

How to get involved with the chamber

Why it's good for your business and the Waconia area community

Good news! The Waconia Chamber 2021 calendar is filled with networking, education, and events; and we're looking forward to what's ahead. There are numerous ways to get involved, stay connected, and grow your business. Being involved and leading creates greater opportunities for business and employee development, as well as providing countless benefits to the community at large. Our membership-driven organization continuously works to promote local businesses and enhance the quality of life in our community.

Why Community Involvement is Good for Business and the Waconia Area

1. **Networking** helps to expand your professional network and provides exposure to more people and talents. By networking with people outside of your circle, you'll broaden your perspective. Getting involved and being seen is good for business and is fun on a personal level.
2. **Education** opportunities teach new skills, and allow for continuous learning.
3. **Leadership** provides experience, resilience, confidence, and fosters an innovative culture.
4. Being involved **sets you apart**, attracts talent, and shows social responsibility. There are numerous opportunities to get involved and be seen. It provides strong company morale, and also helps to promote your business.

How to Get Involved with the Chamber

1. **Network** by attending a monthly Luncheon, Coffee Connection, or a WYP (Waconia Young Professionals) meeting.
2. **Join a Committee or Group** that meets once a month, every-other-month, or seasonally.
 - a. *Ambassadors* - Visits and welcomes businesses each month.
 - b. *Business Education Network* - Provides educational opportunities, and focuses on workforce development for the manufacturing and trade

industries.

- c. *Retail* - Plans and participates in events: Waconia Shop Hop, Sister Saturday, D.E.A.R, and Small Business Saturday.
 - d. *Tourism* - Promotes Waconia as a visitors' destination, while also connecting and cross-promoting member businesses and organizations.
 - e. *Events* - There are seasonal committees that meet for events: Golf Scramble; Business, Home, & Family Expo; 4th of July; Nickle Dickle Dance, Nickle Dickle Day, and the Community Tree Lighting.
- 3. Volunteer** - While taking a tour this week through the Chamber storage area, I discovered a box of nametags that each read, "Nickle Dickle Pickle Picker." Smiling, I became excited with the idea of bringing the Nickle Dickle Pickle contest back; which would require a champion to lead the effort. I also discovered signage for a past Nickle Dickle Cornhole Tournament, along with a bin dedicated to the Pop Booth. There are numerous leadership opportunities available for the biggest day in Waconia. If not Nickle Dickle, there are several events with volunteer options all throughout the year.

Volunteering provides a great sense of pride, accomplishment, and purpose. It's a fantastic way to meet new people, build friendships, and engage with the community. Some of my closest friends today are people that I worked on volunteer projects with throughout the years. Finally, volunteering makes people happier. In an article in the [Washington Post](#), studies show that people who volunteer actually experience a boost in their mental health!

Getting involved, networking, and volunteering benefits individuals, companies, and our community as a whole. At the Chamber, we'll continue to provide opportunities to stay connected, build relationships, and keep Waconia strong.

-Christine