



Embrace Change | Drive Momentum | Champion Growth

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Chairman's Circle Investors



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP CELEBRATION

Legacy Award Exemplary Leadership Milo Award



Steve Linder



Sara DeRoo



Julie Anderson

5 Under 45 - Emerging Leader Award Winners



Sammy Contreras



Jessica Hanson



Andrew Kveene



Micah Larson & Liz Heimer



Matt Onnen

Thursday, February 12, 2026
7:30 am - 9:00 am
Willmar Conference Center

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.



MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE



Since 1918, Haug Implement has proudly served West Central Minnesota as a John Deere dealership, delivering excellence built on decades of experience, hometown hard work, and integrity. While agriculture has changed significantly over the years, Haug Implement has continually evolved alongside it—adapting, innovating, and growing to meet the needs of today's farmers. Family-owned and operated for generations, Haug Implement continues to earn trust through strong relationships and dependable service. With locations in Willmar and Litchfield, their legacy of commitment to the community remains strong. Members of the Chamber Board, Diplomats, and Agri-Business Committee recently had the opportunity to tour Haug Implement's impressive expansion, a reflection of their ongoing investment in the future of agriculture and our region.

RIBBON CUTTING

Outdoor Ice Rink & Pavilion



The City of Willmar and community members recently celebrated the ribbon cutting of a new covered outdoor ice rink and pavilion next to the Willmar Civic Center. Built for year-round use, the facility features a steel frame, translucent roof for natural light, and paved surfaces that support skating, hockey, and community events. City leaders and Invest In Willmar representatives highlighted the importance of outdoor skating and expanded opportunities for local youth and families.

CHAMBER CONNECTIONS

February 6 	February 13 	February 20 	February 27
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Join us Friday mornings from 7:30-8:30 at rotating member locations! Introduce yourself, share updates, and connect with fellow professionals. Each week wraps up with a host business spotlight and door prize drawing — don't forget your business card and \$1 for a chance to win!

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

		<p>2026 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p>			

Thank you to the Willmar Lakes Area Chamber Board of Directors for their commitment to the area-wide business community and contributions to the growth and success of the region. Executive Leadership Team: Chair: Dustin Kotrba (Christianson CPAs and Consultants), Past Chair: Suzanne Hass (Allstate Insurance), Vice Chair: Sam Quam (Bethesda), Chair-Elect: Tracy Lundy (Lake Region Bank), Secretary/ Treasurer: Dan Jacobs (Marcus Construction), President/ CEO: James Miller (Willmar Lakes Area Chamber). Returning Board members: Tayla Boersma (MinnWest Technology Campus), Jean Geselius (CDS), Matt Schrupp (Jennie-O), Brittany VanDerBill (B. VanDerBill Consulting). New Board members: Kami Anez (Anez Consulting), Jeff Newberg (Duininck), Keri Ohren (CentraCare), Alex Wolter (Willmar Community Education).

We've Moved!



The Willmar Lakes Area Chamber and Explore Willmar Lakes Area have moved to MinnWest Technology Campus! Our new home is a modern hub designed for collaboration, training, and community connection. The expanded space features enhanced technology and larger meeting areas, allowing us to better serve local businesses, partners, and visitors in fresh and innovative ways.

FIRST DOLLAR

Timshel Counseling



Timshel Counseling provides healing through trauma-informed therapy services to individuals, families, and groups of all ages. Breanna Gronli, Whitney Berg, Lindsey Elliot, Isabel Kleene, and Michelle Thomas are committed to creating a safe and supportive environment that fosters healing and growth. They believe in the power of choice and empowerment throughout the healing journey.



NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGES: WORKFORCE SHIFTS & PAID LEAVE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD | 8:00-10:00AM

Join local business and HR experts for an interactive session that explores how to stay compliant, strengthen your workforce, and turn today's challenges into tomorrow's competitive advantage. Whether you're a business owner, HR professional, manager, or front-line supervisor, this session will provide practical solutions and tools to help you lead confidently through the workforce and compliance challenges of the year ahead!

Plus, buckle up for these informative mini presentations:

- Tackling Toxicity and Promoting Positivity
- Why Do Employees Leave? It's Because of You! Being the Nice Guy Can Backfire . . .
- How to Put Butts in Seats: Technology to Set the Hook When Fishing for Candidates
- The Real Root of People Issues

MEET THE XTREME PANEL OF EXPERTS



JASON BOUTWELL



JULIA CONTRERAS



NANCY MILLER



MIKE HENKE
MHI CONSULTING



\$49 CHAMBER MEMBERS | \$69 GUESTS A LIGHT BREAKFAST WILL BE PROVIDED

Don't Miss Out!
REGISTER BY JANUARY 29TH

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