

Directions

A NORTHERN KANE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PUBLICATION



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Message from the Executive Director

At the Chamber's annual awards dinner held in October at the Brunswick Zone XL in Algonquin, we celebrated the businesses and individuals who went above and beyond the call of duty throughout the year for both the Chamber and the community-at-large.

The Chamber presented several awards:

- **Rookie of the Year**, for someone who is new to the Chamber within the last year and actively participates and volunteers. The nominees were Daniel Palmer, James Jordan and Jason Nowitzki.
- **Volunteer of the Year**, for someone who has been with the Chamber for some time and, on a regular basis, volunteers on different committees and with different events. The nominees were Marty Gudmundson, Pat Dorgan and Sue Lanners.
- **Customer Service Award**, for the business that has outstanding customer service on a day-to-day basis, or showcased their service at a Chamber event they hosted. The nominees were Harris Bank, Brunswick Zone XL and Baird and Warner, The Hilda Jones Team.
- **Small Business of the Year**, for a business with less than 20 employees. Nominees were Cinema 12, Ferrum Technology and State Farm, Thom Jareczek.
- **Business of the Year**, for a business that excels in the community. The nominees were Elgin Community College, Grainger and Walmart.



Melissa Hernandez

Congratulations to the 2010 winners:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Rookie of the Year
Jason Nowitzki
Ameriprise Financial | • Customer Service Award
Harris Bank |
| • Volunteer of the Year (Tie)
Pat Dorgan, Pat Dorgan Photography;
Marty Gudmundson, Hexion Specialty
Chemicals and Sue Lanners | • Small Business of the Year
State Farm, Thom Jareczek's Office |
| | • Business of the Year
Elgin Community College |

Thank you to our committee members for organizing a fantastic event:
Chuck Kolner and Lauren Perrine, Co-Chairs, Carolyn Miller, Jason Nowitzki,
Pat Dorgan, Bill Reddy and Krisilee Murphy.

Additional Annual Dinner Sponsors Include:

RED CARPET SPONSOR

The Anvil Club

5-STAR SPONSOR

Pat Dorgan Photography

3-STAR SPONSOR

Tummy Rub Pet Services

BEST SUPPORTING BUSINESS SPONSORS

3 Vines Café and Wine Bar
Already Been Read Books
Ameriprise Financial Services, Jason Nowitzki
Bonnie Dundee Golf Club
Boy Scouts of America, Three Fires Council
Brunswick Zone XL
Business Power Connections
Classic Cinema / Cinema 12
Creative Promotional Apparel, Inc
Effert Financial
Elgin Community College
Exercise in Disguise
First American Bank
Gigi Hill Bags, Kay Morrisroe
Hexion Specialty Chemicals
Holiday Inn, Elgin
Impact Marketing and Public Relations
Law office of Janet Ellingson
Liberty Lanes
Mary Kay, Lorraine Dangier
Mary Kay, Susie Kopacz
Otto Engineering
Panache Interiors
Pluymert, Piercey, MacDonald & Amato, LTD
PmS advertising, inc.
Randall Oaks Golf Club
RDP Builders
RE/MAX Central West, Jeff Lipson
Reddy and Associates
Romantica
Silpada Design, Robin Braga
Spa Bleu
State Farm, Thom Jareczek's Office
T.G.Consultants Inc. – Professional I.T. Services
The Anvil Club
Trinity CPR, AED & First Aid Solutions
Tummy Rub Pet Services
West Wood Advisors
Whisper Creek Golf Course



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Board

Chair

Helen D. Shumate -
Dundee Township Park District

Past Chair

Chuck Kolner -
Already Been Read Books

Treasurer

William Geister - Valpak Chicagoland

Secretary

Jeff Lipson - RE/MAX Central West

Executive Director

Melissa Hernandez - Northern Kane
County Chamber of Commerce

Directors

Paula Amenta

Elgin Community College

Pat Gibbs

FASTSIGNS

Marty Gudmundson

Hexion Specialty Chemicals

Thom Jareczek

State Farm

Joe Middaugh

Midwest Home Inspections

Patricia Mierisch

Village of Gilberts

Janice Murphy

Village of Carpentersville

Suzanne Ness

Living Forward

Jason Nowitzki

Ameriprise Financial

Dan Poglajen

Walmart

Erik Williams

Integra Mortgage

Ex-Officio

Malcolm Morris

Stephen Pickett

Board Member Appreciation

Carolyn Miller, Harris Bank, and Chris Wendt, former owner of FASTSIGNS-Carpentersville, are retiring as members of the Chamber's board of directors.

We thank both Carolyn and Chris for all of their hard work and enthusiasm over the years. Whenever asked to pitch in and volunteer, they were always there. We will miss you, but wish you the very best.



Chair's Message



Helen Shumate

It's no secret, these are tough economic times filled with uncertainty and doubt. But at the Chamber, we believe that this is also a time of opportunity – a chance to stand out from the pack. Businesses who see the glass as half full will find a way to succeed. In fact, these are the times when new and creative ways of doing business are cultivated. As Plato stated, "necessity is the mother of invention," and now more than ever, it's necessary to devise new ways of doing business.

I'd like to suggest that now is the time to take full advantage of your Chamber membership. Our many programs and events will gain your business exposure, educate you, and provide countless networking opportunities – making you stand out from the pack. Watch for our monthly mailings or go online to our website, www.nkcchamber.com for more information on these events. We

welcome your participation in as many of these events as possible.

As most of you know, the Chamber relies on member support and volunteers to supplement the efforts of its staff. Over the past year, more and more of you have stepped forward and we want you to know that we are grateful for your unselfish volunteerism.

As Thanksgiving fast approaches, we remember and give thanks to the past Chamber leaders who have led us this far. Without their vision, hard work and determination, we couldn't possibly be the successful organization that we are today. However, great organizations are never satisfied that their work is done...so we look to 2011 with a renewed commitment to make next year even better than this year.

Helen D. Shumate, Chair
Northern Kane County Chamber
of Commerce

Member Profile

Since 1959 customers have been faithfully returning to the Jareczek family's **State Farm Insurance** office, even after **Frank Jareczek** retired last October and his son **Thom** took his place. A graduate of Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa with a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Journalism, Thom brings a different level of knowledge to the office. In the past, he worked for State Farm's Claims Department for 10 years.

This knowledge isn't standard for an insurance agent, but it helps Thom be able to give customers real life examples of how important insurance is, and show how dedicated he is to making sure his customers are protected. "I'm proud to take care of the people that have taken care of my family for so long," said Thom.

His goal for customers is to be comfortable



Thom Jareczek

and understand the insurance they bought. Thom said, "Our sales force is designed not as salesmen, but as educators." People are often confused by what kind of coverage they have, or don't know that it could be tailored to their personal needs. When the

business changed from father to son, almost all the customers remained. Thom credits the Jareczek family name still being on the door and their high level of customer service to how they have kept some of their customers for more than 40 years. Thom is proud to say they have never lost a customer due to poor customer service. Thom is currently the President Elect of the Carpentersville Rotary Club, which frequently works with the Boys and Girls Club of Dundee Township and the FISH Food Pantry.

Member Benefits

- Members-only kiosk at Springhill Mall promoting chamber members
- Members promoted through Facebook, Twitter, Linkin and Merchant Circle
- Business-educational General Membership Meetings, training, and seminars are giving our members great resources **for networking** and building their businesses.
- Our **Member Advantage Program** provides **member-to-member discounts** on goods and services at participating member businesses.
- Business After Hours events give members casual networking opportunities that lead to key business connections.
- Events like our annual Golf Outing and our Annual "Awards Dinner" provide you with fun ways to **build relationships** and **get you recognized**.
- Community **Business and Consumer Expo** to showcase your business.



Awards Banquet Scrapbook



Annual awards were presented by Helen Shumate, Board Chair, and Melissa Hernandez, Chamber Executive Director.

Rookie of The Year

Jason Nowitzki, Ameriprise Financial



Volunteer of the Year

Marty Gudmundson, Hexion Specialty Chemicals; Sue Lanners and Pat Dorgan, Pat Dorgan Photography



Customer Service Award

Harris Bank
Carolyn Miller, Joshua Feldman



Small Business of the Year

State Farm Insurance
Thom Jareczek, Beth Jareczek, Lillian Garcia



Business of the Year

Elgin Community College
Dr. David Sam, John Duffy

Village News

December 3 - 5 – Dickens in Dundee

Celebrate the start of the holiday season at this classic winter festival in West Dundee. Friday evening activities include tree lightings, caroling and living window displays in the downtown area. Saturday kicks off with a parade, followed by family activities, Christmas tree sales and much, much more. For a complete schedule of events, please visit www.dickensindundee.org.

December 3 – Gilberts Tree Lighting

The Village is hosting a tree lighting event on Friday, December 3rd at 5:00 p.m. in Town Center Square. There will be a visit from Santa, a sing along and light refreshments. For more information, please visit www.villageofgilberts.com.

Advanced Polymer Compounding ~ Carpentersville

American National Insurance Co. ~ West Dundee

Amy Home Services ~ Carpentersville

The Anvil Club ~ East Dundee

Awesome Creations, Inc. ~ Carpentersville

Business Matters ~ Elgin

Center for Chiropractic Medicine ~ West Dundee

Davey Tree Experts ~ East Dundee

Distinctive Dentistry of Dundee ~ West Dundee

Dundee Animal Hospital ~ East Dundee

Dundee Collision, Inc. ~ East Dundee

Exercise in Disguise ~ Gilberts

Fast-teks On-Site Computer Services ~ West Chicago

Grainger Industrial Supply ~ Elgin

Great Northern Kitchen & Bath ~ East Dundee

Gerald L. Heinz & Associates, Inc. ~ East Dundee

Insurance Correlators ~ Elgin

J.C. Penney Co. ~ West Dundee

James M. Kiss, LTD. P.C. ~ Carpentersville

Laird Funeral Home P.C. ~ West Dundee

Law Office of Janet W. Ellingson ~ Elgin

Liberty Lanes/Under New Ownership ~ Carpentersville

Martax Company ~ Carpentersville

Meyer Signs ~ West Dundee

Midwest Home Inspections ~ Lake in the Hills

RE/MAX Central West ~ West Dundee

Realty World Fox Valley, Inc. ~ East Dundee

Regina's Via Trent Uno ~ West Dundee

Savage Entertainment, Inc. ~ Carpentersville

Spa Bleu ~ West Dundee

State Farm Insurance ~ Carpentersville

State Farm-Chad Radtke ~ Huntley

Sun Power Consulting ~ Gilberts

Sunshine Travel ~ Elgin

Tighe, Kress & Orr, P.C. ~ Elgin

Valpak of Chicagoland ~ Elgin

PLATINUM MEMBERS



DreamCo Design



GOLD MEMBER



SILVER MEMBERS

Al Piemonte Chevrolet
East Dundee

Best Buy
West Dundee

Community Self Storage
Gilberts

Country Financial
West Dundee

1st Choice Physical Therapy
Sleepy Hollow

In Home Services, Inc
West Dundee

**Joe's American
Kitchen & Tavern**
Carpentersville

MISSION STATEMENT

The Northern Kane County Chamber is an advocate for business interests and development by identifying and fulfilling the needs of the business community through leadership, education, support and promotion.



Northern Kane County

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2429 Randall Road, Suite B
Carpentersville, IL 60110

www.nkcchamber.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Save the date!

**Women in Business
Annual Holiday Luncheon
The Anvil Club
Friday, December 3, 2010**

Promote Your Business

**Deadline for items and raffle prizes:
Monday November 29, 2010**

It's that time of the year again! The holidays bring two special events to give you cheer and opportunities to promote your business. It's absolutely free!

Dickens In Dundee Parade - The Chamber is once again participating in the parade on Saturday, December 4. As with our tradition, we will be distributing "goodie bags" to people along the parade route. If you'd like to reach the crowd with information on your business, please bring 250 brochures, coupons, or giveaway items to the Chamber office by Monday, November 29, 2010.

Women in Business Holiday Luncheon -

Besides the great networking, food, and fun, our annual holiday luncheon on Friday, December 3 serves a great purpose of raising scholarship funds for area students. The mission is accomplished by all of the great raffle prizes donated by our members. The excitement builds throughout the luncheon to see who will win. It has been known that some particular members are really, really lucky every year!

Please donate a raffle prize for this year's luncheon. Bring your raffle prize to the Chamber office, or give us a call to arrange pick up, no later than Monday, November 29, 2010.



Web site updates

Our job posting link is up and running, another great benefit to Chamber members. If you would like to post a job for your business, please e-mail the information to the Chamber office at nkcchamber.com. The job will be posted for two weeks and there is no cost for this benefit.



Copywriting/Editing
PR/Media Relations
Press Releases
Custom Newsletters
Graphic Design
Photography

Patricia M. Szpekowski, APR
President

847 426 6900
fax 847 426 6988

2429 Randall Road, Ste. A
Carpentersville, Illinois 60110

email pmsadv@sbcglobal.net
www.pmsadv.com

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