



FR STIVAL

JANUARY 27-28

FARGO | MOORHEAD | WEST FARGO



Monthly Newsletter January 2017

DECEMBER RENEWING MEMBERS

First International Bank and Trust
Personal Touch
Embroidery
Thorson Plumbing

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID HUNSTAD



Happy New Year from the Moorhead Business Association! 2016 was a great year for the MBA and for Moorhead in general. We're looking to make 2017 even more productive and eventful, and there's already a lot to look forward to. Our annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18. We're happy to have Steve Scheel as our keynote speaker—his presentation is certainly not to be missed. Registration information will be forthcoming. We're also looking forward to our second year of hosting the Fourth of July fireworks in Moorhead, and we'll soon begin our fundraising efforts for this event. On September we'll hold our second annual Bridge Bash, which is a great chance for you and your business to interact with local college students. These events and more should make it a fantastic 2017.

“Let’s Talk Business” Highlights

ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WITH CRIMINAL BACKGROUNDS

On Dec. 7 we heard from Adam Martin of the F5 Project, a new organization that aims to serve people with criminal backgrounds by helping them find employment and acclimate to society. Martin plans to help by creating partnerships with community resources. There are around 60 people currently involved in the project, including a board.

SPECIAL SESSION AND LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

On Dec. 14, Sen. Eken and Reps. Lien and Marquart shared their expectations and plans for the possible upcoming special session as well as the next regular legislative session. Among the topics discussed were the bonding bill, health care premiums, the tax bill, a \$760 million budget surplus for the next biennium, the gas tax and transportation funding, regulatory reform, a Renaissance zone, the job skills gap, and fixing dysfunctional elements in how the legislature votes on bills.

DIVERSION UPDATE; HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

On Dec. 21, we got an update on Diversion efforts from Diversion Authority chair Darrell Vanyo, who explained that the Army Corps of Engineers doesn’t believe they need a permit from Minnesota in order to move ahead. When they will actually begin construction, though, is still unknown. Vanyo mentioned the working group that was formed to improve relationships with the MN DNR, saying that communication among those parties is not going well so far.

We also heard from Pete Christopher of Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity, which recently completed its 55th home. Habitat receives 40-50 applications a year but only has the funds to build 2-4 houses a year. One way businesses and individuals can help is by shopping at or making donations to ReStore, located on 11th St. in north Moorhead.

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Celebrate winter and help us promote workforce recruitment and retention by joining us at these three MBA events:

- Snow sculpture competition on Saturday, January 28 at Viking Ship Park
- Restaurant passport challenge Jan. 20-28 at 10 participating Moorhead restaurants (see Facebook and emails for details)
- Awards ceremony for the sculpture competition and passport challenge, January 28 at 6:00 p.m. at Viking Ship Park

UPCOMING EVENTS

“Let’s Talk Business” Speakers

Jan. 4: Larry Hauger, Speak Easy

Jan. 11: Tyler Bormann, Moorhead High Internship Program

Jan. 18: Matt Magness, Small Business Development Center

Jan. 25: Rich Duysen, Moorhead Fire Dept.

MBA Annual Meeting

Please reserve the evening of Tuesday April 18 for the MBA’s annual meeting.

560 Connect will not meet in December or January. Please stay tuned for its return in February!