

the ACTIVE VOICE

Monthly Digital Magazine from the Portage County Business Council

May 2023



Upcoming Events
Creative Excellence
Awards Breakfast Winners
Keynote Conference

2023 Creative Excellence Award Winners (photos by Dr9gon Media)





Our April Business After Hours was a fun time at the Central Wisconsin Children's Museum (CWCM) along with co-host The Salvation Army Stevens Point. Attendees enjoyed games & activities, complimentary beverages, a coffee martini bar, delicious food and fun door prizes!



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Quality of Life & Quality Places!

by Michael Witte, Executive Director, Portage County Business Council

"...an innovative economy is what makes our area grow."

The early inhabitants of our area were innovators extraordinaire. A young business woman in her late twenties started the C.J. Frost Fishing Tackle Manufacturing Company thus making Stevens Point, Wisconsin, the "Fly Tackle Capital of the World".

In the mid 1800's Plover was strong in agriculture and still is! George Washington Franklin, an early settler and potato farmer was one of the first farmers to ship potatoes via railroad.

In 1904, in a small hardware store in Berlin, Wisconsin, there was a need for insurance protection and on the second floor of Peck's Hardware store they formed the Hardware Dealers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Wisconsin.

From that point, the company soon outgrew that small office. Through growth and innovation, we now know this company as Sentry Insurance.

We now look around and see that innovation has continued to be a driver of local businesses in our community. From the humble beginnings on the west side of Interstate 39 to the large building on the east side of the highway, Skyward has become the leader in school and municipal software.

We can go on for pages as we look at numerous companies in our communities and county

that have become innovators and in turn have added so much to the economic vitality in central Wisconsin. Here at the Portage County Business Council, we clearly understand that an innovative economy is what makes our area grow. I speak with businesses all over the Midwest and they ask if we have a Technology Park, a Manufacturing District, Food Processing sites and I happily say, yes we do and they are integrated all together, because we know that a high tide raises all boats.

We know we need to remain competitive and ensure we are creating an environment for innovators to thrive! Growing local businesses and watching them not just succeed but excel. Attraction of new businesses is as equally important. What is the next idea that innovates an industry by a local innovator or one that wants to move here for a skilled labor force? Attraction of new people to Portage County is definitely a key role in what we do at the Business Council; however, that is only half of our mission. The other half is retaining our young people by letting them know that there are fantastic opportunities right here in our county. We do this through our Partners in Education programs where we get into the schools and help our youth understand their vast potential right here in our area.

I challenge our members to get involved in one of our programs and participate in forming our future!



Mike & his dad at Peck's Hardware.

Business *after* Hours

A Portage County Business Council Event

**Tuesday
May 16,
5 - 7 pm**

RSVP by
Monday, May 15

Hosted by:



**STEVENS
POINT** AREA

1105 Main Street, Downtown Stevens Point

Parking is available on Main Street and former Shopko Lot (1200 Main Street)

Please join the Stevens Point Area Convention & Visitors Bureau for Business After Hours as they showcase their facility. Door prizes, complimentary food and desserts will be prepared and served by Main Grain Bakery & Eatery, and complimentary mocktails, cocktails, beer and wine will be served by Connections Lounge (on the go). Jeff Anderson, Regional Tourism Specialist with Travel Wisconsin will be their special guest and the United States Senior Open Trophy will be on display. Event will take place in the Visitors Center and Gift Shop. A 50/50 raffle will also be played.

Don't miss 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

June 20 - Infinity Wealth Company

July 18 - Haertel Monuments



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, May 10, 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.

How to Make Your Brand Shine in Any Interview

About the Program: There's no question that doing a media interview can be nerve-wracking. But with the right preparation, you can come across as polished and confident - and your brand will shine through. In this X-Change, Red Shoes, Inc will guide attendees through exercises to prepare for and make the most of any media opportunity.

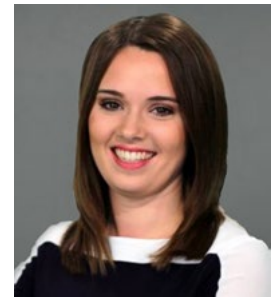
Key Points included:

1. Feel confident and prepared for any media interview
2. Learn how to craft your story and communicate it effectively
3. Prepare for challenging questions
4. Get insider tips from a former Edward R. Murrow and Emmy-award winning TV reporter

About our Presenter: Danielle Leon is the Account Executive for Red Shoes, Inc with 6.5 years of working with clients for media relations. Raquel Lamal is the Media Specialist for Red Shoes, Inc with 5.5 years working with clients to facilitate media interviews and almost 7 years working in TV as a TV reporter, producer and anchor. They have combined 12+ years preparing clients for media interviews, press conferences and more.



Danielle Leon
Red Shoes, Inc.



Raquel Lamal
Red Shoes, Inc.

Special THANK YOU to Red Shoes, Inc. for their sponsorship of this program.

For questions on this event, contact Karen Myers at 715-344-1940 or karenm@portagecountybiz.com.



RED SHOES INC.

welcome

New Members - April 2023

DENYON HOMES

Takes great pride through the whole process of construction to design selections.

5309 Schofield Ave, Weston | 715-574-6005

Email: kent.perrin@denyonhomes.com | Website: denyonhomes.com | FB: [Denyon Homes](#)

DORAL RENEWABLES LLC

Coming to Portage County to build the largest solar panel array for the state of WI!

312-560-1324 | Email: jbaker@doral-llc.com

Website: doral-llc.com | LinkedIn: [Doral Renewables USA](#)

TEAM WIRELESS, VERIZON AUTHORIZED RETAILER

Specializing in cell phone sales, wireless service, and great customer service!

5423 US Highway 10 E, Suite 102, Stevens Point | 715-295-4410

Email: info@teamwireless.com | Website: teamwireless.com | FB: [TeamWirelessStevensPoint](#)

EDWARD JONES - NICHOLE MATOWITZ

15 years experience working to come up with a strategy for customers finances & retirement.

3040 Village Park Drive, Plover | 715-342-1116

Email: nikki.matowitz@edwardjones.com | Website: edwardjones.com/nikki-matowitz

JR'S MIDSTATE LOCK & SAFE LLC

NEW OWNER! Offering locksmithing services, keys, fobs, safes, door hardware & installation. 24 hour service coming soon!

3525 Patch St, Suite B, Stevens Point | 715-341-6838 | FB: [JR's Midstate Lock & Safe](#)

Email: jrsmidstatelockandsafe@gmail.com | Website: jrsmidstatelockandsafe.com

REBEL BEAUTY

A complete boutique spa experience offering lash, brow, permanent makeup, and skin care.

1216 Strongs Ave., Stevens Point | 920-224-4677 | Email: stephanie@rebelbeautydayspa.com

Website: rebelbeautydayspa.com | FB: [REBEL beauty](#)

EXIT REALTY CW

A team of realtors ready to find your future home through their experience and dedication!

3440A Church St, Stevens Point | 715-598-3794 | Email: Sales@exitcw.com

Website: exitrealty.com/Stevens_Point | FB: [Exit Realty CW](#)

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Midstate Independent Living Choices (MILC)

3262 Church Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481

Phone: 715.344.4210 x 238

Website: milc-inc.org

Email: eriskus@milc-inc.org



Removing barriers to independence

For more than 20 years, Midstate Independent Living Choices (MILC), a non-profit, non-residential civil rights organization, has worked to preserve, enhance, or increase independence for people with disabilities. MILC offers 5 core services to people with disabilities in Adams, Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Taylor, Vilas, and Wood counties. Our knowledgeable Independent Living Consultants can assist in overcoming the obstacles that a person with a disability may face in a consumer-controlled manner.

MILC offers 5 core services to people with disabilities.

- Information & Referral
- Peer Support
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Advocacy
- Transition
 - Transition of youth to living independently as an adult
 - Nursing Home/Assisted Living facility back to community living
 - Incarcerated people with disabilities returning to community living.

Additionally, Midstate Independent Living Choices has a large Assistive Technology loan and demonstration program, which will allow people to trial devices for 45 days to make an informed decision if it will work for them, and we give out loans for short-term accommodations to assist people in recovery.

To make accessibility simple and efficient; MILC has staff that can help ensure an equitable access to your media, events, places of business, and more.

- Accessibility evaluations: Evaluations and suggestions for all public areas, whether indoors or outdoors
- Event accessibility: evaluations are offered for both private and public events, and they include the marketing accessibility of papers, flyers, and other advertising materials.
- Accessibility/Inclusion Training: MILC staff members are available to talk as guests about inclusion and disability etiquette in addition to offering technical assistance or advice on policy reviews.

The Independent Living Program Director at MILC, Eric Riskus, can be reached by phone at 715.344.4210 x 238 or by email at eriskus@milc-inc.org if you'd like additional information about these services.

Ambassadors Give Back

We love to see our members and all Portage County businesses thrive and grow!



On April 14th [Gifted Hands Kitchen](#) held their grand opening and our Ambassadors, PCBC staff, Mayor Wiza and Representative Katrina Shankland were there to help celebrate with a ribbon cutting. Congratulations to owner Erica Shaw and her team!



On April 19th we helped kick-off the open house of [Stevens Point Medical Aesthetics](#) located at 100 Bremmer Street, Stevens Point with a ribbon cutting. Members of our Ambassadors Club and PCBC staff were there to celebrate.



Welcome to the community [Tommy's Express Car Wash](#)! Our Ambassadors and PCBC staff helped their team celebrate during their grand opening event on April 20th with a ribbon cutting. Check them out at 117 Division Street, Stevens Point.

SCAN ME

Sponsor the 16th Annual
ADAPTED KAYAK EVENT

July 29, 2023
10 AM - 3:30 PM
Nepco Lake

Interested in an exhibitor table? Visit
<https://AdaptedKayaking.eventbrite.com>



...that the Portage County Business Council does Ribbon Cuttings, Grand Openings and Groundbreakings for any business in Portage County whether they are a PCBC Member or not? Our Ambassador Club, members of our staff and city, county & village representatives will attend your event. Then we put it up on our Facebook page for everyone to see! If interested, give us a call at 715-344-1940.

2023 KEYNOTE CONFERENCE



KEVIN HERMENING Liberty & Leadership

**Join the Portage County Business Council
as we present a MUST-SEE presentation with
an amazing speaker & compelling story!**

**Tuesday, June 27, 2023
8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Holiday Inn Hotel &
Convention Center, Expo 2
1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point**

\$35/person for Chamber Members

\$40/person for Non-Members

Reserved table for parties of 8

Event Agenda:

- 8:00 am Registration
- 8:15 am Welcome
- 8:30 am Plated Breakfast
- 8:45 am Keynote Speaker
- 10:15 am Break
- 12:00 noon Closing

Don't Miss This Program

Register by Thursday, June 22

REGISTER HERE

Chamber Members from Mosinee Area, MACCI, Heart of Wisconsin and Wausau Area Chambers receive Member Pricing - [CALL 715-344-1940](tel:7153441940)

For questions please contact Karen at karenm@portagecountybiz.com.

Media Sponsor



About the Program:

Kevin's presentation, "Liberty & Leadership" provides a personal glimpse into a difficult time in our nation's history.

He was the youngest of the Americans held hostage for 444 days at the US Embassy in Iran from 1979 to 1981, after Islamic terrorists captured the entire diplomatic staff. The hostages were captured after the Shah of Iran entered the US for medical care, and were freed on January 20, 1981, Inauguration Day in the US.

He served a total of 13 years in the Marine Corps, and received an Honorable Discharge in 1994. Kevin is the recipient of the US State Department's Award for Valor, and received the Prisoner of War Medal, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the nation's highest peacetime military decoration from the Department of Defense.

Kevin challenges all Americans to remember daily the sacrifices that those who wear the uniform of their country make in service to our nation.

About our Speaker:

Kevin Hermening is an active community volunteer, small business owner, and Marine veteran. He is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and is owner of Hermening Financial Group, with six offices throughout Wisconsin. He received his undergraduate degree and MBA in Advanced Leadership and Decision Making from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. He served as an elected member of the Mosinee Board of Education and volunteers for numerous other community organizations. He and his wife have two adult daughters.

FOOD TRUCK

MEMBERSHIP INFO SESSION



SPONSORED BY



Are you a food truck business?

Join us May 16th from 8:00 - 9:00 am to hear more about membership at the Portage County Business Council

Please RSVP here or email chloek@portagecountybiz.com



WE'VE MOVED!

STEVENS POINT • 109 Division St. N

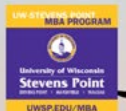
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Leadership Programs Registration Now Open

Register here



Teen Leader Development

Deadline 5/26/2023

9.6.2023	Parent Information Meeting
9.22.2023	Opening Retreat
10.4.2023	Government & Public Service
11.1.2023	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
12.6.2023	Not For Profit
2.07.2024	Preparing for a Successful Future
3.06.2024	Health, Wellness, Recreation
4.03.2024	Exploring Professions
5.01.2024	Sustainability
5.08.2024	Graduation

Inclement weather MAKE UP DAYS - Feb 28 & May 1
Scholarship available for underrepresented students.

Leadership PortageCounty

Deadline 7/1/2023

8.24 & 25. 2023	Opening Retreat
9.28.2023	Agriculture
10.19.2023	Govt, Public Service, Justice
11.16.2023	Economic Dev & Placemaking
12.14.2023	Not For Profit
1.11.2024	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
2.15.2024	Health & Wellness
3.14.2024	Education
4.11.2024	Sustainability
5.23.2024	Closing Retreat
5.08.2024	Graduation

Inclement weather MAKE UP DAYS - Feb 29 & May 2

The world of work is changing fast, and so are the skills and competencies leaders need to succeed. Leadership Portage County(LPC) Inclusive 10 month program is designed to broaden one's understanding of Portage County while developing key skills and competencies such as agility, collaboration, creativity, emotional intelligence and vision. The program is intended for all ages and titles and provides opportunities for network development, education and community engagement.

For questions, please contact Holly Fox, Director of Professional Development
@hollyf@portage countybiz.com or 715.344.1940

Meet our Ambassadors

Lori Kisting
Linc Health Clinic

Where do you work?

I own Linc Health Clinic, LLC providing functional medicine, psychiatry, weight loss, and hormone replacement.



How long have you been an Ambassador?
Joined May 2022

What do you enjoy the most about being an Ambassador?

I enjoy the camaraderie with new people.

What is your most memorable moment from a PCBC Event?

My own ribbon cutting and meeting other Ambassadors, when I didn't even know that the business council existed prior to that.

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

I enjoy fixing things around the house. I can patch drywall, change a sprinkler head, or run venting pipes from the water heater to the outside by myself. I love the challenge and am a bit stubborn (everyone knows this), so I will not give up until I get it done right!

What is your favorite activity to do in Portage County?

My favorite activity in Portage County is enjoying the great parks. From walking, swimming, to crayfish catching and eating lunch with my family, Portage County has the best parks.

Member to Member Deals

Purple Basil is an Italian inspired food truck offering catering services with and without the truck! We offer



a variety of delicious, freshly made dishes for your corporate event. We are dedicated to creating a menu that will make your event unforgettable. From appetizers to entrées, whatever your needs may be, we can provide the perfect culinary experience!

Whether it be for employee appreciation, work lunch meetings, company picnics or just a group order for lunch, we can customize a menu for any occasion. Contact us today for more information and let us help make your next event a success!

**PCBC members receive
10% off up to \$50 on
our services, meal deliveries
with a 10 meal minimum.**

Go to Member Login on the PCBC website and see Member to Member Deals for more information.

Financing Commercial Equipment **and THE INSTALLATION COSTS...**



That's the point

Find out more

And the Winners Are...

Creative Excellence Awards Breakfast Recap



L/R Craig Cook-Fall Line Outfitters Co., Mikayla Kleifgen-Boys & Girls Club of Portage County, Joe Zawacki-Pacelli High School, John Harry-Portage County Historical Society

This year's event celebrated the creative spirit of Portage County – in business, in education, and in community! We are fortunate to live in a place where innovators are hard at work running businesses, helping children succeed, and giving back to the community. On Friday, April 14 at our Creative Excellence Awards Breakfast, we recognized the time and talents given by one young professional, one teacher, one non-profit organization, and one business.

The Entrepreneur of the Year Award was presented to Fall Line Outfitters, owned by Craig Cook.

Located on 904 Main Street in downtown Stevens Point, they were selected based on their business growth, financial stability, innovation, ability to

identify a market niche, and dedication to customer service. They experienced growth to an extent that allowed them to expand from 660 square feet to 3,000 square feet, growing from no employees to now 3 full-time, 8 part-time and 3 fly fishing guides.

The Ignite Young Professional of the Year Award was presented to Mikayla Kleifgen.

Mikayla was chosen based on her service and volunteering in the community as well as her professional accomplishments with the Boys & Girls Club of Portage County over the past six years. She is an active Board Member and Career Committee Co-Chair for Ignite Young Professionals.

Through Ignite, Mikayla leads

by example by sharing her own leadership and networking skills with other young professionals and planning professional development events. She was awarded New Board Member of the Year in 2021 for Ignite.

The Golden Apple for Excellence in Education Award was presented to Joe Zawacki from Pacelli High School.

From being the first to use zSpace laptops, combining AR/VR technologies to challenging opportunities for students like Junior/Senior Leadership, Outdoor Adventure Club, and the Breakfast Club (morning workout), Joe works tirelessly at providing exceptional experiences for all his students. He was chosen for this award because of his energy, enthusiasm, and passion for teaching.

The Portage County Charitable Community Award was presented to the Portage County Historical Society. Over the past 70 years, the Society has grown from 50 members in the early days, to over 500 members. They have four historic sites that are open to the public including the Beth Israel Synagogue Museum and Firehouse No. 2 Museum in Stevens Point, the Rising Star Mill in Nelsonville, and Heritage Park in Plover, which in itself contains eleven historic buildings. In the past year, the Portage County Historical Society has gone from being a well-kept secret in the community to an

active partner in providing a multitude of historical education opportunities to over 4,000 residents of all ages.

Their dedication to bettering our local community is what makes all four award winners unique and valuable parts of the Portage County community. We salute their work and congratulate them on these well-deserved awards!

Representative Katrina Shankland was in attendance to hand out State of Wisconsin proclamations to the award recipients. Our guest speaker was Mr. Jeff Ebel presenting "The Pathways to Excellence".

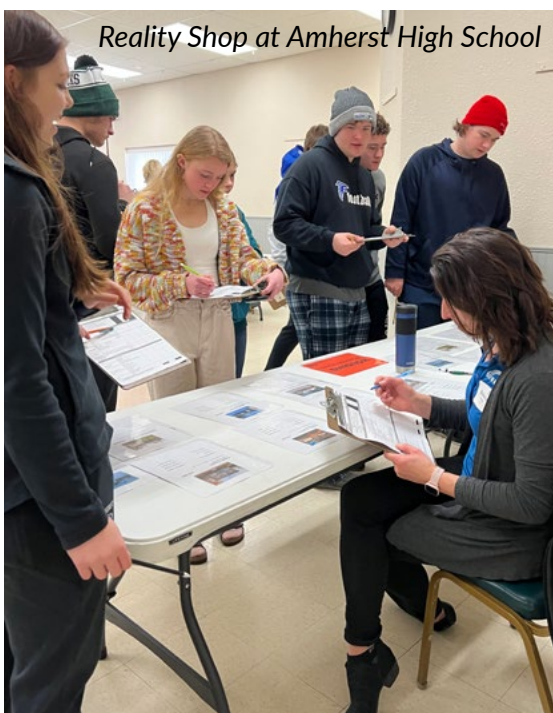
Thank you to our corporate sponsors of the event: Anderson O'Brien, Berkshire at The Grove, CliftonLarsonAllen, Community First Bank, Ellis Construction, J.H. Findorff & Son, Inc, Nicolet National Bank, Regnier Consulting Group, Simplicity Credit Union | Examination Services, Skyward, UW-Stevens Point MBA Program, and UW-Stevens Point School of Education Graduate Programs.

Thank you to our media sponsor NRG Media and Phil Jimenez from NRG Media who acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Thank you to our Event Sponsors:



Media Sponsor:



Reality Shop at Amherst High School

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Reality Shop

Rosholt HS
8:45-10:30

May 11



Contact Holly at HollyF@portagecountybiz.com



Are You or Your Foursome Registered?



Monday, June 5, 2023

JOIN US...The Ambassadors Club of the Portage County Business Council invites you to their 34th Annual Business on the Green golf outing. The event will take place on Monday, June 5th at the Stevens Point Country Club and Wisconsin River Golf Club courses. Single golfers and twosomes are also acceptable. **REGISTER TODAY!**

DETAILS

- 2 Course Event at Stevens Point Country Club & Wisconsin River Golf Club
- 18-Hole Scramble Golf Event (includes green fees)
- 8:00AM Registration, 9:00AM Shotgun Start
- Motorized Cart
- Range Balls
- Two Beverage Tickets
- Complimentary Golf Swag Bag
- Lunch on the Course with FREE Insulated Bag
- Dinner following golf event
- Hole Events
- Hole-In-One event
- Raffle
- Golf Team Prizes
- Prizes
- Plus Much More

\$130 per golfer at the Wisconsin River Golf Club

Check, Cash or MC/Visa accepted. Register Today!

Stevens Point Country Club golf course is only open to sponsors of the event!

REGISTER HERE



Not a golfer, but want to join in on the fun?

Plan to join us for an afternoon/evening filled with great food, friendly conversation, and an opportunity to win some great door prizes.

DINNER & SOCIAL ONLY PACKAGE - \$25/person

3:00PM – Social, Raffle, Cash Bar, Dinner Buffet, & Prize Giveaways

For questions about golf, 19th Hole or sponsorship, please contact Karen Myers at KarenM@portagecountybiz.com or 715-344-1940.

Dinner & Social ONLY REGISTER HERE

Sponsorship Opportunities

You have a great opportunity to be further involved in Business on the Green event scheduled for Monday, June 5th by taking advantage of a sponsorship...limited spots remain! Don't miss this!

[CLICK HERE](#) to see what opportunities are still available

Also seeking hole event prizes and ditty bag giveaways. All opportunities for sponsorship is on a first-come, first-served basis. To confirm your sponsorship, please contact Karen Myers at 715-344-1940 or karenm@portagecountybiz.com. We appreciate your consideration and support of this event.

HOLE EVENT PRIZE SPONSORS

Corporate donation of prize(s) for special event games on golf course

- Company name on signs during event at two courses and signage at 19th Hole Networking Event
- Verbal recognition at 19th Hole Networking Event

DITTY BAG GIVEAWAY SPONSORS

Corporate donation of 300 giveaways for golfers

- Company name on signs during event at two courses and signage at 19th Hole Networking Event

WE THANK OUR 2023 SPONSORS TO DATE...

PLATINUM SPONSOR

Corporate sponsors of Golf Outing and 19th Hole Networking



GOLD SPONSORS

Corporate sponsors of one hole at the golf event with foursome package

Anderson O'Brien
CliftonLarsonAllen
Delta Dental of Wisconsin
Ellis Construction
Guaranty Closing & Title Services
KPR Brokers
Legacy Accounting & Financial Services
Lineage Logistics
Miron Construction
Paper City Savings
Point Insurance
Schulist's Custom Cabinets Inc
Skyward
Sprinter Business Solutions
Stevens Point Orthopedics
TDS
The Boldt Company

ROSE GOLD SPONSORS

Corporate sponsors of one hole at the golf event

Duraclean Specialists
Lokre Development Company (2 Sponsorships)
Northwind Solar

BEVERAGE SPONSORS

Corporate Beverage sponsors of all beverage carts at two courses

Associated Bank
Gamber-Johnson LLC
J.H. Findorff & Son Inc
U.S. Bank
Van Horn Nissan of Stevens Point

LUNCH SPONSOR

Corporate sponsor of Luncheon at two courses
Altmann Construction

SILVER SPONSOR

Corporate sponsor of 2 Runner Carts
Rack Industrial
Sponsorship is on a first come, first serve basis.
We appreciate your support of this event.

LUNCH BAG SPONSORS

Aspirus Health
Members' Advantage Credit Union

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

LEADERSHIP PORTAGE COUNTY: NOT FOR PROFIT LEADERS GIVING BACK IN PORTAGE COUNTY

Review by Mike Burdick, Skyward



In the first of our two sessions for April—this one making up for a day we missed in December due to inclement weather—Leadership Portage County met at United Way of Portage County. The theme was non-profit organizations and their impact on the community.

To start our day, United Way of Portage County CEO Fred Hebblewhite gave us an overview of the history of United Way in Portage County. We learned about how they work with local leaders and programs to bring people together to give back to the community. We were also given a tour of their new offices in the former Delta Dental building.

Next, Dawn Cherek, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Wisconsin and Leadership Portage County alumnus, gave us insight into the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. We learned how big of a difference it can make for a child in a difficult situation to have a role model, mentor, and friend for just a few hours each month. Dawn emphasized the phrase “little moments, big magic.” They are always looking for additional volunteers, and there is especially a need for Big Brothers right now.

The day continued with a presentation about Children’s Wisconsin from Nicole Tank, Family Support & Preservation Supervisor. Their goal is to work with at-risk families to help connect them with community resources and provide education on

raising children. Anyone looking to help can contribute to the United Way of Portage County (which helps fund local programs that can help), participate in events that create care packages to help out families, or be on the lookout for 97.9 WSPT’s “Christmas is for Children” gift-giving program. All of these means of giving can help families in need have one less difficult decision to make when figuring out where they can afford to spend money.

We then took a trip to the Humane Society of Portage County. Executive Director Sherri Galle-Teske gave us a presentation on the history of the facilities and services in Portage County as well as an overview of their volunteers, current staff, and board

of directors. After that we toured the building and met some of the staff and volunteers, as well as the adorable kitties, puppies, and bunnies that are currently up for adoption. If you’d like to help out, they are always looking for donations, volunteers, and foster homes for pets in need of special care!

In the afternoon, Wendy Mitch joined us for the last of her three sessions discussing servant leadership. Wendy is an amazing and very engaging speaker. She gave us tools we can use to pivot from an inward to an outward mindset to help us better understand ourselves and those we interact with daily and more effectively overcome conflict.

We ended the day with Gregg Hansel, where he discussed the Empty Bowls program. In the program, volunteers paint bowls which are sold as part of a soup dinner event later in the year. Money raised from this fundraiser goes towards local hunger prevention efforts. Gregg brought plenty of bowls and paint, and we all painted a few to contribute!





Shop Local

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Real Rewards Checking (Real Rewards) is available for consumer deposits only. Annual Percentage Yield ("APY") is accurate as of 1/1/2023. Real Rewards is a variable rate account. Your APY may change at any time after your account is opened, at the discretion of Nicolet National Bank. Real Rewards 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 \$15,000 will earn 3.00% APY. Tier 2: The portion of your balance that is over \$15,000 will earn 0.01% APY. The APY for Tier 2 will range from 0.40% to 3.00%, depending on the balance in your account. If qualifications are not met for the qualification cycle, your entire balance will earn 0.01% APY. 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. Disclosed APY assumes all interest remains on deposit. 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.

Women in BUSINESS

A Portage County Business Council Event



10th Annual Women in Business Luncheon & Fashion Show Held

Our Women in Business Fashion Show held on April 27th at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center was a huge success! Twenty-six local women and men sashayed down the runway featuring over 60 different fashions from boutiques Adeline's Closet Boutique, Bria Bella & Co., and Real Deals on Home Décor. This networking event drew nearly 300 in attendance, with a 50/50 raffle, door prizes, swag bag, shopping and a delicious lunch.

An equally exciting part of the event is the pop-up shopping with Adeline's Closet Boutique, Beyond Ordinary, Bria Bella & Co., Fall Line Outfitters, L'BRI PURE n' NATURAL with Lisa Taylor, Mary Kay with Wendy Haas, Real Deals on Home Décor, and Turquoise on Main.

Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor TDS and to our Media Sponsor Midwest Communications. Mark your calendars for next year's event – Thursday, April 18, 2024!



MAY

- 10 BUSINESS X-CHANGE
- 16 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
- 18 LEADERSHIP PORTAGE COUNTY
- 18 SALESNET
- 25 LPC GRADUATION

JUNE

- 05 BUSINESS ON THE GREEN GOLF OUTING
- 14 BUSINESS X-CHANGE
- 15 SALESNET
- 20 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
- 27 KEYNOTE CONFERENCE

HAPPY MEMBERVERSARY

To all of our investors who renewed in April

89Q Hope is Here / Christian Life
Communications Inc.

Aspirus Health

BB's Aquatic Service LLC

Behavioral Health Clinic

J.H. Findorff & Son Inc.

LINC Health Clinic

Roundy's Supermarkets, Inc.

Section 715 Throwing Co.

Steel King Industries Inc

Stevens Point Realty

Stone Point Custom Homes

The Connection Co.

Wellington Place of Whiting

Worzalla

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