

Hudson Area Chamber

MEMBER CELEBRATION

January 23, 2025



Photos & Social 5:00 p.m.

Dinner 5:45 p.m.

Presentation & Awards 6:30 p.m.

Program Introductions Mary Claire Olson Potter
President

Chamber in 2024 Linda La Kosky Eng
2024 Chair of the Board

Looking Ahead in 2025 Deb Pittman
2025 Chair

Chamber Member
of the Year..... Presented by Linda La Kosky Eng

Small Business of the Year..... Presented by Angel Duratti

Large Business of the Year..... Presented by Pamela Klingfus

Manufacturer of the Year Presented by Jacob Skramstad

Community Volunteer
of the Year.....Presented by Mark Gherty

Marie Blakeman Award.....Presented by John H. Potter

Closing RemarksMary Claire Olson Potter

Presented By:



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THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OVER SEVEN DECADES OF PARTNERSHIP!

Looking back on this past year, our businesses have continued to come together to overcome hurdles. We are proud of our efforts to enhance our community's awareness of businesses throughout the Hudson area through our social media and Chamber Check promotions, continued growth of the foundation, and support of local initiatives. The Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau is dedicated to supporting your business's success and helping you thrive in our community.

In addition, the Chamber worked diligently to provide more value for your membership by implementing the 2024 Plan of Action set by the Chamber Board of Directors as detailed below.

Our mission is to provide value to and serve our members, promote a strong local economy, advocate for the interests of the business community, champion sustainability, and showcase the recreational, cultural, and hospitality opportunities that make the Hudson area a premier destination for residents and visitors alike.



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MEMBERSHIP VALUE

Goal: Recruit 55 new members and maintain a membership retention rate of 90% and continue to provide value to the membership.

Accomplishments

- Welcomed 67 new members and achieved a 90% retention rate, resulting in a 2024 year-end membership of 482.
- Held monthly *Connections & Coffee* meetings, with a featured member presentation, with an average of 25 - 30 individuals in attendance.

Accomplishments (Continued)

- Launched new networking opportunity, *Let's Do Lunch!*, with an average of 20 - 25 individuals in attendance.
- Committee planned and executed the fourth Annual *Hudson Chamber MAX* event for prospective and current members to network and learn more about what the Chamber has to offer, which resulted in five new members. Presented legacy window clings for members 10+ and 25+ years.
- Continued with our information delivery on a bi-monthly basis through a newsletter PDF and a secondary Chamber Check-In e-news to keep members up to date on the latest Chamber and community happenings.
- Encouraged keeping dollars local through our Chamber Check program, which has resulted in \$35,160 back to the community this past year.
- Further support for keeping dollars local came from the continued use of our Support Local monument sign.
- March Lucky Clover event was held with 48 participants.
- The Non-Profit Roundtable held four meetings.
- Recognized 12 deserving members who exemplified passion, knowledge, and interest in the success of the Hudson Chamber and community through our *Brand Champion* program.
- Welcomed 45 new members to the Chamber through ribbon cuttings.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES CONNECTIONS

Goal: Develop and coordinate events, products, and services that positively impact member successes and meet budget goals.

Accomplishments

- Held the Hudson Area Chamber Member Celebration celebrating 71 years of the Chamber with 245 attendees.
- Held a variety of *Good Morning Hudson* programs and seminars regarding International Women's Day, Local Leaders, Mike Max, Welcome New Teachers, and Space St. Croix - Christopher Mick.
- The *21st Annual Hudson Community Expo*, hosted in May, brought in over 1,600 attendees.

Accomplishments (Continued)

- In partnership with the Phipps Center for the Arts, presented the 16th annual *Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival* featuring 80 artists, live entertainment, and food that drew 8,000 attendees.
- *Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes* celebrated its 38-year anniversary, which welcomed 1,600 attendees.
- Held four *Simply Connect* events at a variety of locations, including the Hudson Hockey Arena, Milwaukee Burger Company, Post - American Eatery, Belle Âme Vineyard, and Ziggy's Live Music, Bar & Restaurant.
- Over 172 guests and members participated in the *27th Annual Chamber Golf Outing* at St. Croix National Golf & Event Center.
- Kicked off the 2024 - 2025 Leadership Hudson program with 21 participants.
- Continued partnership with The Rotary Clubs of Hudson to combine the *Hilltop Pumpkin Party & Rotary Halloween Parade and Costume Contest* at Camp St. Croix Day Croix.
- Offered two seminars: Digital Marketing and Social Media Videography

WORKFORCE DEVELOPEMENT RECRUITMENT & ENGAGEMENT

Goal: Develop partnerships with organizations, agencies, and educational systems to help employers attract and retain the skilled workers they need to compete.



Accomplishments

- Held a Manufacturers Day at Hudson High School with manufacturers and higher education partners to promote job and career opportunities.
- Worked with the City of Hudson to have a Manufacturers Month proclamation.
- Manufacturing Roundtable toured Hunt Electric/Baer Manufacturing and Lucky Guys Distillery.
- Held the fourth annual Chamber Foundation event in October in partnership with the September *Simply Connect* with 34 attendees. Presented a \$5,000 check to the Hudson High School, allowing them to continue to expand educational offerings in their tech ed and culinary areas.

Accomplishments (Continued)

- Hosted the first Hudson Job Fair in partnership with the Hudson School district with 60 total participants.
- Chamber Foundation gave funds to support the St. Croix County Economic Development Corporation Housing Study with results out in early 2025.

TOURISM PROMOTION

Goal: Increase the economic benefits of tourism to the community by marketing Hudson to both local and tourism audiences as a community to explore, visit, and support.



Accomplishments

- Increased social media presence to promote Hudson regionally.
- Ad placements in Minnesota Monthly, Travel Wisconsin Co-Op Marketing, Midwest Living, Mpls St. Paul, St. Croix Valley, Lavender, and Pioneer Press publications.
- Updated Sip & Shop Guide and Pad Map.
- Billboard ad and wrapped bus showcased in Madison and Milwaukee.
- Worked with local organizations to promote *Hudson Hot Air Affair*, *Booster Days*, *Hometown Music Festival*, *RiverFest*, *North Hudson Pepper Fest*, and *Yellowstone Trail* events.
- Held the sixth Annual *Buena Vista: A Stroll in the Park* with over 50,000 lights in Lakefront Park and a 20-ft tree in the band shell.
- Have a Hudson Holiday presented *Light Up Hudson*, *Candlelight Stroll*, *Santa & His Critters*, and *Visit with Santa*.
- The Wild & Scenic Campaign created by Christiansen Creative to promote Hudson and the St. Croix River won both a Gold MarCom award and a Silver Davey award in the campaign category.
- Worked with organizers that brought in hundreds of international and national visitors for the 2024 World FITASC Championship Clay Sporting event, Bass Tournament sponsored by Striker Brands, and other sporting events.
- Continued to update and enhance the website with phase two changes.
- Sent out 294 visitor packets.
- Sent out 2,240 tourism lead packets.

These achievements would not have been possible without the continued support of our membership. Thank you for your time and investment in the Hudson Chamber. We look forward to our continued work together in 2025.

Thank you to the following volunteers who have served on the board and committees this past year. We appreciate your involvement and commitment to the Chamber.



Chamber Board of Directors

Chair: Linda La Kosky Eng,
Minuteman Press – Hudson

Past Chair: Leanne Van Allen,
University of Wisconsin–River Falls

Chair Elect: Deb Pittman,
Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton

Treasurer: Maria Machtemes,
Citizens State Bank

Angel Duratti, Angel's Pet World

Mark Hein, Hudson Grocery
Cooperative & Integrity Cleaners, LLC

Pamela Klingfus, Christian Community
Homes and Services, Inc.

Chris Kost, YMCA in Hudson

David Ritter,
Discover Financial Centers, Inc.

Amy Salama, Post – American Eatery

Jacob Skramstad, Cardinal Glass

Kevin Urbik,
Heywood, Cari & Anderson, S.C.

Jennifer Vieth, Carpenter
St. Croix Valley Nature Center

Blake Willman,
Willman Works

Ambassador Committee

Chair: Amy Hauser,
Leitch-McSorley Insurance Agency

Joette Barr, First State Bank and Trust

Randi Beltz-Maroney,
Bee Healthy Chiropractic

Allison Butler,
Edward Jones - Allison Butler

Christine Carufel,
First State Bank and Trust

Tiffany Dux, Blooms for Happiness

Heath Ehrnreiter, Cardinal Health

Nathan Feiner, Hudson Physicians, S.C.

Peter Goodwin, Coldwell Banker Realty –
Goodwin & Moore Team

Miranda Green, Citizens State Bank

Marilee Hakari, Christiansen Creative

David Hauser, Royal Credit Union

Alex Helmer, SF Insurance Group

Kris Jensen, Kris Jensen -
Keller Williams Premier Realty

Chris Knott,
O'Rourke Media Group (Star-Observer)

Linda La Kosky Eng,
Minuteman Press - Hudson

Ambassador Committee (Continued)

Joel Larsen, MidWestOne Bank

Maria Machtemes, Citizens State Bank

Jean Moore, Coldwell Banker Realty –
Goodwin & Moore Team

Bjorn Nesvold, Beacon Pointe

Lizzie Nygaard, Citizens State Bank

Brad Palmersheim,
Lifetime Wealth Advisors

Miranda Roginski, Salon Rosé

Maria Schmitt, WESTconsin Credit Union

Bobbi Stanley, Associated Bank

Leanne Van Allen,
University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Lisa Woletz, Christian Community
Homes and Services, Inc.

Luke Wolf, FNC Bank

Community Affairs Committee

Chair: Chris Kost, YMCA in Hudson

Nichole Frazer, Black Rooster Bistro

Pastor Kendra Grams,
First Presbyterian Church

Neil Kline,
Family Friendly Workplaces, Inc.

Pamela Klingfus, Christian Community
Homes and Services, Inc.

Bill Krueger, Croix Gear

Melissa Meschke, St. Croix Economic
Development Corporation

David Ritter,
Discovery Financial Centers, Inc.

Connections & Coffee

Chair: Tava Ellingson,
Citizens State Bank

Drive for 5 Committee

Chair: Angel Duratti,
Angel's Pet World

Chris Kost, YMCA in Hudson

Maria Machtemes, Citizens State Bank

Events & Programs Committee

Chair: Leanne Van Allen,
University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Angel Duratti, Angel's Pet World

Peter Goodwin, Coldwell Banker Realty –
Goodwin & Moore Team

Mark Hein, Hudson Grocery Cooperative &
Integrity Cleaners, LLC

Pamela Klingfus, Christian Community
Homes and Services, Inc.

Chris Kost, YMCA in Hudson

Melissa Kraemer,
WESTconsin Credit Union

Katie Kranz, First State Bank and Trust

Linda La Kosky Eng,
Minuteman Press - Hudson

Jessica Pressley,
Ember and Bean Roasting Co

Amy Salama, Post – American Eatery

Nicholas J. Vivian, Eckberg Lammers, P.C.

Blake Willman,
Willman Works

Foundation Board

Chair: Kathy Ableidinger, Cardinal Health

Chair: Amy Bast, akb marketing llc,
September 2024

Christine Carufel,
First State Bank and Trust

Katie Kranz, First State Bank and Trust

Maria Machtemes, Citizens State Bank

Ben Olson, First State Bank and Trust

John Steenis, AAMS, CRPC,
Edward Jones - Financial Advisor -
John Steenis, AAMS, CRPC

Golf Committee

Chair: Maria Schmitt,
WESTconsin Credit Union

Karrie Abbott, Hiawatha National Bank
Joette Barr, First State Bank and Trust

Paul Berning, Growth Management
Solutions, LLC

Angie Brown, ABG Holdings, LLC

Allison Butler,
Edward Jones - Allison Butler

Christopher Ferguson,
Bywater Business Solutions LLC

Peter Goodwin, Coldwell Banker Realty -
Goodwin & Moore Team

Linda La Kosky Eng,
Minuteman Press - Hudson

Maria Machtemes, Citizens State Bank

Blake Willman,
Willman Works

Have a Hudson Holiday Committee

Marianne Buckman, Cocobello Interiors

Angel Duratti, Angel's Pet World

Richelle Jader

Teri Larsen, BackRoom Vintage

Deanna Lindahl, SavATree

Carol Marnell,
Hudson Home and Garden Club

Shaela McLaughlin, Rose & Lavender

Lacey Nolan,
Beloved Makers and Company

Heidi Nordquist, Rose & Lavender

Amy Salama, Post - American Eatery

Kay Timm, Grand Fête

Andrea Uebel,
Droplets of Wellness, LLC

Hilltop Pumpkin Party Committee

Chair: Chris Kost, YMCA in Hudson

Brooke Brokaw-Petska,
Market & Johnson

Angel Duratti, Angel's Pet World

Tiffany Dux, Blooms for Happiness

Tava Ellingson, Citizens State Bank

Dr. Amy Hamlin,
Bee Healthy Chiropractic

Amanda Jo Hein, Peppermint Theory

Erica Johnson, Angel's Pet World

Linda La Kosky Eng,
Minuteman Press - Hudson

Tara Nance, Associated Eye Care

Deb Pittman,
Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton

Hudson Area Chamber Member Celebration Committee

Chair: Linda La Kosky Eng,
Minuteman Press - Hudson

Kathy Ableidinger, Cardinal Health

Angel Duratti, Angel's Pet World

Mark Gherty, St. Croix Bike
and Pedestrian Trails Coalition

Melissa Kraemer,
WESTconsin Credit Union

Katie Kranz, First State Bank and Trust

Mark McNamee,
McNamee Real Estate Team

Deb Pittman,
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Leanne Van Allen, University of
Wisconsin-River Falls

Brian Zeller,
Telus Property Services + Solutions

Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes Committee

Laura Butler

Genie Castro,
Cream of the Crop Artists Gallery

Nikki Corley

Teri Larsen, T Larsen Design LLC

Audrey Martin, Audrey Martin Art

Kathy Miller

Kelli Mutschler

Jillian Newes, Jono Properties LLC

Kate Pechacek

Cecely Spohn

Hudson Community Expo Committee

Chair: Mark Hein, Hudson Grocery
Cooperative & Integrity Cleaners, LLC

Barb Beachey,
Hudson Home and Garden Club

Shelly DeStasio,
Christian Community Homes
and Services, Inc.

Angel Duratti,
Angel's Pet World

Tiffany Dux,
Blooms for Happiness

Tava Ellingson,
Citizens State Bank

Elizabeth Ganz, Hudson School District

Linda La Kosky Eng,
Minuteman Press - Hudson

Debi Mager, Hudson Hospital & Clinic

Deb Pittman,
Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton

Andrea Uebel,
Droplets of Wellness, LLC

Blake Willman,
Willman Works

Leadership Hudson Steering Committee

Chair: Melissa Kraemer,
WESTconsin Credit Union

Sandra Araujo, Royal Credit Union

Joette Barr, First State Bank and Trust

Heidi Cornelius, Royal Credit Union

Tava Ellingson, Citizens State Bank

Peter Goodwin, Coldwell Banker Realty -
Goodwin & Moore Team

Pamela Klingfus, Christian Community
Homes and Services, Inc.

Sheri Marnell,
University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Jill McNamee, McNamee Real Estate
Team - RealtyOne Group Simplified

Rachel Renner, SEASONS Gallery

Maria Schmitt,
WESTconsin Credit Union

Kristopher Shelton, Xcel Energy

Leanne Van Allen,
University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Manufacturers Roundtable

Co-Chairs: Phil Russo & Jacob Skramstad,
Cardinal Glass

Kathy Ableidinger, Cardinal Health

Megan Boldig, Xcel Energy

Brooke Brokaw-Petska, Market & Johnson

Jeff Burke, SMC LTD

Cheri Coltrain,
Phillips Medisize, a Molex Company

Keith Colvard, Baer Manufacturing

Ron Daulton,
GEA Systems North America LLC

Jeff Dietz, MPSC, Inc.

Madaline Drewiske,
GEA Systems North America LLC

Manufacturers Roundtable (Continued)

John Hepokoski, Viking Electronics, Inc.
Andrew Jennings,
Phillips Medisize, a Molex Company
Ruthie Johnston, Croix Gear
Matt Koenig, Baer Manufacturing
Jon Kreidler, Tattersall Distilling
Bill Krueger, Croix Gear
Melissa Meschke, St. Croix Economic
Development Corporation
Caleb Olson, Cardinal Health
Christy Penfield, SMC LTD
April Robelia, Nolato Contour
Russell Steele, Nolato Contour
Aaron Sundeen, Derrick Companies
Justin Terbeest,
Hop & Barrel Brewing Company, LLC
Guy Whitehead, Lucky Guys Distillery

Non-Profit Roundtable

Chair: Tim Puffer, Operation HELP

John R. Andrews, Northern Star
Council, Boy Scouts of America
Judy Freund, Tropical Wings
Pamela Klingfus, Christian Community
Homes and Services, Inc.
Kris Knott,
Hudson Area Backpack Program
Chris Kost, YMCA in Hudson
Ashley Kurtz, Coco's Heart Dog Rescue
Slater Lampman, Christian Food
Cupboard of Hudson, Inc.
Cindy Leonard, The Sharing Tree
Chris Libbey, Friends of the St. Croix
County Fairgrounds
Buck Malick, Sustain Hudson-RiverFest
Steve McCarthy, United Way St. Croix
and Red Cedar Valleys

Kathy Metcalf,
Adoray Home Health & Hospice
Evy Nerbonne,
Hudson Hot Air Affair, Inc.
Amy Schneider, St. Croix Therapy
Heidi Tansom,
The Phipps Center for the Arts
Rita Thofern, Friends of Willow River
and Kinnickinnic State Parks, Inc.
Wendy Tremblay,
Wild Rivers Conservancy
Leanne Van Allen, Willow River Cemetery
Jennifer Vieth, Carpenter
St. Croix Valley Nature Center
Sara Weiske, United Way St. Croix and
Red Cedar Valleys
Lisa Woletz, Christian Community
Homes and Services, Inc.
Maggie Wooley, Christian Food
Cupboard of Hudson, Inc.

Retail & Restaurant Committee

Chair: Rachel Renner, SEASONS Gallery
Val Aune, The Bees Knees
Ted Blank,
Ted Blank Luxury Travel & Adventure
Cory Bonte,
Bennett's Chop & Railhouse - Hudson
Carla Boris, Mainstream Boutique
Genie Castro,
Cream of the Crop Artists Gallery
Angel Duratti, Angel's Pet World
Tiffany Dux, Blooms for Happiness
Matt Enright, County Market
Shelli Erck, Hudson Flower Shop
Nichole Frazer, Black Rooster Bistro
Ethan Hayes,
Knoke's Chocolates & Nuts
Kristen Iburg-Meyer, The Jewelers Bench

Retail & Restaurant Committee (Continued)

Gillette Kempf, Chapter2 Books
Linda La Kosky Eng,
Minuteman Press - Hudson
Teri Larsen, BackRoom Vintage
Kelly Lavers, et cetera
Megan Lindner,
Thorcraft Custom Kitchens LLC
Angel MacMenamin, SEASONS Gallery
Shaela McLaughlin, Rose & Lavender
Anne Micaela,
St. Croix Baking Company
Evy Nerbonne,
Hudson Hot Air Affair, Inc.
Tanya Noir, 4 North Beauty Collective
Lacey Nolan,
Beloved Makers and Company
Heidi Nordquist, Rose & Lavender
Donna Olson, kudos
Krystal Pelant, La Rue Marché
Jesse Penmnan, ProteinHouse
Jessica Pressley,
Ember and Bean Roasting Co
Amy Salama, Post - American Eatery
Bree Schieck, Barker's Bar & Grill
Julie Stanley, et cetera
Rick Swanson, Dunn Brothers Coffee
Heidi Tansom,
The Phipps Center for the Arts
Kay Timm, Grand Fête
Chad & Carol Trainor,
Urban Olive & Vine
Andrea Uebel,
Droplets of Wellness, LLC
Kendra Wiesemeyer,
The 715 & ABOUT HOUSE

Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival Committee

Angel Duratti, Angel's Pet World
Peter Goodwin, Coldwell Banker Realty
- Goodwin & Moore Team
Andrew Jennings,
Phillips Medisize, a Molex Company
Linda La Kosky Eng,
Minuteman Press - Hudson
Audrey Martin, Audrey Martin Art
Lee Ann Pomplas,
The Phipps Center for the Arts
Jessica Pressley,
Ember and Bean Roasting Co
Rachel Renner, SEASONS Gallery
Ben Thietje,
The Phipps Center for the Arts

Tourism Committee

Chair: Mark Gherty, St. Croix Bike
and Pedestrian Trails Coalition
Genie Castro, Cream of the Crop
Artists Gallery
Peter Goodwin, Coldwell Banker Realty
- Goodwin & Moore Team
Dan Jarvis, Afton House Inn /
St. Croix River Cruises
Gillette Kempf, Chapter2 Books
Buck Malick, Sustain Hudson-RiverFest
Rosemary Mansfield, St. Croix Valley
Regional Tourism Alliance (SCVRTA)
Evy Nerbonne,
Hudson Hot Air Affair, Inc.
Julie Peterson, St. Croix County -
Community Development Department
Deb Pittman,
Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton
Ron Theis, Holiday Inn Express & Suites
Ben Thietje,
The Phipps Center for the Arts

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Hudson Grocery Cooperative

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McNamee Real Estate Team –
RealtyOne Group Simplified

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