



The Chamber News

February 2017

WOW!
What can the chamber do to WOW
you?
Let us know!

Tuesday, February 7th 2017

Dear Chamber Member,

We don't know about you, but January flew by for us here at the Chamber! Between the our Annual Meeting and Auction, to doing our financials for the new year and our annual Board Retreat we just had on Friday, February 3rd, January flew by! We are looking forward to getting organized in the New Year and looking at fresh new goals and ways to better serve you, our members.

Thank you to everyone who came out to our annual meeting on Wednesday, January 18th at the Old No. 1! A special thank you to Old No. 1 for hosting and the delicious food, to Satt Grass Revival, our musical entertainment for the evening, to the museum for bringing the quilt display, to everyone on the Events/Retail Committee that volunteered their time to help get ready for this event and to everyone who generously gave a basket for our annual auction. We couldn't make this event a success without the support of our business community so thank you so much!

We are excited to welcome four new board members to the chamber this year: Kate Sauers from the Stevens County Historical Museum, Dorance Scott from Hometown Flooring, Jeff Peterson from Riverwood Bank and Jill Loge from Bremer Bank. Welcome to the board, we are happy to have you with us here at the Chamber!

We want to give your business more visibility on Facebook! To help us do this, please tag the Chamber in any and all of your events and promotions so that your post gets more views! You can also feel free to email us your photos with a short caption.

As you can see, there's a lot going on at the chamber, but we couldn't do any of it without you, our loyal members. Thank you for your support!

Andrea Koehntop
Marketing Director

CHAMBER SOCIALS:

We were very happy to have four Chamber Socials at various Member Business' in 2016! We are currently looking for hosts for 2017! If your business would be interested in hosting or co-hosting a social this year, please contact our office!

SEND YOUR PHOTOS!

In our efforts to better promote our chamber businesses, we are asking you to email your photos, or tag us in your Facebook posts! You will get more advertising for free by doing this and more people will see your posts! Please keep sharing with us and including you in your business events and photos!



REMINDERS:

Please contact the Morris Area Chamber of Commerce if your business has any change of address, email address, phone number, etc. If you are interested in learning more about our different committees and/or becoming part of our committees, please contact us! We would appreciate the participation.
(320)-589-1242
morrismnchamber@gmail.com

The Morris Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism have new websites! Check out the new designs! We hope to continue to make our website more user friendly for our members and visitors to our area.

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

The Morris Area Chamber of Commerce wishes you a Happy Valentine's Day!

Membership Spotlight:

Federated Telephone



**POWERED BY FARMERS MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY
AND FEDERATED TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE**

What began as an idea to provide phone services to rural farmers in the 1940's and 50's, Federated Telephone now provides communication services including Telephone, Cable TV, IT, and Hosted Service Services, as well as selling digital and IP Phone Systems today. An engineering study was completed and the new cooperative came to fruition on January 16th, 1952 with the areas of Danvers, Holloway, Correll, Odessa and Chokio. Federated has grown over the years and as of 2014, 9 exchanges are part of the cooperative including Chokio-Alberta, Correll, Danvers & Holloway, Hancock, Milan & Big Bend, Morris and Odessa.

Federated Telephone prides itself on their impeccable customer service and involvement in the communities they serve. As Donna Eul says, the Marketing/Customer Service Manager for Federated who has worked there since 1981, "The members of our cooperative are our friends, neighbors and family members and we truly care about the services we provide to them." Their mission statement: "To provide the best communication services at a fair price; employing modern technology and up-to-date services; offering people choices to be successful and enhance their quality of life." Their vision statement: "To be the progressive communications leader in west central Minnesota, partnering with community, driven by customer satisfaction and innovative technology." Clearly the customers and people Donna Eul and other Federated employees work with are their number one priority. Donna adds, "For me, the (favorite) memories are the people who have worked with me and the members with whom we have formed relationships."

But business as usual isn't always fun. Federated Telephone is heavily regulated on both the State and Federal levels, even more so than their competitors. A great deal of the time spent in the business is on completing mandatory regulatory reports. These are very important, but also very time consuming. Keeping up with those reports has been challenging at times throughout the years, but the company has also done an excellent job at completing them and still providing excellent service and a friendly smile to the customers they serve.

With ever changing technology, Federated has also changed and adapted over the years as well. Their ability to keep up with these changes has made them a valuable business in our community. It may surprise people to know that their employees have over 300 years of experience in the telecommunications industry. "We have been on the cutting edge of the most modern technologies available," says Donna. "In fact, we were the first rural cooperative in the nation to provide an all fiber network throughout our rural cooperative." We are proud and lucky to have this important business in our community!

Looking towards the future, Federated is excited for the new office renovation along Highway 9. Donna says, "We are proud to bring modern technologies to our valued members, right here in West Central Minnesota."

Chamber Annual Meeting

Wednesday, January 18th



Thank you to everyone who came out to the Chamber's Annual Meeting and Auction on Wednesday, January 18th at Old No. 1 Southside! We had a wonderful time talking and celebrating with you, our members!

Special thanks to the Events/Retail Committee for helping put this annual event together; Old No. 1 for hosting; Satt Grass Revival, our musical entertainment; Paul McDonald for serving as Master of Ceremonies; the Stevens County Museum for the quilt display; all of the businesses and individuals who donated an auction item. We look forward to next year's event!



Chamber Cash

Since we have started a fresh new year in 2017 and we have some new members, we wanted to send you the updated listing of businesses who accept Chamber Cash. If your business is not on this list and would like to be, please contact our office. If you do not wish to be on the list that accepts Chamber Cash, please contact us.

As a reminder, Chamber Cash is accepted as a personal check. You **MUST** give change back for anything not spent. Your business will be reimbursed in full for the amount on the check. Chamber Cash never expires, although we do encourage people to **SPEND** them in our communities!

Accelerated Chiropractic
Ace Hardware
Agralite Cooperative
American Eagle Realty
American Solutions for Business
Asmus Electric
Atlantic Auto Sales
Back to Basics Massage
Bello Cucina
Big Stone Chiropractic
Big Stone Therapies, Inc.
B Inspired
Boyd Lawn Company
Buddies Bar & Grill– Hancock
Caring Touch Massage
Casey's General Store
Cenex South
City of Morris Transit System
Common Cup Coffee House
Conway, Deuth & Schmiesing
Culligan
Dacotah Agency
Dental Depot
Design Electronics/Radio Shack
Engbretson's Sanitary
Ennen Repair
Eul's Hardware Hank
Federated Telephone
For Getaways Travel
Grandstay Hotel & Suites
Gulsvig Productions
Hair Expressions Salon
Heartland Motor Co.

Hoffman Realty
Hometown Flooring & Blinds–
Hancock
Hottovy Agency
Iceberg Web Design
Info Link
Image Xperts
Jerry's U-Save
John's Total Entertainment
Just uS
Keepad Compliance
KMRS/KKOK
Lakes Area Web Services
Lakeland Hospice & Home Care
Lawn & Driveway Service
McDonald's
McGinnis Appliance
Meadowland Market
Mediacom
Met Lounge
Midwest Family Eye Care
Midwest Health Benefits
Mike's Express Lube & Vacuum Sales
Mi Mexico
Mobiz Computers
Mohr's Plumbing & Heating
Morning Sky Greenery
Morris American Legion
Morris Area Childcare Center
Morris & Associates
Morris Co-op
Morris Dental Clinic
Morris Eagles

Morris Electronics
Morris Food Shop
Morris Liquor Store
Morris Lumber & Millwork
Morris Sun Tribune
Morris Theatre
Munsterman Accounting
Old # 1 Bar & Grill
Options for Women
Ottetail Power Company
Pedersen Funeral Home
Pioneer Pubic TV
Pizza Ranch
Pomme de Terre Foods
Pomme de Terre Golf Club
Power 106.3
Prairie Renaissance Cultural
Alliance
Prairie Ridge Hospital & Health
Services
Prairie Wind Players– Barrett
Regional Fitness Center
Rentz Agency
Rentz Realty & Appraisal, LLC
Salvation Army
Sarlette's Music
ServiceMaster of the Lakes Area
Shopko
Sodexo
Someplace Safe Thrift Shop
State Farm
Stevens Community Medical Center
Stevens County Ambulance

Stevens County D.A.C.
Stevens County Historical Museum
Strongheart Martial Arts
Super 8
Superior Ind.
Suidae Health & Production
Taco John's
The Water Doctor
Thrifty White Drug
Town & Country Supply
Unger Furniture
U of M Morris
Valu Ford & Chrysler
Visible Changes
West Central Screen & Print
Willie's Super Valu