

Richfield Chamber of Commerce

NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXVIII, Issue 3

www.richfieldchambercvb.org

March 2010



Chair's Column

Tim Carter
2010 Chair of the Board

My Story

Approximately eight years ago, shortly after I started as the General Manager of Richfield Bloomington Honda, I was contacted by **Steve Lindgren**, Chamber President. He welcomed me to the city and offered to help, if ever I needed it. I felt that was real nice. He told me of the membership meetings, events and so forth but I quickly became immersed in running a car dealership of 100 employees. I frankly was a bit over my head at that point and had no time to get involved in the Chamber.

About eight months later I received a union petition and a year long process began. During this process, signs were put in my lawn, driveways were blocked and many other issues arose that I needed to talk to specific city officials (including the police chief) for ordinances and regulatory-type things. I didn't know where to turn. Then I remembered Steve. The minute I explained my situation, Mr. Lindgren told me who to call, gave me their phone numbers and followed up with me and the city personally to ensure I got the answers I needed in the time I needed it. From that point on, I was hooked and was determined to "give back" once the ordeal was over.

So when it was, I gave \$2000 to the police department's canine program, held an all personnel attended dealer meeting where we presented Steve Lindgren a plaque of appreciation for the Richfield Chamber and started attending general membership meetings regularly (with business cards in my pocket, just in case...)

It was at this point that I started realizing more Chamber benefits. After I attended consistently, I recognized and became familiar with more and more people. Shortly after that, I started getting more than enough referrals to pay back my membership dues. On top of that, I attended Business Day at the Capital, Legislative dinners, and City Council meetings that gave me the exposure to bills that if passed would affect my bottom line (most of them not in a good way).

I've switched various vendors to local Richfield Chamber members who could perform services at lower costs – and that saved me money.

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General Membership Meeting:

Southwest Metro Transportation Summit

Joint meeting with Edina, Eden Prairie, Bloomington
and Richfield Chambers

Wednesday, March 31, 2010 – 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Location: Edina Country Club
5100 Wooddale Ave South, Edina
\$25.00 members/\$30.00 non members

Find out the latest transportation happenings
from a distinguished panel.

Speakers:



U.S.
Congressman
Erik Paulsen



Commissioner
Tom Sorel



Deputy Commissioner/
MNDOT
Khani Sahebjam

Please register online or use the registration
form on Page 4 or call the Chamber office at
612-866-5100 to reserve a seat!

Run, don't walk to our next

Speed Networking Session

Wednesday March 17
12:00 noon to 1 pm
Ramada

It's Free – bring plenty of business cards



What a great time to
network with other
business associates and
also spend your St.
Patrick's' day lunch hour
with us!



**David Olson,
President**

Minnesota Chamber
of Commerce

Advance priorities in St. Paul, Washington

Are you frustrated with the direction Minnesota and the nation are heading? Do you feel like policy-makers – whether in St. Paul or Washington, D.C. - really don't understand what it takes to run a business? Do you have the impression that some leaders don't listen at all?

Two important events warrant your attention and participation.

First stop: Join the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, our local chamber partners and your colleagues March 10 at the annual Minnesota Business Day at the Capitol.

Second stop: Join the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Executives and business leaders May 17-19 in Washington, D.C., as we lobby federal policy-makers in conjunction with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Summit.

Close to home, the 2010 Legislature is under way. If our recent regional meetings across the state are any indication, Minnesota business leaders are nervous about what lawmakers may do "to them" this session, especially as they balance another multibillion-dollar shortfall in the state's checkbook. There's a growing lack of confidence that our elected officials truly understand the daily challenges that businesses face in running their operations and providing jobs for Minnesotans.

Business leaders have an opportunity to speak in unison by participating in Business Day at the Capitol, the largest business lobbying day in Minnesota. Join us as we lobby with one voice on the issues that will shape the state's economy.

The Minnesota Chamber Federation represents more than 15,000 Minnesota companies. Our top five priorities this year are: Streamline the environmental permitting system to reduce cost and compress the timeline; secure a reliable supply of electricity at competitive rates; advocate meaningful spending and tax reforms; guarantee world-class workforce; ensure quality and affordable health care. Our collective focus is making certain that Minnesota is poised for growth as we recover from the recession.

The folks who want to increase taxes and regulations on Minnesota businesses, and spend more of someone else's tax dollars, are in St. Paul every day. The spending lobby is a drumbeat. Business leaders go the Capitol once a year as a large group. Let's bring a thousand business leaders together.

Chamber Leadership

Executive Committee

Tim Carter, Board Chair 2010
Pat Brekken, Past Chair
Jim Melssen, Vice-Chair
Steven Lindgren, President

2010 Board of Directors

Chad Bjugan <i>Richfield State Insurance</i>	612-861-8300
Jennifer Bornholdt <i>Hub Jewelers</i>	612-866-7700
Pat Brekken <i>Richfield Bloomington Credit Union</i>	612-798-7119
Tim Carter - <i>tcarter@rbhonda.com</i> <i>Richfield-Bloomington Honda</i>	612-866-8832
Mike Elliott <i>LaMettry's Collision</i>	612-866-0016
Bill Fillmore <i>Richfield Municipal Liquor Stores</i>	612-861-9192
Diane Lovich <i>PostNet</i>	612-869-7400
Dr. Nick Mellum <i>Complete Chiropractic and Wellness</i>	612-866-1859
Jim Melssen <i>LaFayette & Co.</i>	612-861-8366
Debi Neitzel-Waitkus <i>Maser & Amundson, P.A.</i>	952-925-4147
Gordon Vizecky <i>Best Buy</i>	612-291-7414

2010 Task Forces and Committees

- Finance Co-Chairs** - Jim Melssen and Allen Helvick
- Gala Co-Chairs** - Debi Neitzel-Waitkus and Jennifer Bornholdt
- Golf Co-Chairs** - Nick Mellum and Chad Bjugan
- Governmental Affairs Committee** – Steve Lindgren
- Membership Committee Co-Chairs** - Steven Larson and Patti Sterbuck
- Programming Task Force Chair** - Diane Lovich
- Social Networking Task Force Chair** – Debi Neitzel-Waitkus
- Web Development Task Force Chair** - Jennifer Bornholdt

COMING SOON!!

Follow us online...

Join the Richfield Chamber on
Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn!





UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

- **Wednesday, March 17**, Speed Networking Session, Ramada Inn, Noon
- **Wednesday, March 31**, General Membership Meeting, Edina Country Club, 11:30 am



David Olson, continued from p. 2

On the federal scene, we are hearing more and more concerns across the state. That has not always been the case. Business leaders are worried about the impact of proposed health care reform. Other equally important issues remain in the wings – cap and trade, immigration reform and the Employee Free Choice Act. The list is long, and the implications of the wrong solutions could be devastating to Minnesota companies and our national economy.

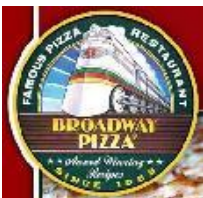
The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Executives coordinates an annual trip to Washington for local chambers and their members. We include meetings with all members of the Minnesota congressional delegation. In addition, we partner with the U.S. Chamber on an agenda that includes a number of nationally known speakers and political analysts. We arrange “Minnesota only” events as well.

We appreciate that business leaders work overtime at running their businesses, especially in the current economy. It’s vitally important, however, that legislators hear our united message: The business community is paying attention, and the issues under debate make a big difference to our companies.

Thanks for your continuing support, and I hope to see you in St. Paul and Washington. **Together, we can make an impact.**

Chamber Jottings...Chamber Jottings...Chamber Jottings...

*Congratulations on your
25 year milestone!*



2010 marks the 25th year of ownership of Broadway Pizza for Patti Sterbuck!

Thank you Renewing Members

Renewal Members for February:

- AmericInn
- Broadway Pizza
- Joel Schnell Photographer
- Leif Holter, Board Chair (1967)
- Richfield Floral and Garden, Inc.
- Richfield Fourth of July Committee, Inc.
- Richfield Historical Society
- Richfield Tourism Promotion Board
- Silver Crest Properties/Market Plaza/Village Shores
- Susee & Lee, Ltd.
- The Hearing Stores of Minnesota
- Verizon Wireless

Please support your Chamber members!



Chair’s Column, continued from p.1

It just keeps getting better and better the longer I am engaged in this Chamber. I never experienced anything like it. I now have a great passion for it.

I wish I could wave a magic wand over the entire business base: engaged members, non-engaged members and all the potential members so everyone can see the value of the Chamber I see at the level I experienced it. If that could happen, it would be a win-win scenario for the members and the Chamber like never seen before! *[Since an actual magic wand has not been invented yet, that I know of, please realize that’s the goal we are working towards.]*

That’s why we put so much effort into the programming (general membership meetings, events), newsletter, website, social networking, speed networking, golf events, gala, and everything else I listed in last month’s column.

How can you help? If you’re an engaged member, contact a non-engaged member and tell them your story. If you’re a non-engaged member reading this, come to a meeting and ask someone what their story is. Stories are awesome to hear and are relevant to all who they’re shared with.

By the way, I heard that there’s a (Rockin Women’s) networking group starting to materialize. For more information, contact **Jennifer Bornholdt** of Hub Jewelers or **Debi Neitzel-Waitkus** of Maser & Amundson Law.

Also, our March General Membership meeting is a big one. We’re joining forces with Chambers in Bloomington, Edina and Eden Prairie on 3/31/10. The topic is on the I-494 corridor.

Hope to see you at Chamber events!

~ Tim

Richfield Chamber of Commerce
6601 Lyndale Avenue South Suite 106
Richfield, MN 55423
Phone: 612-866-5100
www.richfieldchambercvb.org

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What do you know about Richfield?
Richfield Chamber newsletter question....

March Newsletter Question
How many proposals were presented to the Richfield City Council in 1968 before the decision was made to establish the Woodlake Nature Center?
Answer in April Newsletter

February Newsletter Question
What year was the current City Hall built in Richfield?
The Richfield City Hall was built in 1964

RESERVATION FORM
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
Joint Event with Richfield, Bloomington, Edina and Eden Prairie Chambers of Commerce
Wednesday, March 31 – 11:30 am
Edina Country Club
\$25.00/member and \$30.00/non member

Company: _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Number of People attending: _____ @\$25.00 (member) and _____ @\$30.00 (non member)

Please mail this reservation form prior to March 24 to: Richfield Chamber of Commerce, 6601 Lyndale Avenue South, Suite 106, Richfield, MN 55423.

Thank you!

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