

**2016 SIGNATURE SPONSORS**



**SUMMER FOOD FEST**



**But Wait, There's More!**

We'd be remiss if we didn't mention a few other highlights from 2016 which didn't fit into neat bullet points.

The **MetroNorth Workforce Development Foundation** met quarterly, further refining its focus and sponsoring several local activities to support 'work ready upper level high school students' per their mission. Look for the Foundation's website to be completed very soon.

The **Ambassadors**, 36 members strong, held 4 new member receptions – thank you Q-Bitez, Two Stooges, Chanticlear Pizza & San Jose Mexican Restaurant for hosting. They also conducted 32 ribbon cuttings and made dozens of welcome and retention calls throughout the year.



Ribbon cutting at Bent Brewstillery

**Working with Women** featured 4 new quarterly charities of choice: Impact Services, Stepping Stone Emergency Housing, Achieve Services, and Anoka Hennepin Educational Foundation. Their meetings averaged 50 members in attendance each month.

The **MetroNorth Leadership Fund (PAC)** endorsed 19 local races with a 74% success rate in seeing their pro-business candidates elected.

The quarterly **Coon Rapids and Blaine Business Councils**, led by Mike Kraft of Mike Kraft Architects and Chris Hasling of Box Financial, respectively, continued to provide engaging and relevant content. If you live or work in either of these cities, we strongly suggest you attend.

**2016 Committee Chairs**

**Ambassador**

Teresa Elmstrand, Wells Fargo Advisors & Nicole Vadner, ECM Sun Publishers, Inc.

**Gala**

Jess Robertson, PTL Tire & Auto

**Golf**

Brad Boldt, Ameriguard Insurance Agency & David Long, CenterPoint Energy

**Government & Public Affairs**

Katie Misukanis, Rasmussen College

**Sunrise**

Alex Carlson, Achieve Services & Dr. Carey Bohman, Morningstar Chiropractic

**Wine**

Jim Kugler, Kugler Financial Services

**Workforce Development**

Julie Kresh, Minnesota School of Business & Karyn Thompson, Junior Achievement

**Working With Women**

Donna Wheeler, Keller Williams Classic Realty & Robin Schnaidt, Numbers LLC



72 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**2016 EVENT PARTNERS**



Twin Cities



BUNKER HILLS GOLF CLUB • Est. 1968



lunch • Dinner • Cocktail

**MetroNorth 2016 Annual Report Chamber of Commerce**

Happy 2017! As always, we want to provide you with a summary of our previous year's accomplishments. It's impossible to go over everything in 4 short pages, so we thought we'd try to showcase a few highlights using graphics and a timeline rather than copious amounts of text. We hope you like this format as much as we do.

We could not achieve what we do without the support of our members. Your volunteerism, sponsorship, event attendance, donations, referrals, and membership renewals keep this premiere non-profit organization strong and vibrant. The entire MetroNorth team is passionate about our mission to strengthen the business community, and we thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Here's to another great year!

Lori Higgins, President  
MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce  
763.783.3553

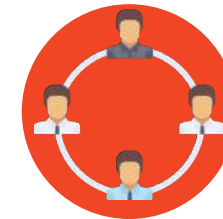


Your MetroNorth Team: Adam, Holly, Valerie & Lori.

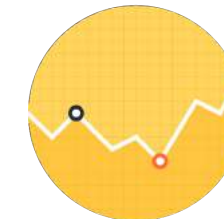
**2016 AT A GLANCE**



728 TOTAL MEMBERS



135 NEW MEMBERS



70,332 WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS



81 ANNUAL EVENTS



3,424 EVENT ATTENDEES



422 SUNRISE LEADS/ REFERRALS



308 WORKING WITH WOMEN 1-2-1'S



1,103 PAGE LIKES



1,225 FOLLOWERS

**2016 Board of Directors**

**Jess Robertson, Chair**

PTL Tire & Auto

**Stacey Jensen, Vice Chair**

Running Aces Casino & Racetrack

**Clayton Kearns, Treasurer**

Minnesotajobs.com

**Chris Johnson, Past Chair**

Apparel Design & Consultant

**Ross Bloomquist**

Financial One Credit Union

**Brad Boldt**

Ameriguard Agency, Inc.

**Don Haller**

Connexus Energy

**Dan Jacott**

Majestic Oaks

**Damian Kussian**

North Metro TV

**Michael Lawrence**

Key Air

**Jason Peterson**

Kraus-Anderson Construction Co.

**Tiffany Schmidt**

Abrams & Schmidt

**Mike Thorsland**

Nationwide Insurance

**Dan Thomsen**

Northeast Bank

**Duane Vandenberghe**

Mate Precision Tooling

# The Year in Review

- 2016 begins with signature Legislative Reception at Courtyards of Andover
- Dan Jacott, Majestic Oaks & Brad Boldt, Ameriguard Insurance Agency, join Board
- Working with Women begins quarterly philanthropic outreach



*Excellence in Business Awards*

- Rob Hubbard keynotes Excellence in Business Awards at TPC
- VIP Wine Tasting at Tria with White Bear Area Chamber
- Lori testifies at MN House Property Tax and Local Gov't Committee opposing utility Franchise Fees



*Tria Wine Tasting with White Bear Lake Chamber*

- Introduced to state's first 'brewstillery' via after-hours at Bent Brewstillery
- Sold-out golf tournament at Majestic Oaks has picture-perfect weather
- Spirited conversation at annual Session Wrap Up panel presentation



*An Indoor Summer Food Fest*

**JANUARY**

**FEBRUARY**

**MARCH**

**APRIL**

**MAY**

**JUNE**



*2016 Legislative Reception*

- First after-hours of 2016 sells out: Olive Garden wine dinner
- MetroNorth joins Hunting Works for MN, promoting partnership between the hunting & shooting communities and our local economy



*Olive Garden Wine Dinner*

- Jonathan Ababiy, Blaine High School, awarded \$500 to attend national Business Professionals of America competition (He placed 2nd)
- Blaine Business Council learns local impact of NSC and TPC



*Ping Pong Ball Drop at Golf Tournament*

- Mpls/St. Paul Business Journal ranks us 3rd largest Chamber in Twin Cities metro
- Mother Nature mandates an indoor Summer Food Fest; Four Seasons Curling Club to the rescue!

- MN Superbowl Host Committee keynotes 'Game of Champions' luncheon at Bunker Hills
- Multi-chamber harness racing event at Running Aces



*Acapulco Andover Wine Dinner*

- Sold out Acapulco Andover wine dinner celebrates new location
- Apps & Apps after-hours at Majestic Oaks showcases collaboration of Wine & Working with Women committees



*A Grand Speakeasy Gala*

- Board strategic planning session at Grand Casino Hinckley; excellent 2017 goals in the works. Stay tuned.
- Workforce Development Committee creates 'Are You Work-Ready' presentation for high school students



*Working with Women Holiday Party*

**JULY**

**AUGUST**

**SEPTEMBER**

**OCTOBER**

**NOVEMBER**

**DECEMBER**



*Game of Champions (Superbowl LII)*

- Appreciation Party at Reidel Farmhouse estate held on beautiful summer evening
- Coon Rapids Business Council hears from AH #11 students on their biomedical program



*Membership Appreciation Party*

- Workforce Development Committee coordinates public tours of Aggressive Hydraulics & Green Bay Packing for MN Manufacturing Week
- Grand Speakeasy Gala at Bunker Hills met with resounding approval. Feathers & boas dominate room



*Toys for Joy Donation at Annual Meeting*

- Annual Meeting at Mississippi Gardens featured Ian Leonard, Fox 9 Meteorologist; committee and Board leadership recognized
- Final after-hours of 2016 was 'Christmas at Crooners'