



April 2016

The mission of the Mason City Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote progressive community and economic development to benefit Chamber members and the North Iowa region.



Time: 7-9AM

Date: Thursday, April 21

Location: Holiday Inn Express & Suites - Mason City

3041 4th St SW
Mason City

Sponsored By:



Time: 4:30-6:30PM

Date: Thursday, April 28

Location: Mason City Country Club

3331 19th St SW
Mason City

Sponsored By:



2016 North Iowa Band Festival Grand Marshal Award

Dr. Darrell & Susan Fisher

The Grand Marshal Award recognizes people of local or national prominence who have made a significant contribution to the development, history, or success of the festival. The **North Iowa Band Festival** Committee is pleased to announce Dr. Darrell & Susan Fisher as the 2016 award recipients. The Fishers are well-recognized in Mason City for their extensive volunteer involvement.



Susan and Dr. Darrell Fisher

A native of Mason City, Darrell has a long history with marching bands and the **North Iowa Band Festival**. A talented musician, he is a soloist and long-time choir member (since 1970) of the First Presbyterian Church. He has played in both the Mason City and Clear Lake Municipal Bands, and is a staple at the annual Tuba Christmas. Since 2000, he has served on the Performing Arts Pavilion Committee with a mission to seek a permanent community performance venue for the Mason City Municipal Band. In 1970 he joined Surgical Associates (now Mason City Clinic) as an orthopedic surgeon. Darrell also served as an instructor for NIACC nursing students and provided educational seminars which earned him the "Iowa Arthritis Foundation Outstanding Educator" award. He is very active in the Noon Rotary Club—especially in their program to eradicate polio around the world.

Susan's primary occupation is "Professional Volunteer", although she was employed for 15 years as the Coordinator of Education at First Presbyterian Church. Her volunteer efforts are legendary; in fact, Stebens Childrens Theatre established the "Susan Fisher Volunteer of the Year Award" in her honor. Susan has been recognized with the Grinnell College Alumni Award, the United Way Bob Dutcher Award, and the Noon Rotary "Service Above Self" award. She is proud to have been cast as one of the "Pick-A-Little Ladies" in the Mason City Community Theatre production of *The Music Man*.



It was Dr. Fisher who purchased 300 kazoo's and recruited several of his physician colleagues and their children to march in the Band Festival parade. The "Boondocks Medical Society Kazoo Band" was a huge hit with parade-goers for several years.

Susan and Darrell raised a musical family. According to Susan, "Our children got their musical genes from their father, but I made them practice and took them to their lessons." Their youngest, Brent, played Winthrop in a local production of "The Music Man, and was the Drum Major for the MCHS Marching Band. Daughter Becky played saxophone, bassoon, and piano. Mark Fisher is a professional trombonist with the Chicago Lyric Opera and the Santa Fe Opera and teaches at DePaul University.



When Darrell Fisher was in junior high, he was selected to don the new band uniform. Conductor Henry Paine took him around town, including to Superintendent Shepoiser's house, to show off the spiffy togs!

Congratulations to Darrell and Susan Fisher on this well-deserved recognition.

New Members

D. RANDALL CONSTRUCTION, LLC
Dave Randall, Sr. - Owner
2010 357th St
Osage, IA 50461
(641) 732-4258
drandallllc12@gmail.com
Residential and commercial general contractors.

MATT DODGE AGENCY
Matt Dodge - Owner
19½ 2nd St NE
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 421-1192
mdodge@amfam.com
MattDodgeagency.com
Insurance sales and service.

LAKE TIME BOAT CLUB
Jake Kopriva - Owner
4859 South Shore Drive
Clear Lake, IA 50428
(641) 231-1414
jake@laketimeboatclub.com
laketimeboatclub.com
Members only, worry free, unlimited boating membership (May-October) on Clear Lake.

EXIT STRATEGY TRAINING, LLC
Chad Colby - Owner
234 26th St SW
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 430-2615
exitstrategytraining.com
Provides Firearm awareness, safety and education. Mission to educate the use of the Firearm for personal defense.

BODY REFINE - ITWORKS! GLOBAL
Nicole Kesten - Owner
831 N Pierce
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 420-5649
www.wraptasticbynicole.com
Health and wellness network marketing.

WISE GUYS SPORTS PUB
Jason Wise - Owner
125 1st St SE
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 424-3560
Full Service restaurant/bar located downtown Mason City. Pool table, dart boards, 30 TVs.

From the President

Pork Processing Facility = Growth for North Iowa

We've all heard the latest news. Mason City has landed a state-of-the-art pork processing facility that will provide up to 2000 new jobs with an average salary of \$40,000. This company selected Mason City over stiff competition from at least two other Iowa communities. Company owners toured the city, and they were impressed not only by what they saw, but with the positive vibes they felt as they explored Mason City.

Certainly, the economic impact will be huge—in fact, unprecedented. But what about the environmental, social, and community impacts? Local leaders and citizens are understandably wary. Thankfully, a qualified team—our friends and neighbors--has been doing research related to anticipated concerns with due diligence. They feel a heavy weight of responsibility to make sure Mason City—and the entire region--has the capacity to host this business, and to ensure any and all issues are addressed. Remember, they live here, too!



Robin Anderson
President & CEO

Project Highlights:

- The proposed plant will utilize the newest technology that can be sourced globally.
- Processes will be in place to ensure humane animal handling.
- Odor-All phases of the process that emit odor are enclosed and the air will be cleaned using advanced technology prior to release. Recaptured methane will be used to provide some of the energy for the plant. The local project team has held extensive discussions with counterparts from communities with similarly-designed plants. All indicate odor is not an issue with high-tech processing plants.
- Water-The plant will be the city's largest water user, and the DNR has confirmed our water facility has ample capacity. The increased revenue will allow for a decrease in water rates for all users.
- The facility's waste water will be pre-treated on-site and will be completely enclosed. Waste water released to the public system will meet stringent requirements.
- By-Products-Almost 100% of the animal is processed, leaving little waste to send to our local landfill.
- The company has been clear they will NOT hire illegal immigrants. They feel strongly their good wages, benefits, work environment, and company culture will attract workers. Certainly, North Iowa has workers who are under-employed; the company will be looking for workers in low, middle, and highly skilled positions.
- The 600,000 sq ft facility is expected to take two years to build, providing more than 1200 construction jobs and more than \$245 million in capital investment.

The Chamber of Commerce board passed a Resolution of Support for this project. It is in keeping with our mission to promote progressive community and economic development to benefit Chamber members and the North Iowa region. We have confidence in our City and EDC team to ensure this opportunity results in positive growth for our region. But they can't do it alone. We've proven Mason City is a "can do" community, and we have two years to pull together to prepare for the impacts of new growth in our schools, services, businesses, and infrastructure. We believe we are equal to the task.

Onward!



Formal Announcement at the Historic Park Inn.
Pictured: Chad Schreck, North Iowa Corridor EDC;
Dr. Ron Prestage, Prestage Farms; and Gov. Terry Branstad

2016 North Iowa Band Festival Klempnauer Award

Dennis and Don Higgins

The Klempnauer Award was named for Dan Klempnauer, a long-time volunteer and festival supporter, and is intended to honor an unsung hero who volunteers for the festival. This year's honorees are Dennis and Don Higgins, who, together, have worked many hours in different capacities to fill the air with music at the North Iowa Band Festival. Together, Dennis and Don set up the Globe Gazette Muse-Norris Charitable Fund Stage for the headline performers and often run the sound system for various bands. Dennis served for many years on the **North Iowa Band Festival** Committee, and remembers well the intense planning that went on the year the Band Festival (briefly) switched to the fall. Dennis also leads the production team at KIMT that broadcasts the parade live for viewers to enjoy from the comfort of their homes.

Dennis and Don are brothers who grew up in Mason City, and remember attending the **North Iowa Band Festival** each year as children. They can recall exactly where they watched each year, but never imagined they would one day lead the parade as honorees.

Even after decades of hard work behind the scenes, Dennis and Don say they enjoy the festival immensely. Dennis said he participates year after year because he enjoys the "connection with other people, being part of the project from the start...and seeing it through to completion." Don was surprised to receive the honor, remarking "we work on this all the time, but never expected to have this recognition." They say their challenge this year is to find time to ride in the parade, along with their other duties!

In addition to their work with the **North Iowa Band Festival**, Dennis also volunteers his time with Epiphany Parish, served on the CERT Team, and served on the North Iowa Fair Board, including as Board President. Don also helps with the North Iowa Fair, Cannonball Days, the MacNider Arts Festival, and Friday Night Live.



Dennis Higgins



Don Higgins

Golf Outing Registration

The **Chamber Golf Outing** will be Thursday, June 23rd, so it's time to clean up those clubs and start putting together a team! Please be sure to complete the enclosed registration to reserve a spot for the morning or afternoon tournament. Registrations will be taken on a first-come basis and will include green fees, a meal, and two carts per team of four.

If you are interested in sponsoring a hole or donating a door prize for this event, please indicate your choice on the registration form or contact Colleen for more information. This event fills up FAST, so don't wait to register!

- Closest to the pin sponsor (\$600 sole sponsor or \$300 AM/PM sponsors)
- Hole sponsor: \$350 (all day)
- Marketing sponsor: \$100

Please note – the rain date for this event is Monday, June 27th.

Thank you to our Tournament Sponsor:



New Members (cont.)

AT&T

Melissa Johannessen – Store Manager
4109 4th St SW, Ste A
Mason City, IA 50401
(319) 359-6699
Springmobile.com
We are a premiere retailer of AT&T products and services including Direct TV and unlimited data.

Membership Renewals

Congratulations to the members celebrating membership anniversaries in April.

Fifty Plus Years

Fred T. Fenchel Entertainment Agency (56)
Blazek Electric, Inc. (51)

Forty Plus Years

Casey's General Store (42)

Thirty Plus Years

Mason City Buick GMC Cadillac (30)

Twenty Plus Years

SKYBLUE by CL TeL (29)
North Iowa Community Credit Union (29)
Fullerton Funeral Home (29)
Heritage Care & Rehabilitation Center (25)
Theiss Shirts, Inc. (25)
Heartland Asphalt, Inc. (24)
Brick Furniture (23)
Moorman Clothiers (23)
D & D Printing & Custom Signs (21)
Child & Adult Care Food Program (21)
Mason City All Risk Insurance, Inc. (21)
Green Canopy, Inc. (20)
Slumberland Furniture (20)

Ten Plus Years

Basic Birder (19)
Es-Marc Investments (18)
Point Builders North, Inc. (17)
World Wide College of Auctioneering (14)
Comprehensive Systems, Inc. (13)
Pritchard Family Auto Stores (11)

Five Plus Years

Audibel Hearing Center of N. IA. (8)
Absolute Waste (6)
Little Caesar's/LC Rochester (6)
Kellar Construction Inc. (6)
Bisbee Income Tax & Accounting Service (5)
Turning Leaf Counseling (5)

Celebrating 100 Years

Mason City Chamber of Commerce

Here to Serve for 100 Years and Counting

The 1950s in North Iowa

The 1950s were a time of economic prosperity in North Iowa. Family businesses continued to grow and expand and Mason City's population was growing each year. Students filled the school classrooms to overflowing, and new businesses opened to meet growing demand for products and services.

The predecessor to Midland Concrete Products joined the Chamber in 1950. The operation is pictured to the right in an aerial photo from 1957.



Employees from Metalcraft, which joined the Chamber in 1958, are pictured in a photo from the late 1950s. Longtime members may recognize Walt Peters, Bob Kramer, Laverne Herzong, Bill Neibergal, Dorothy Newburg, Carline Tesch, Janice Vinaas, Rosemary Alsbury, France Lyons, Hazel Crawford, Margaret Hendrickson, Bob Alsbury, Irv Weiseth, Dick Norton, Don Lambie, Win Hanson, and others.

Register for April Lunch & Learns

Sign up now to take part in these upcoming *Lunch & Learns!*

April 12: "2016 is the year I improve my social media presence!"

Whether you're a small business owner, or an employee who is trying to take their career to the next level, social media can play a big part in how you are perceived. Sara Broers of Social Connections, LLC will discuss the importance of being on social media sites like Facebook, and how you can expand your online reach.



April 26: "2016 is the year I boost my online sales!"

Online sales in the US are expected to reach \$523 billion in the next five years. The question is -- how much of that will go toward your business? If you aren't selling online yet, or if your online sales are lackluster, you'll want to register for this *Lunch & Learn!* Adam Frederick of Webwise Solutions, Inc. will discuss the best ways to jump into the world of e-retail, and how to make sure your customer's shopping carts are full!



To register for these sessions, or for more information on any of the Chamber's upcoming *Lunch & Learns*, contact Program Director Colleen Frein.

Membership Renewals (cont.)

One Plus Years

- True Travels, LLC (4)
- Masterson Staffing Solutions (4)
- Sweet Tooth (3)
- Rise Broadband (2)
- PPG Architectural Coatings (2)
- Manufacturers Bank & Trust Company (2)
- Hoover's Hatchery (2)
- Mason City Evening Lions (2)
- Ag Ventures Alliance (2)
- Butcher's Steakhouse (1)
- Pancheros Mexican Grill (1)
- Child & Adolescent Integrated Health (1)
- Indus Travels Inc. (1)
- Diamond Oak, LLC dba Diamond Oak Trolley (1)
- Farm Bureau Financial Services - Trent Adams (1)

Ag Breakfast

The Chamber Agribusiness Committee hosted another great *Ag Breakfast!* More than 450 tickets were sold to the 34th annual event, and everyone who attended enjoyed made-to-order omelets prepared by members of the Agribusiness Committee and other volunteers.

Keynote speaker Ty Higgins presented an informative and entertaining address about the future of the Ag industry and the importance of farmers supporting and advocating for one another.

Thank you to the businesses who donated food items and our table sponsors for their support, and a big THANK YOU to our event sponsors!



Volunteers serve up made-to-order omelets for attendees.



A bird's-eye view of the crowd during the keynote presentation.



Meet our Intern: Jennifer Nilges



Jennifer Nilges moved to Iowa from Hollywood, Florida in 2007. She is currently attending Kaplan University in Mason City to obtain her Masters of Science Degree in Human Services, with a focus in Organizational and Social Services. Jennifer's plan is to use her degree to assist victims of domestic violence.

Jennifer currently lives in Northwood with her husband and three children. She is active within the community, including her participation in the upcoming J. Brooks Walk-a-Block for Autism.



Lindsey James named VMC Executive Director



The Visit Mason City board of directors is pleased to announce the promotion of Lindsey James to the position of executive director. James replaces Sue Armour, who resigned from the organization in December to join the marketing team of Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa. James has been with Visit Mason City since 2010, and has served as the organization's project coordinator for the past four years. She has been serving as interim director since January.

The search committee, headed by the executive officers of the Visit Mason City board of directors, posted the job listing, screened responses and interviewed candidates.

"Lindsey is a motivated, self-starter who possesses vast knowledge and thorough understanding of the organization, the community, and the tourism industry," said TJ Just, Visit Mason City Board President. "Not only does she have the right work experience and skill set for the job, Lindsey is a familiar face within our community and has strong working relationships with local tourism partners. We are excited to see her rise up and take the lead as executive director."

Grant Awards Announced

Since 1996, Visit Mason City has financially assisted nearly two hundred groups and organizations in marketing their events and activities through the Visit Mason City Tourism Marketing Grant Program. Since that time, the organization has provided more than \$140,000 in direct marketing to many of the community's tourism customers and partners including sporting tournaments, conventions, attractions, festivals and lodging facilities. This year, Visit Mason City is pleased to announce the following Round II marketing grant award winners:

- Slippery Saints Mud Run for Facebook ads and boosted posts (\$1500)
- Charles H. MacNider Art Museum for radio advertising (\$400)
- River City Society for Historic Preservation for brochures and IDOT signage (\$1278.79)
- Mason City Youth Hockey for digital ads, print ads, and direct mail piece (\$800)
- Mason City Civil War Council for posters, brochures and direct mail piece (\$432.50)

These grant funds are estimated to assist in attracting over 20,000 visitors to the community generating an estimated \$1.6 million in visitor spending over the course of the next year. In addition, the program will leverage over \$10,000 in private marketing funds promoting the area as a visitor destination.

If you've passed by the Mason City Visitor Information Center recently, you've probably noticed our new LED message board.

This new sign, installed by Johnson Sign Services of Mason City, provides improved signage and visibility for the Visitor Information Center. Rotating messages, designed in-house, allow us opportunity to promote the resources and services offered by Visit Mason City to travelers passing by the Center along Highway 122.



Leadership North Iowa 2016



Molly Angstman
Mid-America Publishing



Jason Bliksederfer
Mid-West Roofing Company/Custom Sheet Metal Works



Alex Crippin
Hearing Associates, P.C.



Adam Fichter
Hertz Farm Management, Inc.



James Garduah
Cargill Kitchen Solutions



Sara Glenuh
Kelly Services



Karly Haralson
Cargill Kitchen Solutions



Scott Huffman
King Construction & Overhead Door, Inc.



Thom-Mac Johnson
Diamond Jo Casino- Worth Co.



Morgan Katz
Hertz Farm Management, Inc.



Traci Koehn
CENT Credit Union



Brandy Kozlowski
Diamond Jo Casino- Worth Co.



Devin Lawson
Sherwin-Williams



Nicole Means
First Citizens Bank



Jason Monarch
Mercy Medical Center- North Iowa



Bryce Ogea
Heartland Asphalt, Inc.



Jesse Olson
POET Biorefining-Hanlontown



Brad Paige
Bergland + Cram Architects



Danielle Pommreinn
Holiday Inn Express and Suites



Dr. Jonna Quinn
Mercy Medical Center- North Iowa



Jeff Reimers
NSB Bank



Jamie Rice
First Citizens Bank



Mike Roberts
Lehigh Cement Company LLC



Paige Roney
NSB Bank



Matt Schul
Cargill Kitchen Solutions



Amy Stambaugh
Wells Fargo Bank of Iowa



Kimberly Thyne
Henkel Construction Co.



Natalie Witschorik
Ag Ventures Alliance

PRESTAGE FARMS TO BUILD PORK PROCESSING FACILITY IN MASON CITY

ON MONDAY, MARCH 21, THE CITY of Mason City and the North Iowa Corridor unveiled the largest development project in North Iowa history, with Prestage Foods' state-of-the-art \$240 million pork processing facility that will bring over 900 jobs and over \$40 million in payroll to the region in a few years. It is projected to have an economic impact of \$375 million/year to the county initially. That doesn't factor the 2-year construction phase expected

to bring over 1,000 jobs, or the over \$3 million/year in annual property taxes to our local governments and schools.

The North Iowa Corridor is excited to welcome the Prestage family to the area. Prestage Farms is a multi-generational family-owned and operated business started by Bill and Marsha Prestage in 1983. Mr. and Mrs. Prestage, along with their three sons, still own and actively operate this multifaceted business.

They are a Top 5 producer of quality pork and turkey that employs more than 2,000 people company-wide, contracts with more than 450 farm families in seven states, and produces more than 1 billion pounds of meat annually. Prestage Farms, Inc. is headquartered in Clinton,

NC, and has operations in Iowa, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas and Oklahoma.

Prestage Farms believes that the consolidation of the pork packing industry has decreased competition for live hogs and helped depress prices to hog producers. As a large family-owned, independent hog producer, Prestage believes that vertical integration is necessary to protect its hog production investment in Iowa and elsewhere, and to create additional opportunities for independent producers in Iowa to maximize value for their livestock. "With the importance of Iowa to pork production in the United States, it is only natural that our first pork processing plant would locate in Mason City," said Jere Null, COO - Prestage Foods of Iowa.



CL TEL NAMED CORRIDOR 2016 FLAGSHIP INVESTOR

THE NORTH IOWA CORRIDOR Economic Development Corporation has announced that CL Tel will serve as Flagship Investor in the regional non-profit economic development organization's 2016 investor campaign. The annual campaign seeks to generate private investment to complement funding provided by the City of Mason City, Cerro Gordo County and City of Clear Lake. Corridor officials expect to see participation from nearly 150 North Iowa businesses.

"The economic development and growth of our area has long been a priority of CL Tel," said Tom Lovell, CL Tel General Manager. "The North Iowa Corridor has considerable positive momentum and CL Tel is proud to be a partner."

"We are honored to have a longtime investor and supporter like CL Tel be the Corridor's Flagship Investor for 2016," said Chad Schreck, Corridor President & CEO. "CL Tel is and has been actively engaged in the economic development initiatives

of the area, and their advanced telecommunication services are essential to our continued growth and marketability as a great place to not only work but live, as well."

Corridor Chairman Gary Schmit added, "The Corridor is grateful for the continued support of all of its public and private investors, by combining resources, we help ensure our communities are places people want to live and work. We greatly value their partnership in supporting regional economic development."

CHAD SCHRECK
 PRESIDENT & CEO

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PAPPAJOHN
ENTREPRENEURIAL
CENTER

The Entrepreneurial Edge

A NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center Publication

Pappajohn launches annual Iowa Entrepreneurial Venture Competition

New and startup businesses can enter to win up to \$25,000

John Pappajohn, Iowa's premier venture capitalist, has announced the launch of the 2016 Pappajohn Iowa Entrepreneurial Venture Competition. This is the 11th annual competition sponsored by John Pappajohn. Since 2006, more than \$500,000 has been awarded to startups across the state. This year, a total of \$50,000 will be awarded to the top three submitted business opportunities: \$25,000 for first prize, \$15,000 for second, and \$10,000 for third.

The competition is designed to stimulate business development and provide support for entrepreneurial ventures. The 2016 Pappajohn Iowa Entrepreneurial Venture Competition is open to new and startup businesses (in business for less than four years and located in Iowa).

The first round of the competition is currently accepting application through May 17th. During this time, businesses are invited to submit business information via a secure online platform. Information and competition details are available at www.pappajohnentrepreneurialventurecompetition.com.



April Upcoming Events

Start Smart Workshops

April 6—10:00 am—Noon; Mason City Corridor, 9 N. Federal Ave, Mason City

April 27—6:00-8:00 pm; NIACC, 104 G. McAlister Hall, 500 College Drive, Mason City

Call 641.422.4342 to register for the *free* sessions

North Iowa Tech Brew

April 19—5:00-7:00 pm; Mason City Brewery, 28 E. State St., Mason City

E-Exchange

April 14—6:00-7:30 pm; NIACC, 104 G. McAlister Hall, 500 College Drive, Mason City

PAPPAJOHN CENTER STAFF

Tim Putnam, Director

Brook Boehmler, SBDC Director

Daniel Pitts Winegarden, Incubation & Acceleration Services Director

Kelley Crane, School Partnership Entrepreneurial Coordinator

Anna LaVallee, Administrative Assistant-Incubator

Mary Spitz, Administrative Assistant-NIACC JPEC & SBDC



500 College Drive, Ste 120 • Mason City, IA 50401

Visit us online @ www.niacc.edu/pappajohn 1-888-GO-NIACC or 641-422-4111

Be Our Guest

Tune in Friday mornings to the Chamber "Be Our Guest" program at 8:40AM on KRIB 1490 AM. Alpha Media (formerly Dignity) provides this benefit to Chamber members free of charge. If you would like to schedule a spot on the show, please contact the Chamber. Listen in for March's guests!

April 1 | **Friends of the 457**
Dennis Wilson

April 8 | **Hospice of North Iowa**
Connie Bleile

April 15 | **Goodwill of the Great Plains**
Natasha Oelkers

April 22 | **True Travels, LLC**
Rhonda True

April 29 | **Lake Time Boat Club**
Jake Kopriva



College Connections

All Chamber members are encouraged to involve summer college interns in a FREE program designed to connect young workers to our community and to each other! (Businesses who are not Chamber Members may enroll interns for \$100).

College Connections will provide a series of social and educational activities on a once-a-week schedule throughout the summer, June 2 - July 28, 2016. Chamber members will serve as "Lunch & Learn" speakers on a variety of topics relevant to college students and new graduates. In addition to the scheduled social activities, a list of popular area recreational activities will be provided for participants to pursue outside of the program's regular meeting times.

We are able to offer this program free to interns, from the help of our sponsors. Please consider sponsoring **College Connections** with a \$100 contribution. In recognition for your sponsorship we will list your business in marketing materials and also give you the opportunity to briefly address the students in our first session on June 2nd.

Please contact Marketing and Leadership Director Allyson Krull at the Chamber (akrull@masoncityia.com) to register your intern or to become a sponsor.



Premier Members

Thank you to this year's Premier members who have gone above and beyond in their support of the Chamber programs, events and the **North Iowa Band Festival**. These members have made commitments to our Investor Packages or customized their own package from our many events, sponsorships and marketing packages. Premier status gives members special mentions in the monthly newsletter, first chance at events and sponsorships, and special recognition at the **Annual Meeting**.

Gold (\$6,000 & up) : First Citizens Bank · Principal Financial Group · Curries

Silver (\$3,000-\$5,999): Clear Lake Bank & Trust · Diamond Jo Casino
Holiday Inn Express - Mason City · ITC Midwest · Wells Fargo Bank of Iowa

Bronze (\$1,000-\$2,999): 98.7 KISS Country / 103.7 The Fox / KIOW 107.3 / KCHA 95.9
CENT Credit Union · Corporate Farmer · Farmers State Bank · Henkel Construction
Kingland Systems · Kwik Star · Mercy Medical Center - North Iowa · NIACC · POET
Biorefining - Hanlontown · Rieman Music

Ribbon Cuttings

The Chamber Ambassadors would be pleased to come to your business and assist in making your ribbon cutting, grand opening or ground breaking a special event. Let us know if you have a new location, renovation, or other special occasion and we'll be there!



NEW LOCATION

NIP Fitness
471 S Illinois

Global Familiarization Opportunities

Ireland, Egypt, China, South Africa...Where Will We Go Next?

There's still time to take advantage of "Early Bird Specials" for this fall's trips to Ireland and Egypt. Plans are underway to determine our destinations for 2017. Contact the Chamber for more information.

Discover Scenic Ireland

October 19-26, 2016

\$2,999 double occupancy if registered prior to April 15

Through the Chamber's membership in the Iowa Chamber of Commerce Executives (ICCE) organization, we are able to offer a special opportunity to tour Ireland. You'll enjoy the benefits of a one-hotel stay, while venturing out each day to see the sights.

- Round-trip airfare from Des Moines
- 6 nights hotel accommodations in the heart of Limerick
- Sightseeing with licensed guides
- 8 Meals

Optional 3-day/2-night Extension to Dublin: \$499 double occupancy.

Explore Exotic Egypt

November 9-17, 2016

\$2,999 double occupancy if registered prior to April 29

Our trip begins with two nights in Cairo followed by a Nile River Cruise between Luxor and Aswan. This 9 day/7 night tour includes:

- Round-trip airfare from Minneapolis
- 7 nights hotel accommodations
- Sightseeing with licensed English speaking guides
- 10 Meals

Optional 3-day/2-Night Extension to Alexandria: \$599 Double Occupancy.

Join us for a no-obligation Informational Meeting on Ireland and Egypt scheduled for 4:30-6PM on April 12 at the Commerce Center. Drop in at your convenience to learn more about these exciting destinations.



Cliffs of Moher



Camels of Giza

Blue Zones Project®



The Blue Zones Project® had a presence at the Ag Breakfast. Egg white omelets were also available, thanks to this addition to the Cargill Kitchen Solutions product line. Fresh veggies from Fertile Valley Gardens complemented the healthy fare.



It's Town in Tennes Time!

Help promote "moving naturally" in your workplace by participating in the Blue Zones Project "Town in Tennes" during the month of April. You can get posters, newsletter articles, and other items from the Blue Zones Project office at City Hall. Share your photos on Facebook using #TOWNINTENNES. Join the fun and get moving!

Chamber Leadership

Executive Committee

Steve Noto, Chairman of the Board
Stoney Creek Hospitality Corporation

Bob Klocke, Past Chair and Treasurer
First Citizens Bank

Dave Bergan, Chair-Elect
Smithfield

Kelly Hansen, Government Affairs
Division Vice President
POET Biorefining - Hanlontown

Sherry Becker, Community & Membership
Division Vice President
NIVC Services

Dr. Steve Schulz, Workforce & Leadership
Division Vice President
North Iowa Area Community College

Julie Valencia, Business Division Vice President
Kaplan University

Board of Directors

Josh Brueggeman, *Accord Architecture*

Dr. Kyle Burgmeier, *Burgmeier Dentistry*

Ina Cavin, *Hy-Vee West*

Todd Kirkpatrick, *Clear Lake Bank & Trust*

Jerry Knoll, *Hawkeye Auto Body*

Garett McKiness, *McKiness Excavating, Inc.*

Dr. Paul Manternach, *Mercy Medical Center*
—North Iowa

David Mayberry, *Globe Gazette*

Jamie Nelson, *North Iowa Broadcasting*

Jeff Nichols, *Opportunity Village*

Kirk Paulson, *NSB Bank*

Crystal Shellhart, *Holiday Inn Express & Suites*
- Mason City

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Upcoming Events MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Educational Opportunities

Tuesday April 12	Lunch & Learn 12-1PM "2016 is the year I improve my social media presence!" Social Connections, LLC Band Festival Room Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave
Tuesday April 12	Global Trips Info Session 4:30-6PM (open house format) Third Floor Event Room Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave
Tuesday April 26	Lunch & Learn 12-1PM "2016 is the year I boost my online sales!" Webwise Solutions, Inc. Band Festival Room Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave

Networking Events

Thursday April 7	Ribbon Cutting - Lake Time Boat Club 2PM Lake Time Boat Club 4859 S Shore Dr., Clear Lake
Thursday April 21	Business Before Hours - Holiday Inn Express & Suites - Mason City 7-9AM Holiday Inn Express & Suites - Mason City 3041 4th St SW
Thursday April 28	Business After Hours - Mason City Country Club 4:30-6:30PM Mason City Country Club 3331 19th St SW

Get Involved/Committee Meetings

Tuesday April 5	Ambassador Meeting 12-1PM Charles H. MacNider Art Museum 303 2nd St SE
Wednesday April 6	Business Resource Committee 7:30-8:30AM Farrer Room Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave
Friday April 8	Band Festival Committee 12:15-1PM Band Festival Room Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave
Wednesday April 13	Agribusiness Committee 7:30-8:30AM Wine Club Room Hy-Vee West 2400 4th St SW
Thursday April 14	Events Committee 12-1PM Farrer Room Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave
Thursday April 21	Blue Zones Worksite Committee 3:30-4:30PM Board Room Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave

May 12 *Business After Hours* | Lee Realty
May 26-30 *78th North Iowa Band Festival* | Central Park