



Photo by OregonDOT.



Monthly Newsletter April 2016

MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT MIKE EDENBORG

Please join us on Thursday, April 14 at the Courtyard by Marriott for our MBA annual meeting. This will be a great opportunity to meet your fellow Moorhead business people, hear from the leaders of our Moorhead colleges and universities about how higher education and business connect, and get an update on activities your association has been involved with. Our annual meeting will be a celebration of the past 12 months and the kick-off to an even more exciting year ahead as your MBA continues to help Moorhead grow. I hope to see you there!



NEW MEMBERS

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon
Conlin's Sleep Center
 Custom Design Plumbing
H&S Contracting
 ICSS Supply Company
O'Leary's Irish Pub/Liquors
 Re/Max Realty 1
Rural Minnesota CEP
 Skatvold Family Dentistry
Spotlight Media
 The Arts Partnership

RENEWING

Aggressive Towing
Bell State Bank & Trust
 Bert's Truck Equipment
ByteSpeed
 Cahill Law Office
David Eggers Insurance
 Don Engebretson Construction
Eventide on Eighth
 Gehrtz Construction Services
GFMEDC
 Harmon Glass Doctor
Holtgrewe CPA
 JAQ's Garage
K&L Construction
 L&L Electric Motor
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RENEWING MEMBERS, CTD.

Larry's Auto Body Shop
Moorhead Ace Hardware
Old Lutheran

Stenerson Lumber
Vogel Law Firm
Wright Funeral Home

“Let’s Talk Business” Highlights

“BANNER YEAR” FOR WEST CENTRAL SBDC

On Mar. 2, Cathy Lindquist and Matt Magness from the West Central Small Business Development Center shared positive results from 2015 (an increase in clients and client revenues) and the challenges of increased reporting requirements and a tighter budget for 2016. The WC SBDC provides no-cost consulting to new and existing businesses. According to Magness, in the last few years they have seen stronger, better-funded business plans and purchases.

MOORHEAD PARKS UPDATE

On Mar. 9, Kim Wangler from Moorhead Parks updated us on the department’s summer events schedule. The dates for RiverArts are June 21, July 12 and 26, and August 9 and 23.

CITY COUNCIL AND SENATOR FRANKEN UPDATES

On Mar. 16, council member Heidi Durand discussed various items, including behind-the-scenes work by the council and MPS on lowering transfer (utility) rates. Durand shared that at recent council retreats there has been discussion of how city staff can do a better job of reaching out to businesses. Carson Ouellette, our regional staffer for Sen. Franken, spoke about improvements to school career counseling (ideally resulting in a more diverse workforce) and preserving the so-called Cadillac tax on generous health care plans, which are often a component of hiring packages in MN where the labor market is tight.

MOORHEAD TRANSIT AND MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

On Mar. 23, Lori Van Beek and Taaren Haak discussed business opportunities related to the Link FM buses that travel between downtown Moorhead and downtown Fargo, including coupons distributed to riders. They also invited businesses to help support the iGo Eco Challenge. Sue Wiger of the Muscular Dystrophy Association discussed how nonprofit fundraising has changed with new media and mentioned the May 7 Muscle Walk at the Moorhead Center Mall as well as a breakthrough muscular dystrophy drug that may debut soon.

BYTE SPEED BRANCHES INTO CUSTOM GAMING PC'S

On Mar. 30, Anna Hanson spoke about the launch of Gravity Gaming, a sub-company of ByteSpeed that focuses on custom-built gaming PCs. Gravity Gaming PCs will be available in the MSUM and NDSU bookstores, with logo-licensed customization available. The company is also sponsoring several gaming events in the upcoming months.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MBA Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held the evening of Thursday, April 14 at the Courtyard by Marriott. The social hour begins at 5:30. Please register online.

“Let’s Talk Business” Speakers

April 6: Sellin Bros.
Construction and MnDOT

April 13: Bob Buth, Bell
State Bank & Trust

April 20: Carolyn Strnad,
Early Childhood Initiative

April 27: Brian Berg, jail
update

NOTE on location: The April 27 morning meeting will be at the Clay County Courthouse.

560 Connect Location

