Clearly, we could have done better in some areas in the past, and I promise to correct that.

To address your concerns, we are reviewing and amending our processes, procedures, and policies to ensure that we follow best practices in all operations and governance. All decisions and subsequent actions will be consistent with and in support of our vision and mission. Moving forward, we commit:

- To excellence
- To full transparency.
- To listen.
- To acknowledge mistakes and act promptly to rectify them.
- To work collaboratively with our members and organizations throughout McHenry County.
- To be creative and forward thinking in all endeavors.
- To be inclusive

Honoring these commitments will require the dedication of the entire Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce team, including the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers. And we are all in, and up for the challenge.

There has been some staff turnover as well, so this is an opportune time to introduce them.

Nikki Paolelli – Executive Assistant to the President. In addition to her duties as Executive Assistant to the President, Nikki will assist with bookkeeping and coordination of events.

Jay Hyde – Director of Membership. Jay is the primary contact for all matters related to membership, and you'll see him at events, including mixers and ribbon cuttings.

Katie Sinde – Marketing & Member Engagement Manager. Katie is responsible for all Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce marketing materials and efforts. You'll also see Katie at events, including mixers and ribbon cuttings.

Watch for an announcement about an opportunity to meet the Chamber team. She is coming soon!

Most importantly, we want to hear from you. What are we doing right? What event(s) did you enjoy? What new events should we consider? Have we made a mistake? We're committed to fixing it. We want to earn your trust. Be on the lookout for a membership survey coming in soon to give your honest feedback.

It's an honor to serve as your new President/CEO. I look forward to working together to promote, support, and expand businesses, foster an environment that creates jobs and enhances economic opportunities, and improve the quality of life for Crystal Lake and the surrounding area.

If you would like to be a part of this new direction, I invite you to volunteer for a committee or an event. Our members are our greatest asset and we need your help and expertise to get us all where we want to be. Please reach out to Nikki



Best, Catherine Peterson cpeterson@chamber.com 815-459-1300x13

# 2023 Ribbon Cuttings

# 2023 Ribbon Cuttings



Thursday, January 19th Laser Pro Co 978 N. McLean Blvd Elgin IL

Tuesday, January 24th McHenry County Housing Authority 1125 Mitchell Court Crystal Lake

Thursday, February 2nd Ivv Hall Dispensary 501 Pingree Road Crystal Lake

> Wednesday, March 8th Pink Door Thrift Shop 3741 W. Elm St McHenry



Sunday, May 7th **Evangelical Free Church** 

Wednesday, May 24th Boulder Ridge County Club 250 Boulder Dr Lake in the Hills

Summer Moon Coffee



Friday, March 10th Arden Rose Home Care 840 E. Oak St Lake in the Hills

Wednesday, March 15th Fork It Foods 256 N. Oak St Lake in the Hills

Friday, March 17th HOLA Ribbon Cutting @ CL Chamber 427 W Virginia St Crystal Lake

> Thursday, March 22nd Heady Cup Coffee Roasters 4127 W. Orleans McHenry



Friday, April 14th Comm Act for McHenry County 76 W. Crystal Lake Ave Crystal Lake

Wednesday, April 19th Wake-Up & Make-Up by Ann LLC 81 N. Williams St Crystal Lake

Wednesday, April 19th Encore Memory Care 495 Alexandra Blvd Crvstal Lake

Wednesday, May 3rd Mary Kay Cosmetics - Ilanna Fiorenza 427 W. Virginia St Crystal Lake



Wednesday, August 16th New Directions 500 Coventry Lane Crystal Lake

Wednesday, August 23rd Blue Smoke Barbecue Supply 35 Berkshire Drive Crystal Lake

Thursday, August 24th Rookies Pub & Grill 72 N. Williams St Crystal Lake



Thursday, September 7th Home State Bank - Main Street 611 S. Main St Crystal Lake

Wednesday, September 13th Journey Care 240 Commerce Dr Crystal Lake

Wednesday, September 27th Querhammer & Flagg Funeral Home 500 W. Terra Cotta Ave Crystal Lake



Tuesday, October 3rd 1914 Custom Ribbon Cutting 5505 E. Northwest Hwy Crystal Lake

Thursday, October 5th Vulcan Room at Salon Cora 5657 Northwest Highway Crystal Lake

> Friday, October 13th **ICB Plumbing** 3319 Rt 31 Crystal Lake



575 E. Crystal Lake Ave Crystal Lake

Thursday, May 25th 625 Cog Circle Crystal Lake



Wednesday, June 7th By Your Side Autism Therapy Services 390 Congress Parkway Crystal Lake

Thursday, June 8th CI Frank Country Financial 40 W. Terra Cotta Ave Crystal Lake

Wednesday, June 14th Shanti Canine Spa 8505 Redtail Drive Village of Lakewood



Thursday, June 22nd Stages of Transformation 820 McArdle Drive Crystal Lake

Wednesday, July 26th Healthcare Plus 5899 Northwest Hwy Crystal Lake

> Thursday, August 10th Spartan Boxing & Fitness 760 Industrial Drive Carv



Thursday, October 18th Conscious Cup Coffee Roasters 110 W. Woodstock St Crystal Lake

Wednesday, October 25th Michael Keith Salon Suites 1055 Nimco Drive Crystal Lake

Wednesday, November 1st Senior Care Volunteer Network 42 East St Crystal Lake



Thursday, November 2nd Simply Delicious Gourmet Catering 8505 Redtail Drive Lakewood

> Wednesday, November 8th Home of the Sparrow 1991 Duncan Ave Woodstock

Friday. November 10th Huntingon Bank Algonquin 2045 E. Algonquin Rd Algonquin



Wednesday, November 30th Woodstock Chevrolet 2145 S. Eastwood Drive Woodstock

Thursday, December 14th Monster Ink Tattoo 1540 Carlemont Drive Crystal Lake

# 2023 Mixers







<u>Tuesday, January 31st</u> Alexander Leigh Center for Autism Multi-Chamber Mixer 4100 Veterans Parkway McHenry

<u>Tuesday, March 7th</u> Pink Door Thrift Shop Multi-Chamber Mixer 3741 W. Elm St McHenry

Tuesday, April 18th Wake-Up and Make-Up by Ann Mixer 81 N. Williams St Crystal Lake

Tuesday, May 16th #1 Referral Group Mixer at Crystal Lake Brewing 150 N. Main St Crystal Lake

Thursday, July 20th
Independence Health & Therapy Multi-Chamber Mixer
2028 N. Seminary Ave Woodstock



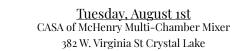


Tuesday, September 26th
Querhammer & Flagg
75th Anniversary Mixer
500 W. Terra Cotta Ave Crystal Lake

Tuesday, October 3rd Cassidy Tire & Service Mixer 5505 E. Northwest Hwy Crystal Lake

Tuesday, October 17th Conscious Cup Coffee Roasters Multi-Chamber Mixer 110 W. Woodstock St Crystal Lake

Tuesday, October 24th Michael Keith Salon Suites Mixer 1055 Nimco Dr Crystal Lake



Tuesday, August 8th
Express Employment 20th Anniversary Multi-Chamber Mixer
580 E. Terra Cotta Ave Crystal Lake

<u>Tuesday</u>, <u>August 29th</u> Monday Night Football Kickoff Mixer 72 N. Williams St Crystal Lake

Tuesday, September 5th
Gallant Building Mixer
345 Memorial Drive Crystal Lake

<u>Tuesday, September 12</u> Main Stay Therapeutic Farm Multi-Chamber Mixer 6919 Keystone Rd Richmond



Tuesday, November 7th CL Chamber Foundation Mixer Crystal Lake Brewing 150 N Main Street

Wednesday, November 8th Home of the Sparrow Mixer 1991 Duncan Ave Woodstock

<u>Tuesday, November 14th</u> Salvation Army Red Kettle Kick-off Multi-Chamber Mixer 250 Boulder Dr Lake In the Hills

Tuesday, December 5th
Community Foundation of Mchenry County
Multi-Chamber Mixer
33 E. Woodstock St Crystal Lake

Tuesday, December 12th Helzberg Diamond Mixer 5750 Northwest Hwy Crystal Lake



## Out 2 Lunch



Out 2 Lunches are held at different Chamber member restaurants from 12pm-1pm. This is a chance to meet with fellow Chamber members and discuss topics relevant to your business. RSVP's are appreciated, come join us and order off their lunch menus.

2023 Out 2 Lunch Events:

Wednesday, January 11th At El Burrito

Wednesday, March 8th At Tony's Cafe

Wednesday, May 10th At Tasty Bistro

Wednesday, November 15th At Kirin King









Business Builders is an educational session with speakers who address business related subjects. The goal is to provide attendees with educational opportunities to enhance how you run your business. The 1-1/2 hour sessions include networking opportunities.

2023 Business Builders Topics:

<u>Thursday, February 9th</u> You Built a Business Congrats! What Happens Next?

<u>Thursday, April 13th</u> Artificial Intelligence Demystified

<u>Tuesday, June 6th</u> Strategic Planning For Business Owners

<u>Thursday, August 10th</u> Let's Talk Medicare Basics

<u>Tuesday, December 12th</u> Corporate Transparency Act



# 2023 PICA Winners



The mission of the Pride in Crystal Lake Award is to identify businesses, organizations, or individuals that show pride in Crystal Lake, improve the quality of life in the community, and/or improve the physical appearance of the community. The award recipients this time around just happen to embody all 3 of these qualifications.

April - Heisler's Bootery



April 11th, 2023

#### October - Georgio's



October 19th, 2023

#### November - Public Works



November 28th, 2023

# THEATRE RETURNS TO RAUE CENTER IN 2024

FEB 23 - MAR 17

# NATIVE GARDENS

BY KAREN ZACARIAS

A comedy about crossing boundaries and mending fences.



### RAUE CENTER SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS SPRING PRODUCTION - ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN!

Ages: 10 - 18

Rehearsals March 4 - April 17 DIARY
of a
Winpy Kid

Enrollment closes 2/21/24

Performances APRIL 18 - 20



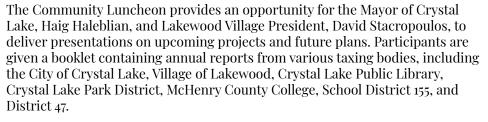
# Annual Events Recap

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND - MARCH 16TH Leaders in Action Educational Series American Community Bank Meeting Room

Leaders in Action is an 8-week speaker series that showcases dynamic speakers presenting challenging ideas and equipping attendees with tools to encourage thinking beyond their comfort zones for leadership growth. The 2023 installment of Leaders in Action featured presentations from Andrea Herran, Paula Jenkins, John Kennedy, Vince Racioppo, Chase Tolleson, Dan Brzozowski, and Louie Sharp.



# FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD State of the Community Luncheon Crystal Lake Holiday Inn





#### SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND Community Clean Up Day Crystal Lake Parks

The Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce and the Crystal Lake Park District Sponsor Community Clean Up each year. Volunteers are dispatched throughout the Crystal Lake parks to clean up the trash left behind over the winter season. AMS Store & Shred was on-site at the Crystal Lake Chamber to collect documents for shredding. Winners of our "Where's Oscar" raffle were: Moises Yeverino won a Summer Moon Prize Pack; Jen Eiserman won a Sage YMCA Prize Pack; Marsha Marsha and Traci Raadssen won a First Institute 1-Hour Massage; Braintarah Winzenten won a Crystal Lake Ice House Open Skate Family Pack; Melissa Ferris won a Lippold Family Golf Center Family Pack; and Ian Loader and Shaun Tessmer won a Lippold Family Golf Center Driving Range Pack.



### **GET TICKETS AND INFO AT RAUECENTER.ORG**

THE MUSICAL

26 N Williams Street, Crystal Lake, IL 60014 | 815.356.9212 | rauecenter.org

# Annual Events Recap

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#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 24TH Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony Turnberry Country Club

The Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony is an opportunity for the Chamber to celebrate itself and the Chamber members that went above and beyond during the previous fiscal year. This year's Presidential Award of Excellence Winners were: Haig Haleblain (Mayor of Crystal Lake & Exceed Floor & Home), Mike Hillegonds (StratusComm-Managed IT Services), Katie O'Neill (Heritage Title Company), Jeff Lord (Edward Jones), and Ed Kisman (Grill Masters Catering). The 2023 Carl E. Wehde Award, given to the Individual/Group of the Year, was awarded to Victoria Summers of the Chamber Foundation.

The 2023 Robert O. Covey Award, given to the Business of the Year, went to



### MONDAY, AUGUST 14TH 2nd Annual Mini Golf Classic Lippold Family Golf Center

The Chamber held the 2nd Annual Mini Golf Classic at Lippold Family Golf Center on Monday August 14th. The event was sponsored by Great Lakes Credit Union. It was a great night of family fun attended by over 70 people. It was truly a great 2nd annual mini golf classic! Thank you for joining us to make the night unforgettable!



#### MONDAY, JUNE 26TH 39th Annual Golf Classic Bull Valley Country Club

First Institute.

The 39th Annual Golf Classic was held on Monday June 26th at Bull Valley Country Club. It was a fun day on the links and a big thank you to all our sponsors that helped make the event a smashing success. Be on the lookout for your invite to the 40th Annual Golf Classic in 2024!



# SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH Crystal Lake Block Party Concert Event Crystal Lake Brewing

The Crystal Lake Chamber held its first ever Crystal Lake Block Party Concert Event on Sunday September 17th at Crystal Lake Brewing. We had Sparks Fly, a Taylor Swift Tribute Band, and Jimmy Nick and Don't Tell Mama rocking throughout the afternoon making the Crystal Lake Block Party the place to be! General Kinematics sponsored a Swift Boutique so attendees to add some bling to their outfit to really make the afternoon fun! There was a great selection of food from Georgio's Pizza, Moontime Smokin' Que, Fork it Foods, and Cantina 52. It was a great family fun afternoon and a successful event all around!



# SUNDAY, JULY 2ND Crystal Lake Independence Day Parade Dole Avenue

The 2023 Crystal Lake Independence Day Parade took place on Sunday July 2nd, along Dole Avenue. It's believed that between 15,000 to 20,000 people were in attendance (but we weren't keeping an exact count). Jim Heisler of Heisler's Bootery was the 2023 Crystal Lake Independence Day Parade Grand Marshall. The 2023 Showstopper Award was given to the talented Crystal Lake South High School Dance Team. 1st Place of the Parade went to Wrenley's Toy Box; 2nd Place went to Thayer Lynn Carpentary, LLC; 3rd Place was given to Academia Aztlan.



# WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH Members in Motion Networking Scramble Hickory Hall

We hosted our annual Members in Motion Networking Scramble on Wednesday, September 20th at Hickory Hall. Members in Motion is an innovative networking breakfast that strategically places you at a table with like-minded individuals eager to expand their businesses through networking. Throughout a three-round rotation, you'll engage with over twenty participants who are keen to learn more about your business while also sharing valuable information about their own businesses.



# Young Professionals



The Crystal Lake Young Professionals is a networking group open to everyone. The "young" in our name can mean a multitude of things - young in your career, young in your job, young at heart, etc.

At the end of the day, we're committed to helping you to Connect, Grow, and Serve in your career.

Executive Board:
Jeff Lord – *President*Kasey Tumilty – *Serve Chair*Chris Pry – *Growth Chair*Josh Hudek – *Social Chair* 

### 2023 Events

<u>January 2023 Meeting</u> Social Event at the Cottage

<u>February 2023 Meeting</u> Growth Event with Leslie Blake from Big Brothers Big Sisters as our speaker

March 2023 Meeting Social Event March Madness at Buffalo Wings ℰ Rings

April 2023 Meeting Serve Event Community Clean Up at Lippold Park

May 2023 Meeting Growth Event with Speaker Paula Jenkins

<u>June/July 2023 Meeting</u> Serve Event Lakeside Fest Beer Tent

<u>August 2023 Meeting</u> Social Event End of Summer Party at Sideouts

September 2023 Meeting Social Event at the Cottage

October 2023 Meeting Social Event Halloween Party Multi Chamber YP Event at Main Street Station

November/December 2023 Meeting Serve Event – Crystal Lake Food Pantry followed by the Social Event Holiday Party at Dukes









### HOLA



HOLA is open to any and all members of the Hispanic-Latino business community; HOLA aims to be the resource for professionals to connect to empower the Hispanic-Latino community through engaging in community service and developing professionally through guest speakers.

### 2023 Events

Friday, March 17th
Ribbon Cutting/Group Kick Off

Friday, April 21st Inaugural Meeting

Friday, May 19th
Branding - Bridge the Gap Between Strategy &
Design Seminar

Friday, June 16th Social Networking

<u>Friday, July 21st</u> HOLA's Latinos Presentes: Consecuencia Situacional - Reconocer Tus Alrededores Y Defensa Del Hogar Seminar

<u>Friday, August 18th</u> Limitless Leader Seminar

<u>Friday, September 15th</u> Social Mixer

Friday, October 20th "Who is CASA of McHenry" Information Session

Friday, November 17th
Financial Literacy Seminar
Presented by Mabel Hanson









# Chamber Referral Groups

There are several reasons why you should consider joining a referral group. Firstly, it provides a valuable networking platform, connecting you with fellow Chamber members who can become your advocates in the business community. It's a supportive environment that offers a space to share experiences and seek advice to help you overcome challenges. Additionally, referrals from the group are more trustworthy and reliable as they come from a network of established connections. Being a member of a referral group increases your visibility and credibility within the Crystal Lake community. Finally, the diverse range of industries represented in the referral group paves the way for opportunities for collaboration and fosters an environment that benefits everyone involved.



The B2B Network Group encourages "Power Partners" for ongoing coordination of jobs and projects. B2B members support and encourage each other, build cooperation, and provide expertise from their varied backgrounds to share ideas, information, and experiences. B2B members build relationships, share ideas, and market each others' skills and abilities. B2B members learn, educate, participate and encourage to help colleagues enrich their business and expand their areas of influence.



The #1 Referral Network makes networking a positive and rewarding experience by building relationships between members through conversation and feedback, rather than strict networking requirements. We build our businesses while helping our members develop their own ladders to success. Although our weekly breakfast meetings are informal, our drive and determination are focused and well-planned. We operate on the belief that referrals made from a position of trust, fellowship and knowledge of one another's unique strengths & offerings helps create good business opportunities for all while fostering a sense of community.



Our mission is to generate business for fellow members through a system of referrals. In addition to referrals, there are many other benefits to joining the Crystal Lake Business Networking Group. We believe in being involved in the community and volunteering for many organizations. The group meets the first and third Tuesday morning from 7:30am until 8:30am at The Other Side 135 Beardsley St, Crystal Lake. Our past history of referrals has proven that the Crystal Lake Business Networking Group is a successful and fun organization. We believe in developing relationships between group members who are reliable and experienced local business professionals. We do this by visiting each other's businesses to deepen our knowledge and understanding of their operation and what makes a good referral.



The Noon Exchange networking group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at noon at the offices of the Community Foundation of McHenry County, 33 E Woodstock, Crystal Lake IL 60014. The group was formed a few years ago with roughly 8 original membrs and has grown to over 20. We are a diverse group with our members encompassing a wide range of businesses. In order to get the most out of this group, we spotlight a few of our members each month as well as break into smaller groups periodically so that we can help each other in a more pointed and direct way. We enjoy getting together as a group outside of our regular meetings helping each other and the community. In the past, service activities have included helping Big Brothers Big Sisters, Willow Creek, Pioneer Center, Concerts in the Park, CL 4th of July Fest, and occasional group outings.



The Referral Exchange network group provides a forum for business professionals and entrepreneurs to enhance and grow their business by building strong and loyal relationships with one another via weekly meetings. The primary objective is the sharing of quality referrals to directly generate new business. The secondary objective is the sharing of ideas and information to enhance each member's networking skills, speaking skills and other intangible skills that can be of benefit to our members and their business. Our members are committed to excellence in their profession and dedication to The Referral Exchange. The Group is comprised of non-competing business members of the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce.

# **Upcoming Chamber Events**



State of the Community Luncheon





Leaders in Action Education Series





Home & Business Expo April 5th-6th





Chamber Foundation G,E.M. Luncheon





Community Clean Up Day





**40th Annual Golf Classic** 

Jun 24

17



## 2023–2024 Chamber Board of Directors









Vice Chair

First Institute

Kathryn I. Martins Treasurer/Finance Chair Member Emeritus

## **WORK LOCAL, THINK GLOBAL**





Michael Buchanan Northwestern Medicine



Ed Dvorak
McHenry County
Economic Dev Corp



Pierre Garcia Crystal Lake Bank & Trust, N.A.



Cameron Hubbard Leah Jackson

Business Dev Vice Chair Amerifinancial Home

Exemplar Finacial Mortgage



Lisa Karlov Copper Bottom Inc.



Jeff Lord YP Chair Edward Jones



Andrea Marquez Zumba Instructor



Stacy Mason Amb. Vice Chair New York Life



Katie O'Neill Heritage Title Company



Ken Pringle Past Chair CPR Finance



Member Benefits Chair Home State Bank



Randy Smith General Kinematics Corp.



Karen Tobin Amundsen Davis, LLC



Grace Todd Comm Serv Vice-Chair Advocate Good Shepard



Tim Urban Hammortree Financial Services

### Emergency care without the wait.



### Mercyhealth Hospital and Physician Clinic-Crystal Lake

Emergencies don't wait and you shouldn't either. With the opening of Mercyhealth Hospital and Physician Clinic, Crystal Lake residents now have access to life-saving emergency care, right here at home. Our expert team of board certified emergency medicine doctors provide exceptional care around the clock. And with limited wait times, you will be seen quickly. From breaks and breathing troubles, to care for chest pain and other emergencies, we're here to help you feel better fast.

To learn more, visit mercyhealthsystem.org/ED.

