



*Proudly serving Morrison County since 1888*



# 2006 Annual Report

**The Mission  
of the Chamber of Commerce  
is to promote its members and the  
greater community through innovative  
partnerships and accountable leadership.**



January 2007

Dear Chamber Members,

Thank you for the privilege of serving as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors during this reporting period. I am proud to present the Chamber of Commerce's 2006 Annual Report.



The Chamber's Business Plan outlined the mission to promote our members and the greater community. We increased the number of networking opportunities with monthly Friday Morning Coffees, which averaged an attendance of 47 people and nine Business After Hours, with an average attendance of 62. These networking opportunities are scheduled well in advance and we encourage businesses wanting to take advantage of the opportunity to sponsor them.

New in 2006 was the addition of another major networking event, Sporting Clays. Held at Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation, 64 participants of all skill levels enjoyed trap shooting, sporting clays and ended the event with a flurry. The success of this event in our initial year prompted us to schedule a day in 2007 with Rice Creek again immediately following the 2006 event. Mark your calendar for Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> for the Sporting Clays event in 2007.

To demonstrate our commitment to serving all of Morrison County, the phrasing of "Little Falls Area" has been dropped from our name. The addition of the tag line, "Proudly serving Morrison County since 1888" has been added.

Building on the success of Business Insights 2005, Business Insights 2006 was held with the co-sponsorship of Pine Country Bank, the Morrison County Record, Little Falls Business Association and Little Falls Radio. The program reached out to business owners throughout the service area for this half-day educational session. Three prominent presenters addressing different challenges of doing business in a changing marketplace made for an exciting morning. The three speakers were high energy and had clarity of vision giving every attendee something of value to take with them. The networking event that followed at the Little Falls Golf Course gave each of us an opportunity to share and discuss the benefits. Highlights of the program are included in this report.

Our commitment to the greater community was again demonstrated by significant financial contributions to the Initiative Foundation, Community Development of Morrison County, the Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Morrison County Trails Initiative. These contributions are derived from the proceeds of the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Arts & Craft Fair.

The Chamber's strength comes not only from the number of members, but also from their active participation in the community. Thank you for your continued membership.

Lorna Lange, Chamber Board Chair  
US Bank & Precision Tool Technologies

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## **The History of the Chamber of Commerce**

The Chamber of Commerce was organized on May 15, 1888 with the filing of the Articles of Incorporation, constitution and bylaws for the stated purpose of "advancing the commercial, mercantile and manufacturing interests of Little Falls and the surrounding country". Listed on the initial membership roster were 42 businesses.

For the past 117 years, the Chamber has been instrumental in the development and expansion of business in Morrison County. The foresightedness of the founding fathers of the area laid the foundation for the Chamber as we know it today.

There is little recorded history for the Chamber from the years 1888 to 1954. The Chamber's first paid staff came in the form of administrative support by Mrs. W. J. Bellefeuille from 1954-1960 and Lorrie Virnig from 1960 – 1961.

G. Harmon Klemme was the first paid administrator serving 1960 – 1962. Following Klemme was W. J. Vondrashek from 1963 to 1967. The Glen Kraywinkle tenure was from 1967 – 1984; Dave Hochhalter from 1984 – 1995; Elaine Westerdahl-Delaney from 1996 – 2003. Starting in 2004, Debora K. Boelz has been the President/CEO for the Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

In 1972, the Chamber took over the planning and implementation of the Little Falls Arts & Crafts Fair. This event has grown to include hundreds of vendors from 25 states. It annually attracts crowds of shoppers numbering over 150,000. Proceeds from the Arts & Crafts Fair enable the Chamber to keep its membership dues at very reasonable rates.

In 1984, the Chamber of Commerce changed its name to Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce to demonstrate the importance of developing an area wide approach to attract new commercial and industrial businesses.

In 1989, the annual golf outing was started.

In 1991, the Chamber moved into its current offices located in the historic Cass Gilbert Depot. The results of a community-wide effort saved the historic train depot from demolition and it is now used not only to house the Chamber of Commerce, but contains a community room that is enjoyed by many people on an annual basis.

In 2004, Friday Morning Coffees were started.

In 2006, the name of the organization was changed to reflect the inclusiveness of the Chamber. By dropping "Little Falls Area" from the name, the businesses in communities throughout Morrison County will feel better represented. The tag line "Proudly serving Morrison County since 1888" was added.

In 2006, Sporting Clays was started.

## **2006 Board of Directors**

### **Chair**

Lorna Lange  
US Bank

### **Immediate Past Chair**

Tom Scherling  
Century 21/New Horizons Realty

### **Vice Chair**

Jim Andres  
RadioShack/Design Electronics

### **Treasurer**

Kris Erickson  
Northway Oil

### **Secretary**

Joe Berg  
DJ Products

### **Directors**

Tom Cotton  
Spectrum Printing – Design – Apparel

Paulette Pappenfus  
Pap's Sport Shop

Ted Pfohl  
United Way of Morrison County

Susy Prosapio  
Great River Arts Association

Steve Schueller  
Schlenner, Wenner & Co.

Mary Uhlhorn  
Ambiance @ 53

Col. Rich Weaver  
Camp Ripley

## **2006 Chamber Staff**

### **President/CEO**

Debora K. Boelz

### **Financial Coordinator**

Rachel Czech

### **Office Coordinator**

Sylvia Ryden

### **Projects & Volunteer Coordinator**

Gina Vetter

## **Membership Services Division**

The goal of the Membership Services Division is to maintain a membership that finds value in their Chamber through effective communication of member benefits and development and maintenance of member only activities and services.

In 2006, the Chamber had 343 members in good standing.

### **Membership Development Committee**

**Chair: Rob Ronning, Pine Country Bank**

**Board Liaison: Col. Rich Weaver, Camp Ripley**

Objectives:

- ~ to continue implementation of the plan to communicate membership benefits to the members and potential members;
- ~ to maintain a membership investment schedule that is equitable for all membership categories;
- ~ to identify methods for ensuring that all members' investments are made in a fair and timely fashion and to monitor/supervise member benefits.

### **Member Networking**

Objective:

- ~ to provide a varied offering of networking events to provide all members an opportunity to develop business relationships with each other.

### **Networking Events**

**Board Liaison: Joe Berg, DJ Products**

### **Business After Hours**

Business After Hours provides not only a networking opportunity for the membership, but also the opportunity for a Chamber member to showcase their business by holding the event at their location. In 2006, 9 Business After Hours were held:

- January 12 at Rice Creek Hunting and Recreation
- February 21 at Camp Ripley with the Norwegian Home Guard.
- March 21 at the Franciscan Sisters Campus
- April 11 at Broadway Sports Bar
- May 23 at Central MN Ethanol Co-op
- September 21 at Horizon Health
- October 24 at Cygneture Title & Abstract
- November 14 at the Minnesota Fishing Museum
- December 12 at the Depot with the Chamber hosting

## **Friday Morning Coffee**

Friday Morning Coffees are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at either the Depot or at the sponsoring business. In 2006, the following Friday Morning Coffees were held:

January 20 sponsored by Productive Alternatives

February 17 sponsored by the Little Falls Visitors and Convention Bureau

March 17 sponsored by Coborn's Superstore.

April 21 sponsored by Precision Tool

May 19 sponsored by Radio Shack

June 16 sponsored by the Membership Development and Leadership LindyLand  
Marketing Committees.

July 21 sponsored by Meadow Ponds Assisted Living

August 18 sponsored by Hands of Hope Resource Center

September 15 sponsored by US Bank

October 20 sponsored by Larson Abstract Company

November 17 sponsored by Royal Café.

December 15 sponsored by Domino's Pizza

## **Chamber Golf Outing**

**Chair: Tom Hoggarth, Evergreen Equipment**

**Board Liaison: Steve Schueller, Schlenner Wenner & Co.**

The Chamber of Commerce sponsored its 17<sup>th</sup> annual Golf Outing on August 7 at the Little Falls Country Club. On this picture-perfect day, 144 golfers faced the challenges of this beautiful course.

Corporate sponsors for the Golf Outing included:

**Coborn's Superstore  
Grand Casino – Mille Lacs  
Minnesota Power**

**Evergreen Equipment  
Falls GM Center  
St. Gabriel's Hospital**

Hole sponsors for the Golf Outing included:

**AmericInn Lodge & Suites  
Bank of the West  
Bernick's Pepsi  
Business Machines Plus  
CenterPoint Energy  
Community Federal Savings & Loan  
Dick Sales  
Earl LeMieur Homes & Rental  
Family Medical Center  
Flower Dell  
Hilmerson Collision Center  
Larson Abstract Company, Inc.  
Larson / Glastron Boats  
Lincoln Area Business Association  
Little Falls Radio**

**Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union  
Moll Ford  
Morrison County Record  
North Star Drilling  
Perkins Family Restaurant  
Pine Country Bank  
R. A. Randall Agency  
Radio Shack/Design Electronics  
Riitters & Scearcy  
Standard Parts/NAPA  
Schlenner Wenner & Co.  
Taco John's of Little Falls  
The Gumdrop Tree  
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage  
West Side Bar**

Taking first place with a low gross score of 58 was the **DJ Products** team. Team members included: Jeff Berg, Joe Berg, Jason Nuehring and Jerry Ries. The two random drawing team winners were: **Family Medical Center** and **NAPA Auto Parts**. Team members for the **Family Medical Center** team included: Brigid Fitzgerald, Tom Stoy, Lisa and Peter Germscheid. Team members for the **NAPA Auto Parts** team included: Renee and Tom Oothoudt and Ann and Kurt Owen

Skins Game winners were the **Central Minnesota Ethanol Co-op** team and the **Edward Jones – Teri Hoggarth** team.

Men's Longest Drive: Joe Groebner, playing with the **Bell Mortgage** team

Women's Longest Drive: Deb Gruber, playing with the **Morrison County** team

Putting Contest: Chad Miller, playing with the **St. Gabriel's Hospital - 1** team

Fastest Time Hole: With a time of 1 minute 21 seconds was the **Larson Abstract, Inc.,** team. Team members included: Kim Hansen, Katie Kapus, Mike Peterschick and Patti Ploof

### **Sporting Clays**

**Chair: Gregg LeBlanc, Rice Creek Hunting and Recreation**

**Board Liaison: Joe Berg, DJ Products**

The Chamber of Commerce sponsored its 1<sup>st</sup> annual Sporting Clays Outing on September 14 at Rice Creek Hunting and Recreation. On this beautiful sunny day, 64 participants faced the challenges of trap shooting, sporting clays and ended with a flurry.

#### Corporate sponsors for Sporting Clays included:

GoldSmith Jewelers	Subway
Pine Country Bank	West Side Bar
Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation	

#### Stations sponsors for Sporting Clays included:

Froggy's Signs	Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation
GoldSmith Jewelers	St. Gabriel's Hospital
NAPA Auto Parts – Pierz & Little Falls	Shelley Funeral Chapels
Palmer Charter Service	Thielen Meats of Little Falls
Pap's Sport Shop	Wetzel Law Office
Precision Tool Technologies	

Taking first place with a high score of 195 was the GoldSmith Jewelers team. Team members included: Bill Backowski, Matt Crowder, John LeMieur and Tar Smith. Taking home the flurry honors was the Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation team. Team members included: Elden LeBlanc, Gregg LeBlanc, Albert Wielinski and Larry Wielinski. Our random draw team was

Palmer Charter Service. Team members included: Andy Galston, Matt Galston, Tim LeBlanc and Rodney Rudolph. All the above listed teams each won \$100 in Chamber Bucks.

Honorable mention to our women's individual high score shooter, 12 year old Chloe Nelson with a score of 39, shooting with the Shelley Funeral Chapel team. Men's Individual High Score was Mike Fenske with a score of 57, shooting with the West Side Bar team.

## **Member Recognition**

### **Objectives:**

- ~ to recognize members of the Chamber for their membership and support of the community;
- ~ to recognize member's major anniversaries in the community;
- ~ to recognize new businesses in the service area for their choice of location and grow a prosperous business;
- ~ to recognize the importance of outstanding employees for successful members.

## **Sub-committees:**

### **Lindy Greeters**

**Chair: Mike Vacek, Bank of the West & Bremer Bank**

**Board Liaison: Jim Andres, RadioShack/Design Electronics**

Lindy Greeters visited 17 new businesses in the service area. Additionally, calls were made at 25 businesses with significant changes, and 56 member visits in 2006.

The Lindy Greeters held their annual "burnout" picnic at Rising Stars Therapeutic Equitation facility on Thursday, August 24 with 65 attendees. Besides the Lindy Greeter Committee and Board of Directors, representatives of Morrison County government, Little Falls City Council, and Little Falls Community Schools were invited. Thank you to Tom Scherling of Century 21/New Horizons Realty, Pine Country Bank and Greg Zylka, Coborn's Superstore for providing the picnic lunch.

Thank you to the *Morrison County Record* for publishing, free of charge, the Lindy Greeter visit photos to new businesses in the service area. This truly demonstrates the paper's commitment to supporting area growth and development.

## **The Employee of the Month Committee**

**Chair: Mark Gerbi, R.A. Randall Insurance Agency**

**Board Liaison: Susy Prosapio, Great River Arts Association**

The Employee of the Month program recognizes a Chamber member employee who has been nominated by a customer or employer. In 2006, the 12 Employees of the Month were:

January – Dorothy Smude, **Vision Cents Optical**

February – Arnold Klosowski, **Palmer Bus Company**

March - Sarah Kallis, **AmericInn**

April - Amy Symanietz, **Falls GM**

May – Rose Czeck, **Perkins Family Restaurant**

June – Paula Waltman, **US Bank**

July – Herman Johannes, **Parker’s Food Pride**

August – Ron Specker, **Little Falls Radio**

September – Corky Wochnick, **St. Otto’s Care Center**

October – Adam Boone, **Coborn’s Superstore**

November – Keith Schumann, **ServiceMaster of Little Falls**

December – Kim Hansen, **Morrison County Record**

The Employee of the Month is treated to lunch by the Chamber with members of the Employee of the Month Committee. In addition, the recipient is presented with a cut flower arrangement provided on a rotating basis from Coborn’s Floral, The Flower Dell or Falls Floral. Broadway Stylists provide a certificate for a hair cut and tanning session and Silker Studio provides the professional headshot that is displayed on the Employee of the Month board. The Morrison County Record supports the Employee of the Month program by running monthly articles and photos of each recipient along with a donation of their publication “Record Recipes”. The Employee of the Month is also presented with gift certificates to one of the following restaurants: China Dragon, Dairy Queen, Perkins Family Restaurant, Subway or Taco John’s. The Employee of Month recipients are invited to the Annual Meeting, along with a guest, to be recognized by the larger Chamber community.

## **Communications Division**

The goals of the Communications Division are:

~ to further enhance the various communication channels of the Chamber including the Chamber newsletter, the Chamber’s web page, ([www.littlefallsmnchamber.com](http://www.littlefallsmnchamber.com)), direct mail, FAX, and quarterly articles in the Morrison County Record;

~ to cultivate relationships within the community generally and specifically with members by increasing awareness of Chamber activities and the services and activities of its members.

In 2006, 6 issues of the Chamber newsletter were published.

Press releases were done on networking opportunities and Chamber-sponsored events such as legislative updates, candidate forums and Arts & Crafts Fair. Press releases are sent to the Brainerd Dispatch, St. Cloud Times, Morrison County Record plus Little Falls Radio.

The Chamber website, [www.littlefallsmnchamber.com](http://www.littlefallsmnchamber.com), provides members and the greater community with information on upcoming events and membership listings with links to each individual business website, where available.

The Chamber's Membership Directory was expanded to a full color, spiral bound publication that included member-to-member advertising opportunities and full color listing all Chamber members. Dual listings were provided to better serve the needs of our members with additional listing available for a nominal fee.

### **Community Partnerships Division**

#### **The goals of the Community Partnership Division are:**

- ~ to work in partnership with a variety of community entities (governmental, not-for-profit, and private) to address community issues and opportunities;
- ~ to provide support to Chamber members through advocacy and liaison with government/taxing entities (including city, county, townships, and school district) on a case by case basis as determined by the Board.

#### **Legislative Updates**

Pre-session was held on February 24 with 45 attendees included members of the *Pioneer Press*. Representative Greg Blaine and Senator Paul Koering addressed the concerns of the attendees that ranged from tax increment financing to education to Linden Hill legislation. The post-session debriefing was held on May 30 with 25 attending. Both sessions were recorded for rebroadcast on cable access channel 6.

#### **Candidate Forums**

The Chamber of Commerce took a leadership role in the community by providing candidate forums for the various open positions during this election year with the goal of having well-informed voter choices on November 7.

Forums were held for House of Representatives 12B, Little Falls City Council and Mayor, Little Falls School Board, Morrison County Commissioners and Senate District 12. Thank you to Tim Houle, Morrison County Administrator and Ted Pfohl, executive director of United Way of Morrison County for facilitating the forums. Forums were broadcast live over local cable access in Pierz and Little Falls. For the first time home viewers had the opportunity to call in questions during the program. Forums were rebroadcast in the weeks leading up to the election.

## **Business Insights 2006**

The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, Pine Country Bank, Little Falls Radio, Morrison County Record and the Little Falls Business Association collaborated to provide a free business seminar on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Initiative Foundation.

Business Insights 2006 presenters included Joel Newman, owner of Newman's Manufacturing of Royalton with his presentation on changing market places. R. Ann Hurtrods of Briggs & Morgan, Minneapolis, followed with her presentation on employment issues for small businesses. The final presenter of the day was Dave Mona, founder and owner of the public relations firm Weber Shandwick. Most people are more familiar with Dave's other job, Sports Huddle with Sid Hartman Sunday mornings on WCCO.

Lunch was provided by the Little Falls Business Association and the afternoon of golf at the Little Falls Country Club compliments of Pine Country Bank.

## **Quality of Life Partnerships**

Recreational trails development: The Chamber has a 5 year, \$10,000 commitment to the Morrison County Trails Initiative. This Initiative will expand the Soo Line Recreational Trail that will run through a portion of our service territory. Local residents as well as tourists from outside of the immediate area will have a new recreational option all year long. The addition of this recreational trail for walking and running will co-exist with bicycles and inline skaters for a portion of the year and be utilized by snow enthusiasts the balance of the year for studless snowmobiling.

## **Community Pride Division**

The goals of the Community Pride Division were:

- ~ to generate income to support the activities of the Chamber which are unable to generate income;
- ~ to fund a large community beautification project;
- ~ to make a donation to local not-for-profits;
- ~ to provide information, marketing, and promotion to area residents and potential visitors in order to increase the dollars spent in the community.

**Activity:** Downtown Business Improvement District, Heritage Preservation Commission, City of Lights, Halloween Trick or Treating, Santa House hours, Chamber Bucks, and Holiday Movie atinee.

In 2006 the Santa Parade Reception was held on November 24. Working collaboratively with the American Legion and the West Side Improvement Association who sponsor the Santa Parade, the Chamber provided cookies and hot chocolate on the Chamber lawn prior to the parade for the enjoyment of the crowd, which number about 110 this year.

The City of Lights was lit in conjunction with the Santa Parade. The Chamber proudly sponsors the City of Lights for the enjoyment of the community as well as the numerous visitors to Little Falls during the holiday season. The City of Lights not only outlines the downtown buildings with lights, but includes the historic streetlights and wreathes that the Chamber also funds. Volunteers from the Convention & Visitors Bureau assist with the maintenance of the City of Lights programming.

### **Arts & Crafts Fair Council**

**Chair: Mona Steinke**

**Board Liaisons: Paulette Pappenfus, Pap's Sports Shop & Mary Uhlhorn, Ambiance@53**

The Little Falls Arts & Crafts Fair continues to be a quality event which includes a cross section of handcrafted merchandise in a comfortable and safe setting for shoppers. It is how many people know Little Falls. The 34<sup>th</sup> annual Arts & Crafts Fair was held September 9 & 10 in the historic downtown area on both sides of the Mississippi River.

The Fair is a source of financial support to the community through significant contributions to the operations and projects of the Chamber. A portion of the proceeds from the Fair are reinvested in the community by the Chamber on items such as the historic streetlights, downtown redevelopment, maintenance and upkeep of the entry signs into Little Falls, in the sponsorship of the Leadership LindyLand, and through financial contributions to the Convention & Visitors Bureau, Community Development of Morrison County, the Initiative Foundation and the Morrison County Trails Initiative.

In 2006, the Arts & Crafts Fair welcomed 707 vendors plus an additional 48 food vendors. Attendance for this event is estimated at between 120,000 and 130,000 people. Locally, 39 nonprofit agencies earned money for their programs through the Fair by working the event for the Chamber, by sponsoring a food booth or staffing a parking lot.

In our second year of a county-lead recycling program, 3.35 tons of recycling or 20.6% of the total garbage generated was recycled. This is up from 11.8% in 2005.

Additional proceeds from the Arts & Crafts Fair are distributed in the community in the form of grants to nonprofit organizations. In 2006 those awarded Arts & Crafts Fair Grants were:

1. Children First Christian Preschool - \$630 to assist in the continuation of outreach to three care facilities for intergenerational programming.
2. Friends of Lindbergh Heritage - \$750 for physical improvements to Little Elk Nature Preserve.
3. Kinship of Morrison County - \$750 to partially fund its mentoring and activities programming.
4. Little Falls Senior Center - \$870 in general operating funds.
5. Oasis / Share-A-Meal - \$750 to purchase a new copier.
6. Pierz Senior Center - \$500 towards a new refrigerator.
7. Rising Stars Therapeutic Equitation, Inc. - \$750 in general operating funds.

## Development Services Division

The goal of the Development Services Division is:

~ to provide development services to assist in the areas of leadership and business.

### Leadership LindyLand

**Chair: Katie Harms, Space Options**

**Board Liaison: Tom Cotton, Spectrum Printing – Design – Apparel**

In its 6<sup>th</sup> year, the Leadership LindyLand: Dynamic Development of Community Leaders continues to provide a training ground for the next generation of community leaders.

Participants in 2005 - 2006 included:

Cindy Bachan, **Morrison County Social Services**

Jennifer Basch, **Franciscan Sisters**

Vicki Dahl, **Larson Abstract Company**

Marc Erickson, **Northway Oil**

Julie Javens, **Hands of Hope Resource Center**

Pat Kronbeck, **Coborn's Superstore**

Barb Lyons, **Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union**

Linda Mahlum, **St. Gabriel's Hospital Radiology Department**

Bonnie Paulsen, **Morrison County Public Health**

Tina Saehr, **Spectrum Printing - Design - Apparel**

Heidi Strong, **Bieganek Agency Inc.**

Program content for the Leadership LindyLand program is broken down into 10 days over the course of the year.

September 22 & 23, 2005

Retreat – Personal Leadership Development

October 12, 2005

Communication and Community Heritage

November 9, 2005

Government and the Role of Technology in Government, Media Education

December 14, 2005

Health and Human Services

January 11, 2006

Service and Veterans Organizations, Project Introduction

February 8, 2006

Business, Economics & Tours of Manufacturing Facilities, Personal Leadership Development

March 8, 2006

Business & Economics Cont'd. , Tourism & Camp Ripley, Personal Leadership Development

April 12, 2006

K-12 Education & its role within the community

May 10, 2006

Personal Leadership Development

June 14, 2006

Graduation

A Community Service project is incorporated into this leadership development training. The 2005-06 Leadership LindyLand class chose a project that is designed to assist families from the Interfaith Hospitality Network and Hands of Hope Resource Center transition into homes of their own by providing small care packages for each family. Care packages include towels, personal hygiene supplies, household cleaning products, gift cards and more. Their goal is to prepare 100 care packages, to be split between the two benefiting organizations. The care packages are meant to give families a little help as they move into their new homes.

Thank you to the businesses, service organizations and individuals that have supported the community service project with donations of product and/or cash:

**Vacuum Cleaner Outlet & Service**

**Center**

**Pike Creek Builders**

**Little Falls TaeKwonDo**

**Shelley Funeral Chapel**

**Lin Furniture**

**Leonard Gamradt**

**Chuck Stone**

**Bieganek Insurance Agency**

**GoldSmith Jewelers**

**China Dragon**

**Boart Longyear**

**St. Gabriel's Hospital Radiology**

**Department**

Little Falls Rotary Club

Carlyle and Kristine Olsen

Pierz Lions Club

**Space Options**

**Morrison County Record**

**Casey's General Store West**

**Atomic Learning**

**Cans-R-Us**

Lindbergh Lions Club

**Norwood State Farm Insurance**

**Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union**

**Minnesota Power**

Jean Schlichting

**Moll Ford**

**Northway Oil**

Sam's Club

Knights of Columbus

**Spectrum Printing – Design – Apparel**

**St. Gabriel's Hospital**

Kiwanis International

**Dr. Robert Miller**

**Falls Court Dental Clinic**

**Larson Abstract Company**

**Coborn's Superstore**

**First Avenue Dental Clinic**

Little Falls Dandee Lions Club.

**The Chamber works to encourage continued business growth in the area** through collaborative efforts with Community Development of Morrison County, Initiative Foundation, the City of Little Falls, Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau, Morrison County and others which is consistent with the purpose of the Chamber. Special emphasis is placed on technology access and use that assist local businesses to thrive in a global economy; developing employment opportunities for the under-employed residents of the area.

**Liaison activities:** Community Development of Morrison County; City of Little Falls; and the Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau

## Governance

**Chair: Lorna Lange, US Bank & Precision Tool Technologies**

**Vice Chair: Jim Andres, RadioShack/Design Electronics**

**Committee:** Executive Committee

### Annual Meeting

The 2006 Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 28 at the Falls Ballroom with 217 attendees. Past board members Michael Cramer, **Business Machines Plus!** and Eileen Sandberg, **Coborn's Superstore** were honored for their years of service to the Chamber. A power point version of the 2005 Annual Report was presented. Keynote speaker for the event was Gary Berg, of G.L. Berg Entertainment, with his inspirational message of remembering to laugh while on the journey through life.

#### Corporate sponsors for the 2006 Annual Meeting included:

Brandl Motors / Little Falls Dodge	Minnesota Power
Central MN Ethanol Co-op	St. Gabriel's Hospital
Coborn's Superstore	Schlenner Wenner & Co.
Franciscan Sisters	Spectrum Printing Design Apparel
Grand Casino	US Bank
Horizon Health, Inc.	West Side Discount Liquor
Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union	

#### Table sponsors for the 2006 Annual Meeting included:

Meyer Teleservices	Morrison County Record
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### **Major Accomplishments in 2006**

- ~ Sponsored the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Little Falls Arts & Crafts Fair with 713 merchandise vendors and 46 food vendors. Revenues for this event grossed \$222,315.
- ~ Collaboration with Pine Country Bank, Little Falls Radio, Morrison Country Record and the Little Falls Business Association to sponsor Business Insights 2006.
- ~ Creation of a new major networking event, Sporting Clays at Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation
- ~ New logo image and name change

## 2006 Financial Recap

With comparisons to 2005 & 2004

		<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
	Membership Dues	\$ 73,460	\$ 71,936	\$ 66,620
	Arts & Crafts Fair	221,430	246,040	243,595
	Donations	23,042	79,665*	11,426
	Ticket Sales	2,380	1,649	4,114
	Registrations	11,568	6,614	9,549
	Interest	13,639	5,086	1,651
	Other	1,313	681	710
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$346,832</b>	<b>\$411,671</b>	<b>\$337,665</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>				
	Communications	9,651	11,000	12,618
	Community Partnerships	18,740	18,539	20,176
	Membership Services	33,101	26,796	36,273
	Development Services	13,652	21,624	16,098
	Community Pride	108,570	104,291	140,862
	General Operations	110,647	101,002	123,539
	Other	8,403	14,140	2,488
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$302,764</b>	<b>\$297,392</b>	<b>\$352,054</b>
	Excess/Deficiency	\$47,708	114,259**	(15,389)
<b>Chamber Bucks</b>				
	Sold	41,255	18,715	70,600
	Redeemed	37,615	17,400	68,095

\*Includes \$51,940 in temporarily restricted and restricted Cass Gilbert Depot Society funds.

\*\* Includes \$51,940 in temporarily restricted and restricted Cass Gilbert Depot Society funds.

For more information or membership materials, please contact us at:

**Chamber of Commerce**  
**200 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street**  
**Little Falls, MN 56345**  
**[www.littlefallsmnchamber.com](http://www.littlefallsmnchamber.com)**  
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**Phone: 320.632.5155**  
**Fax: 320.632.2122**