



WILLMAR LAKES AREA CHAMBER

SUPPORTING BUSINESS IN KANDIYOHYI COUNTY

Chairman's Circle Investors



Embrace Change | Drive Momentum | Champion Growth

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MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES



Congratulations to Public Affairs Consultant Sarah Caflisch and Director of Community Health Sarah Senseman of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota on 20 years! Blue Cross and Blue Shield is a Minnesota-based health insurance company that offers coverage to individuals, families, employers, and Medicare members across the state. It also invests in community health initiatives through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation, supporting efforts that improve health outcomes and reduce disparities.



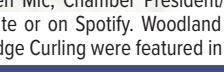
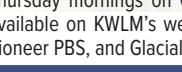
Congratulations to Paul Barbaro and Angie Peterson of Slumberland Furniture on 30 years! Since opening its first store in 1967, Slumberland Furniture has expanded to more than 120 locations across 12 states, primarily in the Midwest. The company offers budget-friendly, stylish furniture and mattresses for every room, while supporting local communities through efforts like the 40 Winks Foundation. This year alone, its Home for the Holidays event donated 130 beds with help from 15 agencies and schools. Slumberland also provides in-store discounts for veterans and stands behind purchases with a 30-day Low Price Guarantee.

CHAMBER CHAT



THURSDAY MORNINGS @ 10:00AM

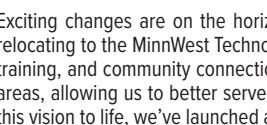
With Chamber President James Miller



Thursday mornings on Open Mic, Chamber President/CEO James Miller hosts Chamber Chat. Recordings are available on KWLM's website or on Spotify. Woodland Centers, Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services, Pioneer PBS, and Glacial Ridge Curling were featured in December.

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

We're Moving!



Exciting changes are on the horizon — the Willmar Lakes Area Chamber and Explore Willmar Lakes Area are relocating to the MinnWest Technology Campus! Our new home will be a modern hub designed for collaboration, training, and community connection. The expanded space will feature enhanced technology and larger meeting areas, allowing us to better serve local businesses, partners, and visitors in fresh and innovative ways. To bring this vision to life, we've launched a \$100,000 capital campaign to support the build-out of the new space. If you'd like to be part of this exciting next chapter, we'd love to connect with you.

Now Accepting Nominations!

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Submit nominations online by January 7, 2026

willmarareachamber.com/community-leadership-celebration

Legacy Award Exemplary Leadership Milo Award

5 Under 45 - Emerging Leadership Awards

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP CELEBRATION

and Annual Meeting

Save the Date!

Please join us in recognizing what makes the Willmar Lakes Area so great - the people who step up to lead, volunteer, and inspire the future of Kandiyohi County.

Thursday, February 12, 2026

7:30 am - 9:00 am

Willmar Conference Center



RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP ON THE WILLMAR LAKES AREA CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS!



CAROLINE CHAN
KANDIYOHYI COUNTY



SUZANNE HASS
ALLSTATE INSURANCE



JAIYE MARTINEZ
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TERRI WOOD
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NEW MEMBER WELCOME

