

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



Time: 4-6PM

Date: Thursday, June 1

Location: 10 N Washington,
Suite 300

Hosted By:

William R. Cooney, Shane W. Cooney,
Scott Westermann & W. Casey Martin

Financial Consultants of

RAYMOND JAMES®

Thank you to 98.7 KISS Country/103.7 The
Fox for highlighting Business After Hours
on its stations!

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 From the President
June DEI Session: Juneteenth
- 3 Chamber Welcomes Team Members
Breaking Glass - June 8
Community Profile Ads
- 4 College Connections Begins June 1
Chamber Golf Outing
- 5 84th North Iowa Band Festival
- 10 Global Trips Registration
Legislative Session Review
- 11 Ribbon Cuttings
July DEI Session
Leadership Workshop Recap
Make It OK Walk
- 12 Upcoming Events

Moonlight Bike Ride - August 18

The **Moonlight Bike Ride** is making a return after two consecutive years being canceled due to weather! The scheduled date for the bike ride is Friday, August 18, with a rain date scheduled for Friday, August 25.



The Worksite Wellness Committee is excited to host the annual **Moonlight Bike Ride**. Registration and the Activity Zone will open at 8PM. At 10PM, participants will embark on a 10-mile loop, making a pit-stop at NIACC, and concluding at the Downtown Plaza.

Traditions like the **Moonlight Bike Ride** help to establish a culture of well-being. Worksite Wellness Committee members know it takes hard work, dedication, passion, and persistence to create an environment where the healthy choice is the easy choice. Employees enjoy the benefit of improving their lives both at work and at home. The **Moonlight Bike Ride** is just one of the many initiatives created to motivate North Iowans to live healthier, happier lives.

Schedule of Activities:

Registration 8PM | Central Park – City Hall Parking Lot
Riders receive a swag bag, bike light, and refreshments

Activity Stations 8-10PM | Activity Zone
Activities include a bike safety station, glow-in-the-dark decorations, giant board games, music, and more!

Bike Ride 10PM | Central Park

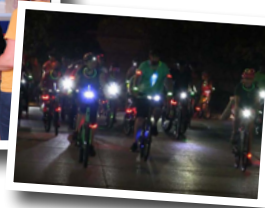
Halfway Point Pit Stop | NIACC Activity Center

Breakfast 11PM-12:30AM | Downtown Plaza
Fresh breakfast (included in registration)

For more information or to register, contact the Chamber at 641.423.5724 or chamber@masoncityia.com.



Full Moon Sponsors



Half Moon Sponsors



Crescent Moon Sponsors

Clear Lake Bank & Trust, Co.

New Members

BRIGHTER MARKETING

Maggie Breister, Owner
112 Fair Meadows Ln
Forest City, IA 50436
641-425-2671
maggie@brighter-marketing.com
www.brighter-marketing.com

At Brighter Marketing, we're not just another marketing agency. We are a collective of creative thinkers, savvy strategists, and marketing maestros dedicated to illuminating your brand's potential

ARTISTIC UNISEX SALON

Moses Noni, Owner
103 E State St #410
Mason City, IA 50401
641-903-0036

Professionally licensed, Artistic Salon is the place for creative, inspiration and imaginative cuts and styles, providing a vast array of services in downtown Mason City.

Be Our Guest

Tune in Friday mornings to the Chamber "Be Our Guest" program at 8:40AM on KRIB 1490 AM, courtesy of Alpha Media.

June 1 | MacNider Arts Museum
Edith Blanchard

June 2 | Apex Clean Energy
Jack Elsnes

June 9 | Fairway Mortgage
Amanda Kaufman

June 16 | Schooley Mitchell
Brian Huntley

June 23 | Pine Creek Golf Course
JT Haugen

June 30 | Mason City Chamber
Jeremiah Frein

From the President

On April 24th, a plume of smoke filled the sky above Mason City, signaling a fire below that would forever alter the look of our historic downtown. I know I'm not the only one whose heart sank, hoping everyone got out safely, and wondering what would come of the building.

In the days to follow, my heart was warmed by the incredible support of our community – from the different non-profit partners who pulled together to support the residents of the Kirk, to individual donors who just want to help. The response is truly a testament to the goodwill of the people who live in North Iowa.

Soon, my attention turned to the site: figuring out how to ensure it wouldn't become a vacant lot, and determining how to preserve what we could of the historic property. Fortunately, there are many in this community with a passion for historic preservation, and they were quick to get on board with finding a way forward.

We have jumped through hoops and over obstacles (in some cases, literally) to salvage some of the best-known pieces of the building, with the hope that these items can be repurposed into a new development. We are so appreciative of Ed Kent, the City of Mason City, DeCarlo Demolition, Cutting Edge Tree Service, and Frein Audio & Technology for helping us salvage what we could. While we don't have a development plan yet, our goal is to ensure the Kirk will be remembered and honored when it is time to rebuild.



Colleen Frein
President & CEO

June DEI Session: Juneteenth

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion continues to be a priority initiative for the Chamber. In conjunction with the Certified Inclusive Employer program, the Chamber hosts regular DEI Trainings. June's DEI Session is from 1-2PM on Friday, June 16 and will focus on the Juneteenth Celebration and how employers can mark the holiday beyond taking the day off work. Leading the session is Reverend Abraham Funchess, Jr., Human Rights Director of the City of Waterloo.



Rev. Abraham Funchess

Rev. Funchess attended Hampton University in Virginia, where he majored in Sociology with a minor in Psychology, and completed a Certified Public Management Course at Drake University. In Waterloo, Funchess has served as an Executive Director of Christian Community Development and as an Adjunct Professor at Hawkeye Community College. He was appointed to serve as Division Administrator of the Iowa Commission on the Status of African Americans within the Iowa Department of Human Rights during both Governors Vilsack and Culver's administrations.

In addition to speaking about Juneteenth and inclusiveness of people of color, Rev. Funchess will also share information about the MKL Freedom Bus Tour he leads out of Waterloo. Registration for the DEI session is free for those enrolled in the Certified Inclusive Employer program. Contact Allyson for more information or to register.

Chamber Welcomes New Team Members

Keagan Barkema recently accepted the Marketing Associate position at the Chamber of Commerce, where she will be assisting with programs, marketing, graphic design, and more.

Keagan was most recently serving as the marketing intern at the Chamber where she worked on Chamber News, the monthly newsletter, and graphic design. She even designed this year's **North Iowa Band Festival** t-shirt!

Keagan holds an Associate's Degree in Graphic Design from North Iowa Area Community College. She is a Belmond native and a graduate of Belmond High School. Stop in and say hi to Keagan!



Keagan Barkema
Marketing Associate



Ellie Determan

Ellie Determan has recently joined the Chamber staff as a Marketing/Events Intern. Ellie graduated from Newman Catholic High School in 2021 and is also a graduate of the Chamber's YIELD program. She just completed her sophomore year at Iowa State University and is expecting to graduate in May of 2025 with a degree in Marketing and a minor in Accounting.

In Ellie's role at the chamber, she will help facilitate the **College Connections** program and assist with the **North Iowa Band Festival**, **Moonlight Bike Ride**, and the annual **Golf Outing**.

She will also help monitor and manage the Chamber website and social media content.

At Iowa State, Ellie has completed various marketing classes and is looking forward to working with the Marketing/Events team throughout the summer. In her free time, Ellie enjoys being with friends and family, boating on Clear Lake, and golfing.

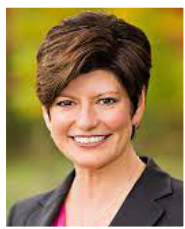
Breaking Glass - June 8

Breaking Glass featuring Rowena Crosbie is scheduled from 8:30-10AM on Thursday, June 8 at the Commerce Center.

Rowena Crosbie is President of Tero International and co-author of *Your Invisible Toolbox*. Since 1993, Tero International has earned a distinguished reputation as a premier research and corporate training company. Tero was once again named the Best Training Company in 2021 and has been included on the Best Of List by The Des Moines Business Record in their annual Reader's Poll every year since the category was introduced in 2007.

Rowena's commitment to help people challenge the way they think combined with her strong communication skills ignites a passion in her listeners which endures long after her presentations are over. Her ability to inspire audiences has consistently earned her reviews as a top-rated speaker and trainer. People who leave her sessions, leave with useful tools to become the very best they can be in both their personal and professional lives.

The **Breaking Glass Leadership Series** offers a unique learning experience to help women stretch their leadership potential, drive their careers with vision and purpose, and make a greater impact within their organizations. Tickets are \$10 for employees of Chamber member businesses and \$20 for non-members.

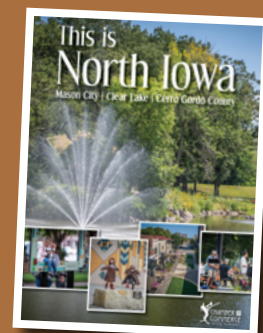


Rowena Crosbie
Tero International

Community Profile Ads

To date, more than 165 members have chosen to reserve ad space in the Chamber's popular biennial **Community Profile Magazine** -- a record-breaking number of businesses! Contact Project Manager Michael Holmes by **June 7** to discuss exciting details and options for advertising. Artwork for ads are due by **June 30**. Michael can be reached by telephone at (815) 871-2631 or via email at mholmes@tspubs.com.

Advertising in the magazine is way to build brand awareness and generate positive community and corporate goodwill! These marketing messages will be seen for the next two years both in print AND online, with direct links to businesses. Ad preparation services are available to (if needed) at no additional charge.



LNI Graduates

The 2023 Leadership North Iowa Class graduated from the program in early May. Inserted in this newsletter is a class composite of graduates.

Special thanks to program sponsors: Bergland + Cram, Cargill, Chevron Renewable Energy Group, Clear Lake Bank & Trust, CURRIES, Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Jane Fischer & Associates, POET Biorefining - Hanlontown, Pritchard Companies, and Thrivent - Todd Leet.

Membership Renewals

Congratulations to the Chamber members celebrating membership anniversaries in June.

Sixty Plus Years

Birdsall's LC (62)
Decker Sports (67)

Fifty Plus Years

North Iowa Area Community College (56)
Zilge's Appliance Center (53)

Forty Plus Years

Hardee's Restaurant (46)
Godfather's Pizza (44)
SEH® (44)

Thirty Plus Years

SBMC, LLC - formerly known as Southbridge Mall (39)
Hosmer Toyota (37)
Stadheim Jewelers (35)
Jon L. Hardinger DDS General Dentistry (34)
IowaWORKS North Iowa (34)
NSB Bank (32)
Reflections (32)
Perkins Restaurant (31)
Burgmeier Dentistry (30)
Printing Services, Inc. (30)
Kinney Pioneer Museum (30)

Twenty Plus Years

Mason City Super 8 (25)
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach (24)
Mason City Monument Company (24)
Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless (24)
Fleet Farm (21)

Fifteen Plus Years

Wells Fargo Advisors - Chris Connolly (17)
Unique Boutique (17)
Bauer Built Tire (16)
Redline Concrete (16)
The Quarry Restaurant (16)
Martin-Brower (15)

College Connections Begins June 1

College Connections begins on Thursday, June 1, but it's not too late to sign up! All Chamber members are encouraged to involve summer interns in this program designed to connect young workers to our community and to each other. Each \$100 sponsor may register up to 5 interns in the program. Non-sponsor member businesses can enroll their interns for \$25 per participant.



College Connections provides a series of social and educational activities every Thursday throughout the summer, June 1-July 27. Chamber members will serve as 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.

2023 **College Connections** schedule:

June 1	12-1PM	Commerce Center	Introduction & Networking
June 8	10-11AM	Commerce Center	Personality Styles
June 15	4:30-6PM	Clear Lake Arts Center	Regional Intern Networking
June 22	3-4PM	Country Axe	Axe Throwing
June 29	12-1PM	Commerce Center	Cost of Living & Labor Market
July 6	9-10AM	Commerce Center	Resumes & Interviewing
July 13	2-3PM	Commerce Center	Community Scavenger Hunt
July 20	12-1PM	Commerce Center	Generations in the Workplace
July 27	4-6PM	Lady of the Lake	Cruise on Clear Lake

Thank you to this year's sponsors!



Chamber Golf Outing - June 15

Last call for teams at the Chamber's **Golf Outing** at Highland Park Golf Course on June 15!

Hole sponsorships have been filled, but there is still room for a few more teams at this year's outing! Registration for a team of four includes two carts, four green fees, and meals (lunch and dinner for each teammate).

Door prize donations can be arranged by calling the Chamber at 641.423.5724. Golfers will have the opportunity to vote on the best Hole Sponsor, and the sponsor with the most votes will be awarded a complimentary team at next year's outing!

An alternate date has been set for the following Thursday, June 22 in the event of rain. To register, visit www.masoncityia.com or contact Noah at nharris@masoncityia.com.

Tournament Sponsor:



84th North Iowa Band Festival

The **North Iowa Band Festival** had an All-American celebration for its 84th year! Patrons enjoyed a variety of festivities including live entertainment, the Bill Riley Talent Show, a carnival, food vendors, and much more! The **Band Festival** Committee works year-round to plan this annual celebration and they look forward to seeing you for the 85th **North Iowa Band Festival** in Mason City!



CURRIES won the Grand Marshal float award for best use of the festival theme, "All-American Band Festival!"



The Mason City Jazz Band performed on the Festival's Main Stage on Friday night.



Klemnauer Award winner Bill Stangler and his wife, Vicki, ready for the parade to begin.



The **Band Festival** Parade saw big turnout, and student musicians shined!



Nolan Balk from Garner-Hayfield-Ventura High School and Catherine Dow from Rockford High School were crowned the **84th North Iowa Band Festival** King and Queen.

THANK YOU to the Major Sponsors:

DRUM MAJOR SPONSORS



BAND MASTER SPONSORS



FLAG CORPS SPONSORS

Alliant Energy • Casey's • CENT Credit Union • Holiday Inn Express & Suites Mason City
Jane Fischer & Associates • MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center • NIACC
POET Biorefining • Hanlontown Rieman Music • River City Rugby Club • Thrivent-Todd Leet

Membership Renewals (cont)

Ten Plus Years

POET Biorefining – Hanlontown (14)
Johnson Heating & Air Conditioning (14)
Zgrafix Design (14)
Rieman Music (12)
Mediacom Business (12)

Five Plus Years

River City Chorus (8)
Kwik Star (8)
EastSide Storage (7)
Chad Harrison, CPA PLLC (5)
Elite Boxing Academy & Fitness Club (5)

One plus Years

Custom Modular Homes by Elwood (4)
Goodnature's Work Stop (4)
Talon LLC (3)
The River (3)
Piscopo Law Firm (3)
CFO Systems, LLC (3)
Mason City Electric (3)
The Happy Donkey Tequila Bar & Grill (3)
Pipe Dream Pizza (1)
Kut\$ by KZ (1)
KAAL TV (1)
Friends of the Family (1)
North Iowa Landlord Association (1)





WELCOME JEFFERSON HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION! *Conference attendees to arrive June 7th*

The Jefferson Highway Association's annual conference will be held June 7-10 in Mason City. Visit Mason City invites members of the community to join us in welcoming the JHA to town! Conference attendees will begin arriving on Wednesday, June 7th. There will be two opportunities for the general public to connect with JHA members and learn more about the Jefferson Highway Heritage Byway.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7TH

The [Jefferson Highway Sociability Caravan](#) will arrive in Mason City on Wednesday afternoon. After two days of travel along the Historic Jefferson Highway, the caravan is expected to reach East Park around 3:30 PM. The community is invited to meet at the Bandshell and extend a warm welcome.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH

A special **Community Day with the JHA** will be held Saturday, June 10th at the Kinney Pioneer Museum. JHA members from each state along with the historic route will be present. A flag ceremony will begin shortly after 10:00 AM. Learn more about the JHA and Mason City's role in establishing the original Jefferson Highway within the Museum. Exhibits will include the Colby Car, Hugh Shepard Scrapbook, Dillinger Gang Bank Robbery, and

more! Free admission and refreshments courtesy of the Jefferson Highway Association, First Citizens Bank, Three on the Tree Coffee & Café, Kwik Star, and Visit Mason City

More information about the Jefferson Highway and the JHA is available online at

www.jeffersonhighway.org.



FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

MAIN STREET MASON CITY

**FREE LIVE MUSIC EVERY FRIDAY
6 PM-8 PM**

**AT THE PRINCIPAL PERFORMING ARTS PAVILION
DOWNTOWN MASON CITY**

**SUMMER SERIES
JUNE 2ND-AUGUST 18TH**

PRESENTED BY:



ALSO SPONSORED IN PART BY:



THE CORNER
PIZZA AND ALEHOUSE



thrivent
Todd Leet, BFA™, CLTOS, FIC
Financial Professional



JUNE 2: Kyle Renfro **FIRST FRIDAY!**

Food Trucks, Marketplace & Family Fun in Central Park

JUNE 9: The Mercury 3

JUNE 16: The Collective Indifference

JUNE 23: Brad & Kate

JUNE 30: Matt Woods

JULY 7: Nicholas David **FIRST FRIDAY!**

Food Trucks, Marketplace & Family Fun in Central Park

JULY 14: Juni + Betty

JULY 21: Ron & Steve Unplugged

JULY 28: Betty & The Gents

AUGUST 4: The Mockingbirds **FIRST FRIDAY!**

Food Trucks, Marketplace & Family Fun in Central Park

AUGUST 11: The Sweet Nuthins

AUGUST 18: Kung Fu Hippies

WWW.MAINSTREETMASONCITY.COM



JUNE 2023

IOWA LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS SESSION

The Iowa Legislature adjourned the First Session of the 90th General Assembly on May 4th, one week past the scheduled 110 days. Governor Reynolds and leadership in both the House and Senate worked together in the final weeks to reach a compromise on key policy issues including the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, property tax reform, and economic development issues.

Property Tax

Tax reform continues to be a top priority for Republican leadership. Both chambers introduced property tax proposals at the start of session. The Senate focused on limiting budget growth at the local level by consolidating levies, while the House focused on capping assessment growth and reducing the \$5.40 levy.

During the legislative session, property assessments across the state saw increases that led the legislature to compromise, and in the last week of session, leadership in the House, Senate, and the Governor reached an agreement on an amendment that combined a number of the provisions in both the Senate and House proposals.

It is estimated that House File 718 will reduce property taxes by \$100 million dollars by reducing tax rates when assessments rise, levy limits, consolidate and simplify 15 levies into a single general levy and increases transparency requirements.

Economic Development

The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) introduced two priorities this session to help drive economic growth in the state. Senate File 574 would create a Major Economic Growth Attraction Program that would be used to help close large scale development deals by providing additional incentives. The Senate approved a two-year pilot of the program, limited to two projects with a 45-0 vote. Unfortunately the House did not pass the bill before adjournment.

IEDA also introduced an omnibus bill that was passed by both chambers and sent to the Governor. Senate File 575 made various changes to tax credits including:

- Extending the renewable chemical production tax credit until 2041.
- Strikes the waitlist for the Innovation Fund and extends the sunset to 2028.
- Expands the Housing Tax Credit to include housing built on a greenfield site.

Finally, Destination Iowa, a program started in 2022 with American Rescue Plan Act funding for quality of life projects, received a \$6.5 million appropriation in FY24 to continue funding transformational projects. North Iowa received over \$9 million in the original program, split between the Surf District Project in Clear Lake, and the North Iowa Bike Trails project in Mason City and Cerro Gordo County.

The Second Session of the 90th General Assembly will convene on January 8th, 2024. Legislation that was not adopted this year will remain eligible for consideration when the legislature reconvenes.

SAVE THE DATE

Join the North Iowa Corridor for our 2023 Annual Meeting JUNE 22 at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake. Learn more about the organization's activities over the past year, as well as some of the exciting developments we are working on for the year ahead.

For more information or to RSVP, please email us at admin@northiowacorridor.com.

REGISTER NOW at conta.cc/3omW9SP

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John Pappajohn | July 31, 1928 – April 22, 2023

Entrepreneur. Immigrant. Business Leader. Venture Capitalist. Philanthropist

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of John Pappajohn, the founder, and namesake of the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Centers. He died April 22, 2023 at the age of 94. John Pappajohn was a man who believed in the power of hard work, the importance of giving back, and the value of helping others achieve their dreams.

Tim Putnam, former Director of the NIACC Pappajohn Center, said, "John always talked about having a Positive Mental Attitude and this philosophy was a driving force behind how we carried out our daily work. John has created a legacy that will be passed on by the thousands of entrepreneurs assisted by the five entrepreneurial centers, something that cannot be replicated anywhere across the country. It was an honor to have been a part of the NIACC Pappajohn Center in John's hometown."

John Pappajohn was born in Greece in 1928, immigrating to the United States when he was nine months old. He grew up in the Greek community in Mason City, Iowa, with his parents, George and Maria, and brothers Socrates and Aristotle. He often said he learned the value of hard work and how to solve problems at an early age. When John was 16, his father died suddenly, leaving John, his mother Maria, and his brothers to run the family grocery store. John graduated from Mason City High School, then earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Iowa. It took six years to complete his degree because John and his brothers took turns: while two went to school, the other would work.

After graduating from the University of Iowa, Pappajohn returned to Mason City and went into the insurance business. He then started his own company, Guardsman Life Insurance, in 1962. After seven years, he sold the company and used the money to become a venture capitalist, founding his own financial consulting firm, Equity Dynamics, and establishing a venture capital fund, Pappajohn Capital Resources. His investments in medical technology and health care were particularly successful. Pappajohn took part in more than 100 startups and 50 IPOs and has served as a director for over 40 public companies. He built his reputation as a savvy investor with a nose for potential and a tireless champion who worked hands-on with the companies he backed.

John Pappajohn was a passionate advocate for entrepreneurship. In 1996, Pappajohn provided the seed funding to establish the five John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Centers across the state of Iowa. The centers are located at North Iowa Area Community College in his hometown of Mason City, and at the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, Drake University, and the University of Northern Iowa. Thousands of startups have launched through the five Pappajohn Centers, and countless entrepreneurs and students have benefitted from the knowledge and training the centers provide.

Candi Karsjens, Director of the NIACC Pappajohn Center, said, "John Pappajohn's generosity knew no bounds, and his entrepreneurial spirit inspired us all. He may be gone, but his legacy will continue to live on through the countless lives he touched and the entrepreneurial ecosystem he catalyzed in Iowa."



NIACC Pappajohn Center & SBDC Staff

Candi Karsjens, *Director*

Brook Boehmler, *North Iowa Area SBDC Director*

Ashley Page, *Director of Entrepreneurship Programs*

Kelley O'Rourke, *School Partnership Coordinator*

Joyce Martin, *Marketing & Community Relations Mgr.*

Mary Spitz, *Administrative Assistant*

Premier Members

Thank you to the 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 Investor Packages or supported the many events, sponsorships, and marketing opportunities of the Chamber.

GOLD \$6,000+

Cargill Protein

Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co.

First Citizens Bank

Holiday Inn Express and Suites -
Mason City

Jane Fischer and Associates LLC
MercyOne North Iowa Medical
Center

POET Biorefining – Hanlontown

SILVER \$3,000-\$5,999

Century 21 Preferred

Chevron Renewable Energy Group
CURRIES

First Security Bank & Trust

BRONZE \$1,000-\$2,999

98.7 Kiss Country / 103.7 The Fox /
KIOW 107.3 / KCHA 95.9

Bergland + Cram Architects

Farmers State Bank

Henkel Construction Co.

Martin-Brower

North Iowa Area Community
College

Pritchard Companies

Smithfield

Sukup Manufacturing Co

Thrivent - Todd Leet

Global Trips Registration

The Chamber views the **Global Familiarization Trip** program as a way to assist in our transition to a global economy. The tours are directed toward helping Americans understand the culture, customs, and history of other countries as one step toward bringing the people of the world closer together.

Registration is open for the Croatia trip in November and Peru trip in March. Only four spots remain for Croatia and Peru has great group started with 12 seats remaining. **A no-obligation travel presentation for the Peru trip will be at Noon on Tuesday, June 20** in person at the Commerce Center or online via Zoom. Contact Allyson at the Chamber for more information or to register (akrull@masoncityia.com | 641.423.5724).

CROATIA: November 4-12, 2023

The Very Best of Croatia and the Dalmatian Coast
Zagreb - Opatija - Rovinj - Pula - Venice - Island of Krk -
Split - Trogir
Trip cost: \$3,349 per person + taxes (double occupancy)
Optional Dubrovnik Extension: \$699 (double occupancy)



PERU: March 11-20, 2024

Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca Itinerary

Trip cost: \$4,329* per person (double occupancy)
*Includes \$150 savings if booked before August 11, 2023.

Pricing for tours include roundtrip airfare from Minneapolis, hotel accommodations, guides, some meals, and sightseeing on itineraries.

Legislative Session Review

The First Session of the 90th General Assembly adjourned on May 4th, with legislators tackling several issues important to business and commerce in Iowa. Medical malpractice reform will allow Iowa's health care industry to become stronger and more accessible, and commercial vehicle tort reforms protect businesses against rising insurance rates without impacting safety on the roads.

Property tax reform drew a great deal of attention this session, especially as Iowa landowners saw substantial increases in their property assessments this spring. The House and Senate agreed on a bill that will reduce tax rates when assessments rise, implement basic levy limits, and consolidates 15 levies into a single general levy. The Chamber supports continued work on responsible property tax reform, however it is important that city leaders are included in future discussions to ensure reductions do not negatively impact the livability of a community.

Unfortunately, a bill to create a Major Economic Growth Attraction (MEGA) Program stalled in the House. This was an initiative from the Iowa Economic Development Authority to help close large scale development deals, which could have been beneficial for potential projects in North Iowa. The Chamber is hopeful that this bill will gain momentum in the coming months and pass through early in the 2024 Legislative session.



Ribbon Cuttings

NEW MEMBER

Schooley Mitchell of North Iowa
Mason City



NEW MEMBER

The Corner Pizza & Alehouse
30 E State St



NEW LOCATION

Wright on the Park
15 W State St

July DEI Session

July's DEI session will focus on recruiting and retaining individuals with disabilities in the workforce. The in-person session is scheduled from 1-2PM on Thursday, July 27 at the Commerce Center. Tyler Hansen from Iowa's University Centers for Excellence in Development and Disabilities will discuss ways to accommodate people with disabilities in the workplace and empower participants to support someone with a disability. Attendees will leave the session with resources to support their business and learn skills to utilize into the future.

All participants must register through the Chamber's website. There is no charge for Chamber members who are Certified Inclusive Employers. To learn more about **Building CommUNITY** and becoming a Certified Inclusive Employer, contact the Chamber at 641-423-5724.



Tyler Hansen
Iowa's University
Centers for Excellence
in Development and
Disabilities

Leadership Workshop Recap

Aaron Putze facilitated the Chamber's Leadership Workshop "It's Always Personal" in early May. Participants reflected on their leadership experiences and Putze gave an engaging presentation about how leaders can continue to grow by living with passion, being positive, caring (more), problem solving, encouraging others, and being in the moment! The workshop received great feedback and the Chamber looks forward to hosting similar leadership growth opportunities in the future.



Make It OK Walk

The Chamber's Wellness Committee - along with the Community Health Center, City of Mason City, and CG Public Health - hosted the 2nd Annual Make It OK Walk in Mason City. In addition to the walk as a large group, this year's event included a number of resource tables for attendees. Approximately 150 community members participated in the large group walk, more than triple the number of participants from last year! Make It OK is a community campaign to reduce stigma by increasing understanding and creating caring conversations about mental illnesses.



Chamber Leadership

Executive Committee

Evan Raulie, Board Chairperson
Smithfield
Dr. Paul Manternach, Chair Elect
MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center
Jane Fischer, Past Chairperson
Jane Fischer & Associates, LLC
Danielle Pace, Treasurer
Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co.
Kyle Bermel, Small Business
Division Vice President
Metalcraft, Inc.
Phil Meekins, Government Affairs
Division Vice President
CURRIES
Jessica Tierney, Workforce & Leadership
Division Vice President
Tierney Properties
Todd Leet, Community & Membership
Division Vice President
Thrivent - Todd Leet

Board of Directors

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Therapy Center*
Jeremy Holman, *Kraft Heinz*
Chris Jessen, *Heartland Asphalt, Inc.*
Janet Johnson, *One Vision*
Matt Koch, *Sukup Manufacturing*
Dr. Michelle LaCoste, *Animal Medical Hospital*
Matt Leibrand, *Stoney Creek Hospitality Corp.*
Kevin Meyer, *First Citizens Bank*
Amber Morud, *Charlie Brown Preschool &
Child Care*
Jessica Reith, *Cargill Protein*
Jenna Sheriff, *Jane Fischer & Associates*
Katy Showalter, *Window World of Mason City*
Luke Weiss, *Hoover's Hatchery*
Valerie Zahorski-Schmidt, *NIACC*

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Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Professional Development

Thursday June 1	College Connections Begins Noon-1PM Anderson Event Room, Commerce Center 9 N Federal (occurs weekly - various times and locations)
Thursday June 8	Breaking Glass with Rowena Crosbie 8:30-10AM Band Fest Room, Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave
Friday June 16	DEI Session Juneteenth 1-2PM Anderson Event Room, Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave

Networking Events

Thursday June 1	Business After Hours hosted by Raymond James 4-6PM Raymond James 10 N Washington, Ste 300
Tuesday June 6	New Energy Blue Celebration 4-8PM 43rd Street SW, Mason City (Behind Golden Grain Energy)
Thursday June 15	Chamber Golf Outing 8AM Highland Park Golf Course 944 17th St NE
Tuesday June 20	Peru Info Meeting Noon-1PM Board Room, Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave or via Zoom

Get Involved/Committee Meetings

Tuesday June 6	Ambassador Meeting Noon-1PM Applebee's Grill + Bar 3006 4th St SW
Friday June 9	North Iowa Band Festival Committee Noon-1PM Band Festival Room, Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave
Monday June 12	Wellness Committee 1-2PM Board Room, Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave
Wednesday June 14	Agribusiness Committee 8-9AM Third Floor Event Room, Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave Program Committee Noon-1PM Board Room, Commerce Center 9 N Federal Ave

Wednesday June 28	Chamber Board Meeting Noon-1PM Board Room, Commerce Center 9 N Federal
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