



Current and former board members at the annual meeting, April 14. Photo by Mara Morken.



Monthly Newsletter May 2016

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID HUNSTAD

The MBA continues to reach into the community, and that reach is prompting growth and opportunity for our members. In the last year we have grown by over 25 percent. Our members are investing in higher membership levels and contributing to programs and events that highlight the awesomeness that is Moorhead. This summer alone we will be involved in the marathon, hold a golf tournament, and of course sponsor the Moorhead Proud 56560oh & Ahh 4th of July celebration. Thank you for helping Moorhead be the best that it can be.



NEW MEMBERS

Concordia College
Dr. David Tranby, DDS
 Johnson's Auto Repair
Lakes & Prairies CAP
 Moorhead Dairy Queen
Talecris Plasma Resources
 US Bank

RENEWING

A-1 Automotive
Arneson Ovsak Agency
 Central MN Credit Union
Gavilon
 Gene's Paint
High Photography
 Minnesota School of Business
Moorhead Insurance
 Rick Electric
Robert G. Stenerson
 Travel Leaders
Valley Premier Bank
 Valley Repair, Inc.
YHR Partners

“You guys [the business community] have done a good job of helping the area grow.”

– Brian Berg, Clay County administrator

“Let’s Talk Business” Highlights

SUMMER CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

On April 6, Joel and Aaron Sellin summarized their company’s summer construction plans for downtown Moorhead and the I-94/8th St. overpass. City staff and Mn-DOT representatives also answered questions about the two projects. For weekly updates throughout the spring, summer, and fall, visit the city’s website and sign up for emails from the MBA and Mn-DOT. There was discussion about how the MBA can take the lead to support businesses affected by the work.

FARM FINANCING

On April 13, Bob Buth of Bell State Bank gave a historical overview of agricultural financing in the Red River Valley, then discussed current trends and factors, including drones and GPS, growing demand for GMO-free and organic food, ethanol mandates, and low commodity prices in recent years. Ag lending is either short-term (e.g. to buy seed), intermediate (machinery), or long-term (land, drain tile).

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP & INNOVATIVE THINKING NEEDED FOR CHILDCARE ISSUES

On April 20, Carolyn Strnad of the Clay County Early Childhood Initiative discussed the local scarcity of affordable childcare and how childcare is becoming more of an employee benefit, especially to attract younger workers. She urged the business community to apply their expertise to this issue, noting that children will be our future business leaders.



Speakers and attendees at the April 27 meeting

NEW CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

On April 27, the MBA held “Let’s Talk Business” at the Clay County Courthouse, where several people presented on plans for the new correctional facility (jail) and joint law enforcement center. The county board would like to have an endorsement from the MBA of a half-cent sales tax increase to help pay for these much-needed projects. The estimated cost of the new jail, law enforcement center, and additional parking is currently \$46.8 million; the county now pays over \$1 million per year to transport inmates to other jails because of overcrowding.

UPCOMING EVENTS

“Let’s Talk Business” Speakers

May 4: Celebration of Small Business Week; Mission of Mercy

May 11: Del Rae Williams; Moorhead Public Library/LARL

May 18: David Ebinger, Moorhead Police Dept.

May 25: TBD

Marathon Aid Station

On Saturday, May 21, volunteers from the MBA will run an aid station for the Fargo Marathon, 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Golf Tournament

The MBA will hold its first golf tournament on June 27 at the Moorhead County Club. To become a sponsor, contact Melissa Rademacher, Bob Buth, or Jim Steen.

560 Connect Location

