



### **Vision continues to plan for the future**

The Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is holding its strategic planning session on October 28 to plan the future of the Chamber and its programs, including Vision 2011. After this planning is completed, the Vision 2011 Steering Committee will then use this information for planning of its own. At the November steering meeting, this group will take the time to evaluate past successes and activities and develop a plan to carry us into the future. We are excited about this opportunity! Committee chairs will be a part of this process, so anyone with additional suggestions or information to share, please let your committee chair know before November 5.

### **Business Connects with Government**

The next luncheon is scheduled for Monday, November 1, noon, at the Inn on Maritime Bay. Cost for lunch is \$10. RSVP your attendance to Karen at [kszyman@lakefield.net](mailto:kszyman@lakefield.net)

## *Committee Reports:*

### **Cooperation**

#### **Chair: Jane Birkholz**

- Nominations are currently being accepted for the Cooperation Recognition Award. Nomination forms are available online at the Chamber website ([www.manitowocchamber.com](http://www.manitowocchamber.com) or [www.tworiverschamber.com](http://www.tworiverschamber.com)). Nominations are due by November 15. Nominees are sent an application form, with applications due back by December 15.
- There are three award categories: Government/Government; Business/Government; and Special Activity/Event. The award will be presented at the Chamber's annual dinner in February. Special thanks to the award program sponsors: Aurora Medical Group; Holy Family Memorial; Lakeshore Technical College; and Leede Research.

*Next Meeting: Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:30am Chamber*

### **Attitude**

#### **Chair: John Zimmer**

- Members had a joint meeting with the Workforce Development and Cooperation committees to look at results from the recent youth survey and address related issues. A brainstorming session led to a focus on two main issues:
  - What are the priorities for retaining youth?
  - How can we attract youth from other communities to come here?
- Many strategies are being pursued to meet these goals, such as starting a young professionals group, inviting youth to workforce development meetings, starting a mentoring program as a follow up to the career expo; attracting youth to the area with an incentive program; and marketing the community more to young people.

*Next Meeting Thursday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am Chamber:*

## **Technology**

### **Chair: Jim Doncheck**

- Members are getting a handle on where the community is regarding broadband internet access. They feel there are a lot of issues surrounding this issue that still need to be addressed.
- The incubator concept is currently being pursued by the EDC, while the Technology Committee is in a support role right now. Members will continue to monitor progress and revisit the topic as necessary.

## **Legislative**

### **Chair: Bubba McDonald**

When this committee was formed, its members set four goals, and a recent review of their accomplishments reveal that they have met them all. The goals were:

1. To get communities talking county to county, city to city, and city to county.
2. Show the business community that the government was interested in what they had to say and open up lines of communication.
3. Get business to verbally talk about issues in front of legislative bodies and not complain behind the scenes.
4. Bring business in on issues at common council meetings to voice opinions.

Congratulations to Bubba and his group for their accomplishments!

## **Public Relations**

### **Chair: Laura Wiegert**

- The committee reinvigorated its branding process with a discussion on where they are to date and where they need to go. Members are currently researching other Chambers of similar size to look at their branding efforts. Results of the recent Chamber member survey were also reviewed. The next meeting will be used to review information from the Chamber's strategic planning session and develop a more comprehensive plan.

*Next Meeting: November 3, Chamber of Commerce, 7:30 AM*