

the ACTIVE VOICE

Monthly Digital Magazine from the Portage County Business Council

February 2023



Annual Dinner Recap Nominations for Entrepreneur of the Year, Golden Apple Award & more

*Annual Dinner Award Winners on January 25, 2023
Photos by Dr9gon Media*



SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS



2022 Award Winners: L/R Sarah Smith-Jahn from Section 715 Axe Throwing, Jenny Rigggenbach from Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin. Hannah Klein and Daniel Hoppe.

Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Do you know someone or have you launched a new and successful business venture in Portage County within the last five years? To celebrate the true entrepreneurial spirit, PCBC invites you to nominate a business or individual for the **2023 Entrepreneur of the Year Award**.

Portage County Charitable Community Award

In an effort to honor one nonprofit or not-for-profit organization in Portage County whose work has enriched the lives of Portage County residents, PCBC welcomes your nomination for the **2023 Portage County Charitable Community Award**. This award recognizes the special nature of social service, cultural and other charitable efforts.

Young Professional of the Year Award

Celebrate an outstanding young professional in Portage County based on professional accomplishments as well as volunteer opportunities and the participation in organizations, groups and other activities to improve Portage County. The Ignite Young Professionals are now accepting nominees for the **2023 Young Professional of the Year Award**.

Golden Apple Excellence in Education Award

The Partners in Education Committee seeks to recognize teachers who have made significant contributions to education and work with future leaders. PCBC invites your nomination for the **2023 Golden Apple Excellence in Education Award**.

All Award nominations are due by Monday, March 1, 2023. Self nominations are encouraged. The award recipients will be recognized at the Business Council's Creative Excellence Awards Breakfast scheduled for Friday, April 14, 2023. See qualifications on our website. **Nominees for Charitable Community and Entrepreneur of the Year Awards MUST be PCBC members.**

[**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TO ATTEND
OR FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS.**](#)

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Members = Investors!

by Michael Witte, Executive Director, Portage County Business Council

As I wrote last month there are so many good things going on in Portage County right now.

We have growth going on just about everywhere you look. Companies are growing and expanding and it is such a positive, exciting time.

Last week at our Annual Dinner, Brian Pfannes, President of Steel King Inc. and the Decree of Excellence Award Winner, announced that Steel King Inc. purchased the former Skyward building at the end of Coye Drive, and that they will be starting renovations shortly to make this their NEW Corporate Office.

The team at Steel King Inc. gets it - they are investing in our community!

Key word INVESTING!!!!

Things at the Portage County Business Council are also changing. With that change, all of the businesses, companies and individuals we represent have long been members. You are no longer considered members. You are truly INVESTORS in the Portage County Business Council and as such we are poised to bring a new level of service to all of you. Our four areas of focus are:

- Quality of Life & Quality Places
- Talent Supply and Education

- Innovation and Economic Development
- Civic and Governance System

We have a new Director of Investor Engagement, Chloe Kreuser, who joined us last week. She and I will be working hard to make an impact for you, your businesses and our community. Together we are making this a great place to LIVE, WORK & THRIVE! Read more about Chloe on page 11.

It is important that we know what you want out of your investment. Chloe and I will be reaching out to you on a one on one basis to understand how you want to engage with the council, the community and where your investment can be leveraged to help your business grow. We want to continue to out pace other communities and make others sit up and take notice that Portage County is the center of commerce and growth in Central Wisconsin!

BUCKLE UP...but Stay Tuned...

"Together we are making this a great place to LIVE, WORK & THRIVE"



Business *after* Hours

A Portage County Business Council Event

MONDAY,
February 20,
5 - 7 pm

RSVP by
FRIDAY, FEB. 17

Hosted by:



1001 Brilowski Road, Suite A, Stevens Point

Please join Express Employment Professionals for Business After Hours as they showcase their facility and raise funds for the Humane Society of Portage County.

Attendees will be treated to complimentary wine, beer, soda & water, appetizers, 50/50 raffle and door prize drawings (for \$1 each, purchase additional door prize tickets to increase your chances to win). Silent auction items will also be available to bid on with all proceeds benefiting the Humane Society of Portage County.

Join in the fun! Share this information with your team!

For questions, contact Karen Myers at 715-344-1940 or KarenM@portagecountybiz.com.

Complimentary to Members, Available to Prospective Members.

[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER ONLINE

UPCOMING BUSINESS AFTER HOURS DATES

ALL FUTURE EVENTS ARE THE 3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

March 21 Dimensions Living-Stevens Point

April 18 Central Wisconsin Children's Museum & The Salvation Army of Portage County



Business X-Change

What is Business X-Change?

A presentation which allows business owners and their employees the opportunity to discuss pertinent topics, learn from local industry leaders and, most importantly, learn from each other. Business X-Change meets monthly from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

In-Person Business X-Change

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 | 7:30 am – 8:30 am

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to Register

- This program will be offered in person at PCBC.
- While there is no cost to attend, the value of the information is priceless.
- Coffee and danish provided.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Sentry School of Business & Economics: Your Partner for Talent Development

About the Program: UW-Stevens Point Sentry School of Business & Economics can be a great resource for hiring, developing and retaining local talent. We focus on applied learning to ensure that our graduates are career-ready!

Key Points included:

- How to partner with UW-Stevens Point to create and promote internship opportunities
- How to build connections with UW-Stevens Point Sentry School of Business & Economics students
- How the new UW-Stevens Point MBA can enhance the skills of high-potential employees

About our Presenters: from the Sentry School of Business & Economics unless otherwise noted

Ricardo Boeing – Assistant Professor of Marketing and Director of Internships

Carie Winn – Outreach Specialist

Jacqui Guthrie – Career Services Assistant Director

Elizabeth Martin – Professor of Business and Director of Anderson Classroom to Career Center

Lyna Matesi – MBA Program Director and Assistant Professor of Management

Special THANK YOU to UW-Stevens Point Sentry School of Business & Economics for its sponsorship of this program.

For questions, contact Karen at 715-344-1940 or KarenM@portagecountybiz.com.



Ricardo Boeing



Carie Winn



Jacqui Guthrie



Elizabeth Martin



Lyna Matesi



Sentry School
of Business & Economics
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

R&R Massage, LLC

Rachel Requet, LMT, owner

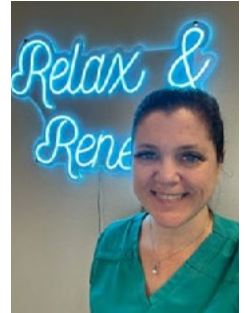
3525 C Patch St, Stevens Point, WI 54481 | Phone: 715-991-0888

Website: relaxandrenewmassages.com



Custom Therapeutic Massage Therapy and Spa/Wellness services

At R&R Massage, LLC, we provide custom therapeutic massage in a comfortable environment where you can Relax & Renew. Conveniently centrally located, with evening and weekend hours available, our knowledgeable staff provide a welcoming space for people to be who they are, including people of all abilities, ages and diversities. We are more than your typical spa, we believe massage should be therapeutic as well as relaxing and we use only the best, most up to date equipment (including our fully electric, heated, plush table that can move up and down for ease of getting on and off, fully recline, and has extenders available for ultimate comfort for all shapes, sizes and abilities). Each session can integrate Swedish massage, deep tissue massage, hot stone, cold stone, machine cupping (our most popular service using the latest technology), hot towels, aromatherapy, gua sha, and kinesiotaping where appropriate at all inclusive pricing. All modalities can be included with all 60+ minute services depending on your needs and all are finished with our luxurious, soothing hot towel treatment. We also offer mini facials, body scrubs, and herbal massage oil as add-ons for the ultimate experience (not included in session pricing). All 30, 60, 90, and 120 minute sessions include a thorough consultation where your needs and issues will be discussed to create a truly custom treatment plan to meet your current and future health goals. Our luxurious, therapeutic treatments will have you emerge feeling Relaxed & Renewed. We have inclusive pricing and memberships available that offer value to our clients to make R&R accessible to everybody. Make your appointment today, let us take care of you. Relax and Renew in comfort.



Lash services are also available on site with Minksthetics, Lia Booker, minksthetics.square.site or 920-505-0013. Lia does beautiful work, she is knowledgeable and friendly, and we are so happy to have her with us!

Rental Suites available! Are you a wellness/spa professional looking for a beautiful, comfortable, relaxed work environment? We have large rental suites available at reasonable rates for a LMT, lash tech, nail tech, esthetician, nutritionist, etc to use for your business. Must be certified, licensed, and/or educated as appropriate for your field. Call or text 715-991-0888 to see if we can help you today.

March 7 Interview Session Seniors Rosholt HS 12:00 PM-3:30 PM Need 3	May 11 Reality Shop SPASH 7:15 AM-11:30 AM Need 35
 Volunteers <i>Needed</i>	
May 25 Mock Interviews PCBC 10:15 AM-11:45 AM Need 25	Thank you! contact Holly at hollyf@portagecountybiz.com 715.344.1940

Meet our Ambassadors



Melissa Ellingson
Blenker Construction

Where do you work?

I am a Designer for Blenker Construction.

How long have you been an Ambassador?

I became an Ambassador in January 2021.

What do you enjoy the most about being an Ambassador?

I love being at the ribbon cuttings celebrating a new business in the area, learning what they have to offer and then helping to spread the word of the opportunities they offer is exciting.

What is your most memorable moment from a PCBC Event?

The ribbon cuttings I remember the most are the businesses that are vulnerable, sharing their journey of struggles and triumphs. I love getting the personal stories and seeing them glow with pride as they thank their supporting family and friends. It is truly an honor to be a part of that moment.

What is one interesting fact about you that most people do not know?

An interesting fact that most people do not know about me, I love working and developing kids into the next generation of leaders. I am a founder of an organization that does just that with the use of dirt bikes. #youthoffroadriders #checkitout

What is your favorite activity to do in Portage County?

The wine walks are my favorite in Portage County. Everyone is enjoying themselves and visiting more than normal. You really get to know people and the businesses that support the walks.

MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBER

Hi, I'm Chloe Kreuser, the new Director of Investor Engagement at Portage County Business Council. I am a recent graduate from UW-Stevens Point where I studied



Resource Management in Sustainability. My time outside of classes was spent leading numerous student organizations, volunteering at local non-profits, and running my own business. My experience and education have enabled me to continuously grow as an individual and relate with various walks of life.

In my free time, you can find me reading books, making art, playing with my dog named Ruby, spending time with family and friends, or learning something new. I've lived in Central Wisconsin for my entire life but been in Portage County for the last 6 years. This region is inspiring for me because there is always continuous innovation, outstanding leadership, and growth going on.

At PCBC, my plan is to engage and welcome new and current investors, use my creativity to lead those businesses through growth by using innovation and partnerships, as well as hear the origin stories of the businesses we work with. With a strong passion for people, I am looking forward to building connections and representing PCBC.

You are invited to attend our...

American Agriculture Appreciation Banquet

Monday, March 6, 2023

**Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center
1001 Amber Ave, Stevens Point, WI**

Cost: \$33/person (Tables of 8 will have reserved seating)

REGISTER HERE

5:30-6:30 PM – Social (complimentary appetizers and cash bar)

6:30-7:45 PM – Dinner & Keynote Speaker

7:45-8:30 PM – Presentation of Awards

Show your support of our local agri-business industry!



2022 event held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center

The Agri-Business Committee of the Portage County Business Council invites Business Council members and their guests to the 2023 American Agriculture Appreciation Banquet on Monday, March 6th.

Presentations are made to students and community leaders in categories including:

- 4-H Leadership in Agriculture Award
- Outstanding FFA Seniors from Amherst High School, Rosholt High School and Stevens Point Area Senior High School
- Agri-Business Scholarships recipients
- 2023 Outstanding Contribution to Agriculture Award

Dinner and a complimentary appetizer buffet will also be served with items by our local agri-businesses.

To register online: [CLICK HERE](#) or call the Business Council office at 715-344-1940.

Want to become further involved in the banquet? Program sponsorships for the American Agriculture Banquet are available in a variety of categories including in-kind donations.

To secure your sponsorship or for additional information, please contact Karen Myers 715-344-1940 or karenm@portagecountybiz.com. Sponsorship deadline is Friday, February 24, 2023.

Agri-Business Banquet Sponsorships

All contributions to the 2023 American Agriculture Appreciation Banquet will support the successes of agri-business in Portage County. (Portage County Business Council membership required)

PATRON CLUB

For a contribution of **\$600.00**, you will receive the following:

- Company logo in the banquet program.
- Company logo and recognition during awards PowerPoint presentation (evening of event).
- Company logo displayed on PCBC webpage with a link to your company's homepage.
- Company logo in the PCBC digital magazine.
- Promotion with logo on social media platforms.
- Opportunity to display company banner at event.
- Promotional recognition as Patron on all emails to over 1,800 PCBC member contacts.
- 8 complimentary tickets to the Agriculture Banquet on March 6, 2023.
- A company reserved table for preferential seating at event.

SCHOLARSHIP CLUB

Contribution directly supports the future of our students through agri-business scholarships.

For a Scholarship contribution of **\$500.00**, you will receive the following:

- Promotional listing in the banquet program.
- Promotional listing in the PCBC digital magazine.
- Promotional listing in agri-business scholarship news release.
- Name listing during awards PowerPoint presentation (evening of event).
- Company logo on PCBC webpage with a link to your company's homepage.
- 2 Complimentary tickets to the Agriculture Banquet on March 6, 2023.

SPONSOR CLUB

For a contribution of **\$300.00**, you will receive the following:

- Promotional listing in the banquet program.
- Promotional listing in the PCBC digital magazine.
- Name listing during awards PowerPoint presentation (evening of event).
- Company logo on PCBC webpage with a link to your company's homepage.
- 3 Complimentary tickets to the Agriculture Banquet on March 6, 2023.

SUPPORTER CLUB

For a contribution of **\$150.00**, you will receive the following:

- Promotional listing in the banquet program.
- Listing in the PCBC digital magazine.
- Name listing during awards PowerPoint presentation (evening of event).
- Name listing on PCBC webpage with a link to your company's homepage.
- 1 Complimentary tickets to the Agriculture Banquet on March 6, 2023.

BACKER CLUB

For a contribution of **\$100.00**, you will receive the following:

- Promotional listing in the banquet program.
- Listing in the PCBC digital magazine.
- Name listing during awards PowerPoint presentation (evening of event).

Nominations Sought for Outstanding Contributions to Agriculture Award

The Portage County Business Council is seeking nominations for the 2023 Outstanding Contributions to Agriculture Award to be presented at the American Agriculture Appreciation Banquet on March 6, 2023. The award is presented to an individual or organization that excels in the agriculture field.

Nominee Award Criteria:

- May include farmers, marketers, processors, or individuals involved in related areas of education, government or allied industry segments of agriculture.
- Individual has furthered agriculture's interest or development in production or marketing.
- Individual has made significant contributions in agriculture related organizations.
- Individual/organization has not received the award in the past three years.

Past Winners:

2022 – Richard Pavelski

2020 – Cliff & Carole Gagas, Gagas Farms, Inc

2019 – Nick & Dianne Somers, Plover River Farms Alliance

2018 – Hamerski Farms, Inc.

[CLICK HERE](#) for an online nomination form.

Nominations will be taken for the award through Friday, February 13, 2023. All nominations are confidentially reviewed by a selection committee of the Portage County Business Council Agri-Business Committee.

welcome

New Members - January 2023

R&R MESSAGE, LLC

Providing custom therapeutic massage in a comfortable environment where you can Relax & Renew.

3525 Patch St., Suite C, Stevens Point | 715-991-0888

Website: relaxandrenewmassages.com | FB: [R&RmassageLLC](https://www.facebook.com/R&RmassageLLC)

TOMMY'S EXPRESS

NOW OPEN! We are more than just an express car wash. Tommy's Express believes in enriching lives, adding value, and serving communities.

117 Division St. N, Stevens Point | 715-280-2969 | Email: wi334@teamtommys.com

Website: tommys-express.com | FB: [TommysExpressStevensPoint](https://www.facebook.com/TommysExpressStevensPoint)

Golden Apple Award



NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING TEACHER IN YOUR SCHOOL

The Golden Apple Award For Excellence in Education is awarded annually to a teacher who exemplifies creativity, enthusiasm, commitment and creates a positive learning environment.

**Know a teacher that fits this description?
Nominate them today!**

Go to www.PortageCountyBiz.com to submit a nomination.
Nominations are due Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

The selected recipient and all nominees will be recognized
at the Portage County Business Council
Creative Excellence Awards Breakfast on April 14.





Black History Month
“How can you hate me, when
you don't even know me?”

Diversity Lessons From a Black Klan Whisperer

by Daryl Davis

Wednesday February 15, 2023
4 – 5:30 p.m.

In-Person in the Dreyfus University Center Theater or attend virtually

With Meet and Greet in the Laird Room from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Please pre-register for
in-person event or zoom link
uwsplblackhistory.eventbrite.com/



How did a black musician acquire Klan robes,
hoods and other racist symbols?

Daryl Davis, featured in *Accidental Courtesy*
and author of *Klan-Destine Relationships* details his
in-person interviews with leaders and members from
KKK, neo-Nazi and Alt-Right groups. Hear about Daryl's
successful method of transforming these enemies into
friends and his passion for improving racial discourse
across the country.



University of Wisconsin
Stevens Point
STEVENS POINT • MARSHFIELD • WAUSAU



Tommy G. Thompson Center
on Public Leadership
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Co-sponsored by
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the Thompson Center

HAPPY MEMBERVERSARY

To all of our investors who renewed in January

Accent Services Inc.	Exceling Your Business, LLC	Prevail Bank
Altmann Construction Company Inc	Falk Cabinet Systems Inc	Regnier Consulting Group Inc
American Fence Company	Feltz Family Farms	Rettler Corporation
Anderson O'Brien LLP	Flex-Staff	Roberts Irrigation Company
Arby's Restaurant	Green Circle Trail	Schalow's Nursery Inc
Associated Bank	H & S Protection Systems Inc.	Schulist's Custom Cabinets Inc
Badger Plastic & Supply Company	Heartland Farms Inc	SentryWorld
Bauernfeind Business Technologies	Infinity Wealth Company	Slumberland Furniture of Stevens Point
Bayland Buildings Inc	International Bank of Amherst	Soik Sales Inc
Bergman Builders, Inc.	Jay-Mar Inc	Solarus
Big Iron Equipment, Inc.	Jensen Community Center	Star Business Machines Inc
Bob's Plumbing & Heating of Central WI Inc	Keller Inc	Stevens Point Area Public School District
Boys & Girls Club of Portage County	K-tech Kleening	Stevens Point Area YMCA
Bushman Electric Crane and Sign Inc	Lampert-Lee and Associates	Stevens Point Brewery
CAP Services, Inc.	Lineage Logistics	Stevens Point Country Club
Cellcom	Lokre Development Company	Stevens Point Orthopedics
Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra	Maher Water Corporation	Stifel
Cherek, Pucci & Quick, SC	Mark Motors Automotive, Inc.	Stone Innovations Inc
City of Stevens Point	Marten Machining Inc	Tactical Escape 101
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	Members' Advantage Credit Union	Team Schierl Companies
Commercial Roofing, a Tecta America Company	Mid-State Technical College	The Family Radio Network
Community Insurance & Associates	Midwest Communications	The Pineries Bank
Compassus Hospice/Ascension at Home	Midwest Wealth Ventures,	The Portage County Bank
Copperleaf Management Group, Inc	NAPA Stevens Point Distribution Center	The Wellness Spa Inc
CREATE Portage County	NextHome Priority	The Worth Company
DigiCOPY	Nicolet National Bank	Tim the Tool Man
Disher Electric Inc.	North Central WI Workforce Development Board	United Way of Portage County
Dolce Digital Imaging & Printing	NRG Media	Unitel LLC
Edward Jones-Glenn Helminiak	Okray Family Farms	UW-Oshkosh College of Business
Ellis Construction	Opportunity Development Centers, Inc.	UW-Stevens Point
	Pacelli Catholic Schools	Velocity Clubhouse, LLC
	Paradise Solutions Inc (PSOL)	Village of Plover
	Pientka Auction Service	WIAA
	Point Heating & Cooling	Wisconsin River Golf Club
	Portage County	WoodTrust Bank
	Portesi's Italian Foods Inc	Wysocki Family of Companies

Business Council Honors Businesses & Industry Leaders

Two Portage County businesses and two industry leaders were singled out for honors Wednesday, January 25th at the Portage County Business Council's Annual Dinner Awards Banquet. The event was held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, Stevens Point with a crowd of nearly 400 people! Each year Business Council members, guests and dignitaries gather to celebrate the best of the best in volunteers, businesses, education, government, and non-profit organizations.

The Annual Dinner is a celebration of past accomplishments and it is an opportunity to recognize the achievements of the past year. We thank all those that attended the event, to our sponsors, our Ambassador volunteers, and to our silent auction contributors. Your support is greatly appreciated!



L/R Fred Hebblewhite – President's Award Winner; Michelle Venzke, Real Deals on Home Décor – Small Business of the Year Winner; Karli Klismith – Ambassador of the Year Award Winner; and Brian Pfannes, Steel King Industries, Inc. – Decree of Excellence Award Winner.

President's Award – Fred Hebblewhite

Each year the President of the Business Council is given the opportunity to select someone to receive the President's Award. This award is presented to someone who through their outstanding commitment to volunteerism makes significant improvements and enhancements to the quality of life here in Portage County and demonstrates a spirit of cooperation and commitment to the Portage County Business Council, and the Portage County business community.

The President's award was presented to Fred Hebblewhite, CEO of United Way of Portage County. Fred provides inspirational leadership, successfully develops and manages financial

goals, brings out the best in his team by providing training, coaching, development and encouragement, and is committed to the collaboration and success of area businesses and the communities he serves. He is a homeowner and board member of Oxford House International, Oxford House River Point and Oxford House Riverside, which are alcohol and drug free homes for those in recovery from addiction. In addition, he is a Member, Board of Director and Past President of Kiwanis Club of Stevens Point, graduate of Leadership Portage County, a presenter at various United Way of Wisconsin conferences, Past President of Portage County Crime Stoppers, former board member of the Plover Area Business Association, Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers and mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Portage County.

Small Business of the Year – Real Deals on Home Decor

Real Deals on Home Decor, Owner Michelle Venzke received the Small Business of the Year Award.

The award is chosen based on:

- Sales growth
- Employment growth
- Customer service
- Community service
- Leadership involvement
- Innovative efforts adapting to marketplace changes

Real Deals on Home Decor, a locally owned boutique offering home décor, fashion and accessories, first opened their doors in November, 2017 at 817 Clark Street in downtown Stevens Point. They demonstrate their commitment to the community daily and it is evident through donations, community involvement and support to many organizations including the Salvation Army, UW-Stevens Point, local K-12 schools, the Next Home Priority fundraiser for the animal shelter, and participation in local fashion show fundraisers for the Senior Center and the Portage County Business Council Women in Business event.

Ambassador of the Year – Karli Klismith

Karli is a Senior Talent Consultant for KerberRose. She served hundreds of hours of volunteer time for the Portage County Business Council by attending ribbon cuttings, grand openings, ground breaking ceremonies, Business After Hours, Women in Business and many other events. She visits new and existing businesses, attends monthly committee meetings, and is currently the Club's Secretary/Treasurer.

Karli is a native to Stevens Point, born and raised. As a servant leader, Karli genuinely cares about the success and the well-being of others. She serves as a Board Member of the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin on the Grants and Development Committees, is a member of the Stevens Point Area Human Resources Association and holds her Certified Staffing Professional designation from the American Staffing Association.

Decree of Excellence Award – Steel King Industries

The Decree of Excellence Award was presented to a business contributing to our area's economic vitality – Steel King Industries, Inc.! For over 50 years, Steel King Industries, Inc. has produced high-caliber material handling racking, storage, and safety systems that improve, fortify, and protect company's supply chains nationwide.

Steel King's reliability, strength, and support have earned recognition and loyalty as one of the top rack manufacturers in North America, proudly contributing vitality, efficiency, and value to supply chains worldwide.

In 2023, the company will continue to reinvest in the community where it started, with a move to a new corporate headquarters. This new facility will triple the size of Steel King's headquarters and attract new talent to the community and enable the next generation of Steel King growth in the community it has called home for over 50 years.

Other memorable activities included our Pay it Forward Award, sponsored by Van Horn Nissan Stevens Point. Tara Parks from Hibu was the winner who got to decide where to donate the generous \$1,000 from Van Horn Nissan of Stevens Point. Tara decided to award the winnings to Discovery Education Station and was thrilled to have gifted this opportunity!

In addition, the 50/50 raffle winner was Pete Zaske from Skyward and winner of the beautiful Thomas Dailing designed pendant, donated by Lee Ayers Jewelers, was Stacey Donovan.

Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsors of the event Marshfield Medical Center River Region Stevens Point Campus and TDS. Thank you to our Award Sponsors CLA, Delta Dental of Wisconsin, KerberRose, Nicolet National Bank, Sentry, Simplicity Credit Union, Van Horn Nissan of Stevens Point and WoodTrust Bank; Reception and Silent Auction sponsors Aspirus, Festival Foods, Herrschners Inc., Keller, Inc., Steel King Industries, and The Dirks Group.

Thank you too to our media sponsor of the event WSAW TV-7 and News Anchor Jeff Thelen who acted as Master of Ceremonies of the event.

**Save the Date for next year's
Annual Dinner - Wed., Jan. 24, 2024.**

ANNUAL DINNER PHOTOS



LEADERSHIP PORTAGE COUNTY: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) DAY

Review by Megan Vruwink with En Pointe Marketing Consulting

Our first Leadership Portage County (LPC) meeting of 2023 was on a snow day, hosted at First State Bank. We kicked things off with a yummy breakfast—coffee from Panera, breakfast sandwiches from Kwik Trip, and fresh fruits—while participating in a group listening session lead by Holly Fox (LPC facilitator and PCBC Director of Professional Development). Due to winter weather, we didn't have Dr. Carrie Picardi for our monthly MSTC learning session, but instead participated in a team building activity of Tic-Tac-Toe lead by impromptu guest speaker, and LPC alum, Jeff Whitrock, EVP Chief Market Development & Sales Officer with First State Bank.

Our first topic speaker of the day was Dr. Alexander Fox (Stanford University Hospital). He educated our group on fetal growth milestones as it relates to gender development. We were blown away by how complex human development is and learned a lot overall. Then,



we were joined by Sylf Bustamante (Queer Resource Center Coordinator with UW-Stevens Point). They highlighted how to nurture inclusive spaces for people of all backgrounds and taught us concrete ways to create more inclusive workspaces. Next, we enjoyed a delicious taco salad bar lunch provided by Rockman's Catering.

Our first afternoon session was led by LPC alum Gigi Stahl (DEI Program Specialist with Stevens Point Area School District). She facilitated hands-on activities including the creation of our dream space, and a "Circles of You" worksheet that got us thinking about cultivating environments where people can show up fully as themselves. Our final session was led by Christopher Benny (Executive Director and Co-Founder of Difficult Discussions Inc.). He shared practical takeaways about policy, programming, and practice for comprehensive DEI strategies. We had great conversations within small groups to put his concepts into practice.

A special thank you to everyone who made this session a success by taking the time to share resources about diversity, equity, and inclusion!





**LEADERSHIP
PORTAGE
COUNTY & TEEN
LEADER
DEVELOPMENT**

**HAS
SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR
2023/2024**

Contact Holly Fox
Director of Professional Development
715.344.1940
HollyF@portagecountybiz.com



Membership

Thank you to the UWSP MBA Program for being our Ignite Fuel Sponsor.



Thank you to TDS for being our Annual Ignite Event Sponsor.



Ignite Young Professionals is a collaborative, energetic group dedicated to personal and professional development for all young adults within Portage County. Ignite provides the opportunity to develop leadership skills, connect with other young professionals, and learn about the people and places that make our community a great place to live, work, and play.

For only \$50, your Ignite Young Professional of Portage County membership will provide you with the opportunity to visit local businesses and talk with the entrepreneurs who have built them, meet and network with your peers, as well as business leaders in the county, and get involved in your community. Ignite members live and work throughout Central Wisconsin.

Corporate Membership

Choose your corporate membership level.

Select your corporate membership level based on what best suits your organization. Ignite has 5 corporate membership levels at discounted rates, normally \$50 per seat.

Membership seats waive Ignite event registration fees (or discount at the member rate) for up to as many seats per each membership level. So you can register any of your employees to attend events at member price, which is often free.

Learn more at:

portagecountybiz.com/ignite-2/

or email us at: ignitepoco@gmail.com



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Support local business with your Nicolet Bank Debit Card and earn 3.00% Annual Percentage Yield* with Real Rewards Checking. Apply online at [Nicoletbank.com](https://nicoletbank.com) or talk to your local banker.

To Qualify:

- ✓ eStatements
- ✓ Direct Deposit
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Ashlie Schertz

AVP Branch Manager
Stevens Point Branch
NMLS ID# 411069
aschertz@nicoletbank.com
715.254.0690

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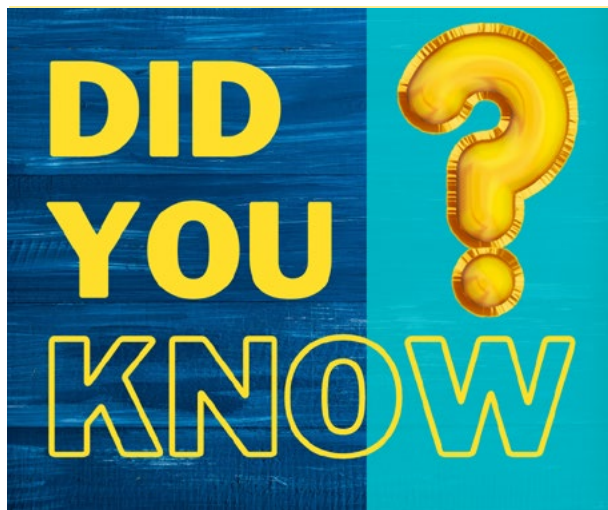
Real Rewards Checking is available for consumer deposits only. Annual Percentage Yield ("APY") is accurate as of 3/1/2021. Real Rewards Checking is a variable rate account. Your APY may change at any time after your account is opened, at the discretion of Nicolet National Bank. This is a tiered rate product. If qualifications are met for the qualification cycle, Tier 1: The portion of your balance that is equal to or less than \$10,000 will earn 3.00% APY. Tier 2: Interest rate of 0.01% will be paid on the portion of your balance that exceeds \$10,000. The APY for Tier 2 will range from 0.26% to 3.00%, depending on the balance in your account. If qualifications are not met for the qualification cycle, 0.01% APY applies to the entire balance. You must enroll in online banking and e-statements in order to qualify. Transactions required each qualification cycle: At least ten posted and cleared debit card transactions (ATM-processed transactions do not count as qualifying debit card transactions), and at least one posted and cleared direct deposit of payroll or social security. Fees and withdrawals of interest will reduce earnings and APY. All Nicolet National Bank checking accounts are subject to credit approval. Additional terms and conditions apply. See Nicoletbank.com for details. Member FDIC.

FEBRUARY

- 08 BUSINESS X-CHANGE
- 16 SALESNET
- 16 LEADERSHIP PORTAGE COUNTY
- 20 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

MARCH

- 06 AMERICAN AGRICULTURE
APPRECIATION BANQUET
- 08 BUSINESS X-CHANGE
- 09 LEADERSHIP PORTAGE COUNTY
- 16 SALESNET
- 21 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



...that the Portage County Business Council can help promote your business or organization? If you are having an upcoming event, you can add it to Events on our website and let us know to share your event on our FB events page. Plus, if you're having an event, celebration, open house or just want to announce something amazing, we can share your post on our Facebook Page*! If interested, email Deb Zaske at DebZ@portagecountybiz.com.

**Posts are for PCBC members only, dependent on social media calendar availability and at the discretion of PCBC.*

Contact US!

Portage County Business Council, Inc.
5501 Vern Holmes Drive | Stevens Point, WI 54482
715-344-1940 • www.portagecountybiz.com



Michael Witte
Executive Director
MichaelW@portagecountybiz.com

Karen Myers
Director of Events
KarenM@portagecountybiz.com

Deb Zaske
Director of Marketing
DebZ@portagecountybiz.com

Holly Fox
Director of Professional Development
HollyF@portagecountybiz.com

Chloe Kreuser
Director of Investor Engagement
ChloeK@portagecountybiz.com