



Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

The Voice of Business for January



When: Jan 13, 2025

Where:
Timberlake Lodge Hotel

Time:
11:45 a.m.
Buffet lunch,
12:00 pm Luncheon begins.

Cost:
\$15.00 members
\$20.00 nonmembers

RSVP required:
218-326-6619
or email
Stacia@grandmn.com no later than
Jan 9, 2025



Calendar of Events for 2025

Lunch With Legislators
Wed. Jan 8
11-1 PM
Timberlake Lodge

January Luncheon
Monday January 13
11:45- 1 PM
Timberlake Lodge

MN Chamber Session
Priorities Dinner
Wed. Jan 15
St. Paul, MN

Chamber Committee Meetings

Ambassador -
Third Wednesday/
monthly, noon - 1:00pm

Government Affairs -
Last Friday/monthly,
7:30am - 9:00am

Forestry Affairs -
Last Friday/monthly,
9:15am - 10:45 am

Chamber members, you are welcome to come and check them out to see if you are interested in joining.

Second Harvest Northland An Update from Your Region's Food Bank

You're Invited to the January Luncheon

Join us for an engaging and inspiring luncheon featuring Shaye Moris, President/CEO of Second Harvest Northland (SHN).

Building a Hunger-Free Northland
Discover how the strategic collaboration between two successful 40-year organizations led to the creation of Second Harvest Northland. Shaye will share the organization's vision of a hunger-free Northland and the compassionate, equitable approach they take to ensure dignified food access for neighbors facing hunger across Grand Rapids and the 15-county region they serve.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about SHN's impactful work and how it's shaping the future of food security in our community.

RSVP now to secure your spot!



Shaye Moris has been dedicated to fighting hunger since joining Second Harvest in 1998. Inspired by her parents' values of helping others, she works to ensure equitable and dignified food access for families across the Northland.

Shaye believes collaboration and learning from neighbors facing hunger are key to building a hunger-free Northland. She has also served on boards such as the Northland Foundation and Hunger Solutions Minnesota.

LUNCHEON SPONSOR:



Affinity Plus is a not-for-profit financial cooperative serving members across Minnesota, including right here in Grand Rapids. With service grounded in care, integrity and learning, we look forward to finding the financial products and services that make sense for you, supporting you through life's celebrated and unexpected moments. Join the story at affinityplus.org. Insured by NCUA

Board Member Changes 2025



Jodi Piekarski
MN Power



Bri Wagner
Grand Itasca
Clinic & Hospital



Todd Witherill
MDI



Ashley Brubaker
True North
Salon



Melissa Swenson
Members Coop
Credit Union

Thank You to Departing Board Members of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

As the year comes to a close, the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce (GRACC) extends heartfelt gratitude to our departing board members for their dedicated service and leadership.

Your commitment to fostering growth, supporting local businesses, and strengthening our community has been invaluable. Each of you has played a vital role in shaping the Chamber's initiatives, promoting collaboration, and driving positive change.

We are deeply grateful for your time, expertise, and passion for our shared mission. While you may be stepping away from the board, your contributions leave a lasting impact, and your legacy will continue to inspire the work we do.

On behalf of the Chamber and our members, thank you for your service and dedication. We look forward to seeing the continued success you bring to our community and beyond.

New 2025 Board Member Election Notice.

As per Article IV, Section 2 of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce By-laws, a nominating committee, appointed by the current Chair of the Chamber Board, has presented their nominees for new Board Members and Officers for 2025 to the current Board of Directors as follows:

- 2025 Board Chair – Rawan Elbitare - Ameriprise Financial
- 2025 Vice Chair – Dan Cooper - Lake Country Power
- 2025 Treasurer – Shannon Benolken - Park State Bank

Three Year Term Directors: TJ Otto - MN Power, Rob Sjostrand - E-fund, Jackie Skelly - IASC, Jon Pederson - GICH

This slate of nominees was presented to the Chamber Membership for ratification at the December 9, 2024 Chamber Luncheon, which also served as the Chamber's Annual Meeting. The votes cast by the quorum present will constitute a legal action.

Malissa Bahr, President
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

This Month's Business Spotlight Recipient:



Once a month, a Chamber Member Business in good standing will be randomly selected during the monthly luncheon and featured for the upcoming month.

This randomly drawn business will have the opportunity to showcase themselves offering them exposure through the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce network

This initiative expresses gratitude to all businesses and individuals supporting the Chamber's mission of advocating for business interests.

Weekly Specials:

MONDAY.....AYCE BLUEGILL
 TUESDAYFAJITAS
 WEDNESDAY.....PASTA SPECIAL
 THURSDAY.....CHEF SPECIAL
 FRIDAY.....AYCE CRAB LEGS
 SATURDAY.....PRIME RIB

See you soon!



The Pickled Loon Saloon

20184 US-169
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-301-0485

Back room available for reservations

Breakfast:
 Saturday 8-11am
 Sunday 8am-1pm

Meat Raffle:
 Wednesday @5pm
 Sunday @4pm
Bingo:
 Tuesday @6pm

The Pickled Loon Saloon

Located along the shores of Pokegama Lake in Grand Rapids, MN, the Pickled Loon Saloon is a local favorite. Known for its inviting atmosphere, delicious food, and stunning lake views, it offers a menu full of favorites like burgers, salads, and hearty entrees.

The saloon's lakeside setting provides a perfect place to relax, whether on the outdoor patio during warmer months or inside year-round. With exceptional service and lively events like live music and trivia nights, it's a great spot for both locals and visitors.

The team at the Pickled Loon Saloon takes pride in offering top-notch customer service, making every guest feel like part of the family.

Whether you're a local looking for your new go-to spot or a visitor seeking a memorable dining experience, the Pickled Loon Saloon is the place to be. Stop by and discover why this beloved establishment is a true highlight of the Grand Rapids area.

For more information, visit the Pickled Loon Saloon on Pokegama Lake or follow them on social media for the latest updates and events!

Join the Chamber for your chance to be premiered. The Chamber of Commerce works to help you create jobs, and helps to solve business problems. Make sure you support your Chamber, because they are supporting you. Call Kerry Larsen at 218-326-6619 or email kerry@grandmn.com

Taking Care of Business

Thank You for a Successful "Taking Care of Business" Event

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the over 50 member businesses that participated in this year's Taking Care of Business event! Your presence and enthusiasm made this networking opportunity a resounding success. It was a fantastic time for both business owners and the public to connect, learn about the incredible services offered in our community, and build valuable relationships.

A special thank you to Paul Bunyan Communications for their generous sponsorship, which helped make the event possible. We also want to congratulate Travel Leaders for winning the Best Booth award—your display truly stood out and captured the spirit of the event!



We are grateful for everyone who attended and participated. Together, we continue to strengthen our local business community. Here's to even more success in the future!

President & CEO: **Malissa Bahr**
 Business Relations Coordinator: **Kerry Larsen**
 Events and Marketing Coordinator: **Stacia Rom**

