



Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

The Voice of Business for February



When: Feb 17, 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
Feb 13, 2025



Calendar of Events for 2025

February Luncheon
Monday February 17
11:45- 1 PM
Timberlake Lodge

GRACC Annual Dinner
May 1, 2025
Timberlake Lodge

Swap Meet & Car Show
July 25-27, 2025

Golf Outing & Fun Day
Sept. 18, 2025

Talking Care of Business
Dec 3, 2025

Chamber Committee Meetings

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

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

Natural Resources -
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.

A Snapshot of Rural Healthcare: How Grand Itasca Measures Up

You're Invited to the February Luncheon

Rural health care is facing significant challenges, from financial pressures to workforce shortages. However, amidst these obstacles, there are also remarkable successes. Join Grand Itasca President & CEO, Jean MacDonell, for an honest look at the trials and triumphs in navigating these challenges. She will be joined by Grand Itasca Sr. Director of Community Relations, Bri Wagner, to showcase how Grand Itasca is leveraging community support and strategic partnerships to ensure the highest level of care to the community.



Jean MacDonell
President & CEO

RSVP now to secure your spot!



Bri Wagner
Sr. Director of
Community Relations

LUNCHEON SPONSOR:

granditasca[®]
Clinic & Hospital

*Part of Fairview
Health Services*

Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital has long roots in our community dating back to the logging camps and the booming paper mill in Grand Rapids and its surrounding communities. Today, Grand Itasca, the largest employer in the county, employs 800+ people, including more than 80 physicians and other providers specializing in family medicine, women's health, and general surgery to sports medicine, occupational medicine, and urology. Sitting on a 70-acre lot along the Mississippi River, the 183,000 facility is home to a 45-bed hospital and integrated clinic with on-site surgery and imaging services, a cancer center and retail pharmacy.

Legislative Luncheon & Capitol Visit: Advocating for Our Business Community



On January 8, the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a Legislative Luncheon, bringing together local business leaders and our state legislators to discuss key issues impacting our region. With a full house in attendance, members had the opportunity to hear firsthand from policymakers about the upcoming session and how legislative decisions could shape Minnesota's economic landscape.

Following this important discussion, Chamber representatives traveled to the Capitol to participate in the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce's Session Priorities event. Our delegation proudly filled two tables at the annual dinner, where business leaders from across the state gathered to engage with legislators and gain insights into the 2025 session.

The evening featured a live taping of Minnesota Public Radio's Politics Friday podcast, remarks from Governor Tim Walz (invited), and discussions led by state officials and business advocates. The event provided valuable networking opportunities and a platform to amplify the concerns and priorities of our local business community.

As we move into the legislative session, the Chamber remains committed to advocating for policies that support economic growth and prosperity for our region.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the dinner and to our local legislators for taking the time to meet with us and discuss the upcoming priorities.



This Month's Business Spotlight Recipient:

Greater Insurance Service of Northeastern Minnesota



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.



Score a hat trick with GIS!
We can insure your home, auto's and recreational vehicles!

Grand Rapids, MN
 218.327.1854
gismn.com



Greater Insurance Service of Northeastern Minnesota is a trusted, independent insurance agency proudly serving clients across the region from its headquarters in Grand Rapids, MN, and its newly acquired location in Baudette, MN. Founded in 1995 by Michael Kane, a Minnesota native with over 30 years of experience in the industry, our agency is committed to delivering personalized, reliable insurance solutions that meet the diverse needs of our community.

With deep roots in the region, Michael began his career with Farm Bureau Insurance in 1990 before launching Greater Insurance Service to provide more comprehensive and tailored coverage options to both individuals and businesses. In early 2024, Michael seized the opportunity to expand the agency by acquiring an established office in Baudette, further strengthening our presence in the north-eastern part of the state.

At Greater Insurance Service, we partner with over 50 top-rated insurance companies to offer an extensive range of products for both commercial and personal coverage. Whether you're seeking protection for your home, car, health, or business, our team of 14 experienced, licensed agents is dedicated to crafting the best solutions to fit your unique needs. We take the time to understand your circumstances, ensuring you have the coverage that provides peace of mind and financial security.

Our mission is simple: to provide the highest quality protection and service to our clients. With a highly trained and professional staff, we are here to review your current coverage, answer your questions, and help you find the right insurance for you.

Visit www.gismn.com today for a free quote and discover how we can protect what matters most to you. Greater Insurance Service of Northeastern Minnesota

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



Congratulations to the January Customer Service Award winner



Charlotte Jarrett from Best Western

Congratulations, Charlotte, on your exceptional customer service! Your nomination was well-deserved for going above and beyond. You are a valuable asset to our community and are known for your kindness and excellent work ethic.

Not pictured GRACC Ambassador Laurie Clausen - Edward Jones

Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

This year the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce will be giving out a total of **TWO \$500.00 scholarships**. All qualified area high school seniors are encouraged to apply.

Applicants who have applied and have been accepted to a four-year college or university with plans to attain a B.S. or B.A. degree. Applicants pursuing a two-year degree or certification in a vocational/technical industry are needed locally.

Please drop off or mail to:
 GRACC Attn: Kerry Larsen
 One NW Third Street, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

www.grandmn.com/gracc-scholarship/



Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

NORTHERN MINNESOTA SWAP MEET & CAR SHOW

July 25-27, 2025 at the Itasca County Fairgrounds

We have over 200 vendors with vintage treasures, handmade good, car stuff, and more. Many food booths and food trucks to enjoy. The weekend draws close to 20,000 visitors to the area and to this event. The Car Show is Sunday 8 am - 3 pm with over 100 cars to check out!

Visit Our Website
www.GRANDMN.com



Business Relations Coordinator: **Kerry Larsen**
 Events and Marketing Coordinator: **Stacia Rom**



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