

# CHAMBER CONNECTION

Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce Connection to  
Local Business, Public Policy, Economic Development and Community Events



Brad Gruhot  
Marshall Chamber President

October 1<sup>st</sup> kicks off our new fiscal year for the Chamber and what a year it was! It's almost been a year since we moved back Downtown on November 1<sup>st</sup> of last year. Did you know that we are in the same office location where we used to be? We moved out of our current space in November of 2014 prior to the expansion of Sole Mates.

We had a very successful year this past year. We kicked off Marshall Leadership Academy last fall and graduated 23 participants this past May. The topics

this group gets to hear and see are: local leadership, manufacturing, economic development, public policy, healthcare, agriculture, public safety, education/workforce and then graduation. These are all topics that the Chamber is involved in. Congrats to everyone who was in the graduating cohort.

Our long time events keep going strong although early on last fall, some of the events were suffering in attendance coming off of the pandemic. Women's Connect, Marshall Area Young Professionals, and Let's Connect are the long time events and the numbers have yet to rebound from pre-pandemic but they are getting close.

Some of our larger events like the Taste of Marshall, State of the City and State of Agriculture events all brought in a large amount of attendees. This past Taste of Marshall, just last week, brought in a record number 472 attendees! Last year was 396!

Membership is very strong. This past fiscal year we brought in 44 new members and lost 40 memberships. This brings us to a total of 590, which is very impressive for a community this size. To give you perspective on how strong the number 590 is, prior to me starting at the Marshall Area

Chamber, I worked for the Bloomington Chamber. When I left there, we only had 355 members out of the 4000+ businesses in the area. Did you know we have 91 members from other zip codes besides Marshall? It's a great way to spread your business network!

Also, this past year, we said good bye to long time staff member, Erin Raveling. She was with us for 11.5 loyal years. Although it's always hard to lose someone after that long, we are excited about the new ideas and perspective of our new marketing and communications staff, Maddy Torve. Maddy graduated from St. Cloud State University with a marketing degree. She's already very involved in the community and if you go to a Marshall Tigers volleyball game, you may see her on the bench as one of the assistant coaches.

Moving forward, we look forward to continuing being the voice of business, a partner in workforce, and the centerpiece of events in the community.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> for our Annual Meeting over the lunch hour. This meeting has been associated with the Taste of Marshall for years but like many events that size, no one pays attention to the person on the mic! So, look for registration details soon. Our keynote speaker at the event will be Minnesota Chamber of Commerce President, Doug Loon. See you there!

## NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

- Leading Edge Credit Union
- Atlantic Place
- Toursque LLC
- Franklin Restorative Care Center
- Digikor, LLC



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(507) 532-7458



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303 West Main Street  
(507) 532-3957



Border States  
Progress Award for new building  
101 London Road  
(507) 532-4429

## CHAMBER HAPPENINGS



In September, we had Women's Connect Ladies Night. Thanks to Painted Prairie Winery for hosting us!



Marty Seifert spoke at Young Professionals this month about the upcoming election.



Business After Hours was hosted by Visit Marshall, SW Figure Skating Club, and MAHA at the Red Baron Arena this month.



Taste of Marshall was bigger than it's ever been this year! Thank you to all 450+ people who attended and our 18 vendors who served food. We can't wait for next year!



We hosted a Social Media 101 Lunch and Learn this month that was a huge success. Thanks to all who attended!

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