

Hudson Area Chamber

MEMBER CELEBRATION

Last year, we packed the house with members, fun, and surprises! We invite all local businesses to join us again at Tattersall Distilling for a night of fun at the **Hudson Area Chamber Member Celebration** on **January 25, 2024**. In addition to exceptional food and drinks, this event will be an outstanding opportunity for teams to reconnect with each other, meet other local businesses, look back at 2023, and help us look forward to 2024. Guests can purchase single tickets or an entire table with eight seats. Bring your work team, valued partners, spouses, and friends.

A NIGHT OF RECOGNITION

Part of our evening presentation will include recognition of our Chamber members and volunteers for all they have done in assisting the Chamber's growth and success in the community. We will also recognize outgoing board members, welcome new board members, and present goals and planning for 2024.

Annual recognition of innovative and successful member businesses is presented through two Business of the Year Awards. These businesses' outstanding achievements will be acknowledged in companies with 1-20 and 20+ full-time employees. In addition to the Business of the Year awards, the Outstanding Chamber Member of the Year Award, the Outstanding Community Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Marie Blakeman Award will be presented. The Manufacturer of the Year Award recognizes a team or organization for its outstanding accomplishments that have had a significant impact within the manufacturing industry.

AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENT TO SPONSOR

Did you know that sponsors receive complimentary tickets? Local businesses that are interested in reaching hundreds of business leaders should contact us to sponsor the Member Celebration. Call or email for sponsorship details and pricing, 715-386-8411 or maryclaire@hudsonwi.org

Thank you to Citizens State Bank
for being the Platinum Sponsor



EVENT DETAILS:

Date: Thursday, January 25, 2024

Time: Photos & Social 5:00 p.m.

Dinner is Served 5:45 p.m.

Presentation & Awards 6:30 p.m.

Location: Tattersall Distilling

1777 Paulson Rd., River Falls, WI 54022

Cost: \$70 Chamber Members | \$80 Non-Members

[Register Here](#)



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Thank you to **Bennett's Chop & Railhouse - Hudson** for hosting and sponsoring the December Simply Connect on Thursday, December 7. It was a great night full of conversation, connection, and awesome food and drinks.



Mary Claire Olson Potter
Chamber President

Thank You for Your Investment!

Membership is the lifeblood of a Chamber. Without membership investments and involvement, there is no Chamber. The strength of this organization is found in the members and their commitment to the mission and the role of the Chamber. Thank you for your involvement and commitment.

There are many ways for you to be involved in the Chamber. There are a number of ongoing committees, event committees, and task forces in which to participate, along with attending events held throughout the year. Please make the most of your membership by getting involved. I would be happy to meet with you and your team to review Chamber benefits and involvement opportunities.

At the Board/Committee Chair Retreat in December, the current Board and Committee Chairs spent the morning reviewing accomplishments, the membership survey results, and setting plans for 2024. The 2024 Plan of Action will be approved at the January Board meeting and will be posted on the Chamber's website.

As a Chamber and a community working together, we made it through another year. Congratulations! We look forward to 2024 with great hope. ■

Board of Directors Welcomes New Chair & Five New Members



The Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau is excited to welcome **Linda La Kosky Eng** as the new Board Chair for 2024. Linda is a vital part of the Chamber, and we are excited to work with her in the upcoming year.



Pamela Klingfus
Christian Community Homes and Services, Inc.



David Ritter
Discovery Financial Centers, Inc.



Amy Salama
Post - American Eatery



Jacob Skramstad
Cardinal Glass



Jennifer Veith
Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center



SPECIAL THANKS!

The Hudson Chamber would like to thank **2023 Chair Leanne Van Allen** for all her hard work in leading the Chamber through another successful year. Leanne was instrumental in helping the Chamber exceed many of its goals for this year, and we cannot commend her enough. We look forward to continuing to work alongside Leanne and her continued efforts in the new year.

HELPING YOU PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST

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680 ANNABELLE WAY, HUDSON, WI





Throughout the holiday season, many free, family-friendly events were held throughout Hudson that attracted tourists and community members alike. **Light Up Hudson, Find Santa, Candlelight Stroll, Santa and His Critters, and Visit with Santa** helped ignite holiday magic throughout the community. These events are only possible with the support of many of our area businesses. Thank you to our sponsors for their continued support and partnership:

Platinum: Gagnon, Inc.

Diamond: Hudson Home & Garden Club

Gold - Candlelight Stroll:

Apartment Cash Flow, Inc. | Bricks Neapolitan Pizza | Grand Fête | Hudson Physicians, S.C. | Post - American Eatery | SEASONS Gallery | Willow River Company

Gold - Find Santa:

Baldwin LightStream & Hudson Flower Shop

Gold - Santa and his Critters:

Angel's Pet World | St. Croix Kidds Pediatric Dentistry | Valley Companies | WESTconsin Credit Union

Silver:

All Things Sheared at Eagle Eye Farm | Bennett's Chop & Railhouse - Hudson | Black Rooster Bistro | Cambridge Senior Living | Chapter2Books/Backroom Vintage | Dick's Bar and Grill | Fleet Farm | Hudson Grocery Cooperative | Hudson Hot Air Affair, Inc. | Jonesy's Local Bar & Grill | Smiles in Motion, Pediatric Dentistry | St. Croix Baking Company | Telus Property Services + Solutions | The Bees Knees

Bronze:

8CH Print of Hudson - A Division of Helmer Companies | Abigail Page Antique Mall | ABOUT HOUSE | Accumark, Inc. | Angela Olson Law | Art Doyle's Spokes & Pedals | Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin | Cocobello Interiors | County Market | Gavic Construction Corporation | Holiday Inn Express & Suites | Knoke's Chocolates & Nuts | kudos | La Rue Marché | Lakefront Framing LLC | Micklesen Drug Inc. | Red Cedar Canyon Assisted Living | Royal Credit Union | Spring Creek Dental | The 715 | The Massey Luxury Apartments | Urban Olive & Vine | Willow River Carbone's

We would also like to thank the Have a Hudson Holiday Committee for their time and efforts in planning and executing these holiday events:

- **Marianne Buckman, Cocobello Interiors**
- **Angel Duratti, Angel's Pet World**
- **Richelle Jader**
- **Teri Larsen, BackRoom Vintage & T Larsen Design LLC**
- **Deanna Lindahl, SavATree**
- **Carol Marnell, Hudson Home and Garden Club**
- **Shaela McLaughlin, Rose & Lavender**
- **Heidi Nordquist, Rose & Lavender**
- **Amy Salama, Post - American Eatery**
- **Kay Timm, Grand Fête**
- **Andera Uebel, Droplets of Wellness, LLC**

In addition to the Have a Hudson Holiday Committee, thank you to all who were involved in making this possible:

- **Mike Anderson, SavATree**
- **City of Hudson Public Works Department** for their help with the lights in the park and decorations
- **Hudson Ambassadors**
- **Hudson Home and Garden Club** for helping with the decorations on the light poles
- **North Hudson Pepper Festival Royalty**
- **The SavATree Team** for putting together 500 bags of candy for Light Up Hudson ■



Children of all ages eagerly waited to tell Santa their holiday wishes at **Santa and his Critters**.



Hudson Area Chamber Sustainability Corner

Looking to throw out your Christmas tree now that the holiday season is over? Don't! Instead, re-use it outdoors in a variety of ways:

- Pine needles make excellent mulch
- Set up your whole tree outside with bird feeds and birdhouses for the local wildlife
- Use the tree boughs to cover your perennials and insulate them for the winter

If you're crafty, you can use the log of the tree to make flower pot stands, trivets, and coasters. When in doubt, your tree would make an excellent bonfire! ■



Hudson Area Chamber FOUNDATION

Meme Fehr



As a third-generation Hudsonite, Meme is incredibly proud of our community, businesses, schools, and Chamber of Commerce. Meme was the president of Sandeen Agency, a family-owned and operated independent insurance agency, from 1994 to 2019, at which time the business was sold to Spectrum Insurance. While president, Meme served on

The Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce Board and won small business of the year. After retirement, Meme dove into something she had always loved to do- baking. In 2021, she established an in-home baking business and now participates in local farmer's markets. In addition to her business (Fehrly Sweet & Co.), Meme also teaches cooking classes and demonstrations at Grand Fête. These provide an excellent opportunity to continue to be a part of the business community! Meme's family was fortunate to live and work in this vibrant community and be part of its decades-long growth; they are excited to see our community continue to develop and grow. ■

Ribbon Cuttings



Chapter2Books - located at 226 Locust Street, Hudson. A warm welcome to new owners Gillette and Shelly! Make sure to check out their specialty curated book space. For more information, [click here](#).



Want to Hear from us More?

Subscribe to our [Week Ahead emails](#) to receive weekly reminders about upcoming Chamber Events.



Elite Entities - services most of the metro area and Wisconsin. For all projects, including general construction, lawn maintenance, snow removal, and more, Elite Entities is the trusted choice. For more information, [click here](#).



FIT (RE) Group and Bruce Lenzen Design Build LLC - located at 22 First Street, Hudson. The groundbreaking for Riverfront Square, a new condominium on the corner of First and Buckeye. There are still units available! For more information, [click here](#) or [click here](#).



Post - American Eatery - located at 225 Locust Street. The Ambassadors met at Post - American Eatery for their December meeting and a gift exchange game. For more information on Post - American Eatery, [click here](#). ■



Guidelines: Submit 100 words or less by the 15th of the month for the next month's Chamber news. We reserve the right to edit or omit any submitted business briefs. Email submissions to info@HudsonWI.org.



CHECK OUT OUR UPDATED DEC STATS!

WEBSITE: 8.4K Visitors
LINKEDIN: 464 Followers
CHAMBER FACEBOOK:
REACH: 6,205 LIKES: 5,573

DISCOVER HUDSON FACEBOOK:
REACH: 17,768 LIKES: 17,056
DISCOVER HUDSON INSTAGRAM:
REACH: 5,246 FOLLOWERS: 5,168

Black Rooster Bistro is having a French-themed 5-course wine dinner on Thursday, January 25th, at 7 pm. 5 different French wines are presented by The Fermented Connection paired with classic French dishes prepared by Chef Rick Frazer. \$75/person. This dinner is filling up fast so call 715-808-0560 today or visit www.blackroosterbistro.com. Craft Cocktail Basics Classes are coming up on January 13th and 14th at 2 pm. This one-hour class covers history, tools, techniques, and recipes. Cocktail samples and a bar menu item are included. \$40/person. Must be 21+. It's not too early to make your Valentine's Day reservations. Request your Valentine's Day reservation online or call today!

Calling All Crumbl Cookie Lovers! Crumbl has a drive-through for those chilly days! Come get your cookies around the back! New catering options - more than the current weekly cookies available for your enjoyment. Go to Crumblcookies.com for more information. FUNDRAISERS: come to Crumbl and set up a 3-hour time slot Monday - Thursday in which you receive 15% of all orders. Crumbl Cookies - what a tasty treat. Bring a pink box to your next event and enjoy the smiles from friends and family. Happy Holidays from Connie, Rory, and Frenchy.

"Coldest Night of the Year" Walk for Hurting, Hungry, and Homeless will take place simultaneously in dozens of communities across America on **February 24, 2024**. Our local event will be one of the first in Wisconsin and will begin and end in Lakefront Park, downtown Hudson. Proceeds will help Hudson Area Backpack and Food Programs, Operation HELP, Grace Place, and Our Neighbor's Place provide shelter, food, and emergency financial assistance to our neighbors in need. You or your business or club can get involved by forming a team, signing up as a walker, or being a sponsor. For information, visit www.cnoy.com/Hudson or contact local walk director Andy Johnson at andy@rivervalleycharities.com.

FNC Bank Awarded Financial Literacy Award. On November 16, at an event held in Wisconsin Dells, the Wisconsin Bankers Foundation (WBF) honored FNC Bank for its efforts in promoting financial literacy to Wisconsin's consumers. During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, over 360 bankers across the state participated in financial education-focused presentations, helping to reach over 24,700 consumers of all ages. This outstanding effort is underscored in the efforts of the FNC Bank team.

This year, Aaron Mork, VP Commercial Lender at FNC Bank, was recognized with Certificates of Recognition for his individual effort in financial literacy, as well as surpassing five total presentations. Chair of the Wisconsin Bankers Foundation, Rose Oswald Poels, said, "We thank the team at FNC Bank - with special thanks to Aaron - for their outstanding work in helping individuals and families to build foundational financial skills."

Hudson Home & Garden Club annually publishes a calendar and notecards with stunning local photos. The proceeds from sales fund HH&GC grants and projects throughout Hudson. The Hudson Chamber of Commerce was particularly helpful to the group's calendar efforts this year by providing dates for Hudson special events and a listing of nonprofit organizations. HH&GC has about 30 remaining 2024 calendars, and if you would like to purchase one for \$15, please call Karen Swisher at 913-777-9477 or Joan Palm at 651-260-2895. Also, please check your favorite Hudson stores for remaining calendars and notecards.

Hudson Hot Air Affair announces its 2024 event theme, **"Rockin' with the Coldies,"** for its 35th annual celebration on February 2-4, 2024. New this year, Hudson Hot Air Affair is opening Local Balloon Sponsorships to the public. Make Hot Air Affair a weekend to remember with this unique personal experience. Individuals, families, and businesses may sponsor a balloon during Hot Air Affair. Balloon sponsorships are \$475. Please contact Michele DeLong at 715-575-1864 or hhaasponsors@gmail.com for more information.

Want to attract out-of-town visitors to your business the weekend of the event or have them return to your business in Hudson on a different visit? Consider being included in the "Welcome Packets" given to out-of-town visitors as they check in at area hotels/motels that weekend. We invite you to provide 500 brochures, coupons, or special flyers to be included in a Welcome Packet. Businesses can also join the fun with parade units, smooch boarding teams, balloon crews, and other participatory events. Check the website www.hudsonhotairaffair.com for the full schedule of events and Facebook for the latest updates and additional information. ■



Hudson Area Chamber Member Benefit

Ribbon Cuttings for all Occasions

Celebrating a new ownership, business milestone, or office location isn't complete without a Ribbon Cutting with the Hudson Chamber! Ribbon Cuttings are a great way to share your accomplishments and news with the entire Chamber community. Each Ribbon Cutting photo is included in our monthly newsletter, and the ceremony provides a space for you to share your news with the Chamber staff, Ambassador Committee, and Board of Directors. Ribbon Cuttings are offered year-round; contact Anna@HudsonWI.org to schedule yours today! ■



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DECEMBER BRAND CHAMPION, JOEL LARSEN WITH MIDWESTONE BANK

Joel joined the Chamber Board of Directors for a second time in 2018 and just completed his third term at the end of 2023. For the last six years, he has served as treasurer, led the finance committee, and served on the executive committee, in addition to participating in the monthly board meetings.

Joel led the organization through COVID by helping to secure grants and assisting the Chamber to continue serving its members and the community during those unprecedented times. His leadership and support steadied the organization to ensure it continued to move forward. Joel and the finance committee assisted in evaluating office locations for the Chamber, helping to secure the new location at 219 Second Street. In addition, Joel served as an ambassador for many years, and we hope he returns to that committee in the future.

Wondering about the qualities of a Brand Champion? They include:

- Passionate and Supportive
- Knowledgeable and Communicative
- Invested in Success
- Interested in Building Loyalty

If you know of a great Chamber Brand Champion, let us know so we can recognize them and award them \$25 in Chamber Checks. ■



Save the Date!

2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Feb 2 - 4	Hudson Hot Air Affair
May 5	Hudson Community Expo
July 16 - 20	St. Croix RiverFest
Sept 28 & 29	Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival
Oct 19	Hilltop Pumpkin Party & Rotary Halloween Parade
Nov 5 - Feb 7, 2025	Have a Hudson Holiday
Nov 22 - 24	Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes

HOW TO SET ACHIEVABLE GOALS



READ ARTICLE





January Calendar of Events

- 1 Chamber office closed
- 4 Hudson Community Affairs, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
- 9 Connections & Coffee, 9:00 a.m., Citizens State Bank, 375 Stageline Rd.
- 9 Hudson Community Expo Committee, 1:30 p.m., Zoom
- 10 Welcome to the Hudson Chamber New Member Orientation, Noon, Chamber office
- 13 Executive Committee, 9:00 a.m., Zoom
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Chamber office closed
- 15 Finance Committee, 9:00 a.m., Zoom
- 17 Tourism Committee, 1:30 p.m., Zoom
- 18 Board of Directors, 9:00 a.m., Chamber office
- 18 Ambassador Retention Visit, 3:00 p.m.
- 18 Ambassador Committee Meeting, 3:45 p.m., Ziggy's Live Music, Bar & Restaurant, 302 2nd St
- 23 Drive for 5, 9:00 a.m., Zoom
- 24 Retail/Restaurant 2024 Planning Session, 9:00 a.m., The Phipps Center for the Arts, 109 Locust Street
- 25 Hudson Area Chamber Member Celebration, 5:00 p.m., Tattersall Distilling, 1777 Paulson Rd., River Falls

2024 Board of Directors

- Linda La Kosky Eng** - Minuteman Press - Hudson, Chair
- Leanne Van Allen** - University of Wisconsin-River Falls, Past Chair
- Deb Pittman** - Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton, Chair Elect
- Maria Machtemes** - Citizens State Bank, Treasurer
- Angel Duratti** - Angel's Pet World
- Mark Hein** - Integrity Cleaners, LLC
- Pamela Klingfus** - Christian Community Homes and Services, Inc.
- Chris Kost** - YMCA in Hudson
- David Ritter** - Discovery Financial Centers, Inc
- Amy Salama** - Post - American Eatery
- Jacob Skramstad** - Cardinal Glass
- Kevin Urbik** - Heywood, Cari & Anderson, S.C.
- Jennifer Veith** - Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center
- Blake Willman** - Weathersafe Restoration, Inc.

Chamber Staff

The Chamber Newsletter is published monthly by the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau.

- Mary Claire Olson Potter**, President
- Anna Gunderson**, Administrative Assistant
- Tyler Warwick-Mick**, Events & Marketing Coordinator

MISSION: To provide value to and serve our members, promote a strong local economy, advocate for the interests of the business community, champion sustainability, and market the recreational and cultural opportunities in the Hudson area.

Congratulations to the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau 2022 Award Winners!

- Large Business of the Year - **Andersen Corporation**
- Small Business of the Year - **Jonesy's Local Bar & Grill**
- Chamber Member of the Year - **Tim Foster, Hudson Flower Shop**
- Community Volunteer of the Year - **Chris Kost, YMCA in Hudson**
- Manufacturer of the Year Award - **Ciranda, Inc.**
- Marie Blakeman Award - **Clarence "Buck" Malick, Sustain Hudson-RiverFest**

2024 Resources

[Membership Brochure](#) | [Sponsorship Brochure](#)



Buena Vista: A Stroll in the Park is a grassroots effort and is only possible with our generous donors. Our goal is that each year is bigger and brighter than the last! Interested in sponsoring this magical experience? Contact Mary Claire at 715-386-8411 or maryclaire@hudsonwi.org to learn more. ■