

CHAMBER NOTES



Oconto Falls
Area Chamber
of Commerce

ANNUAL HOLIDAY GATHERING



Each year the Oconto and Oconto Falls Chambers of Commerce come together to celebrate the holidays with all of their business members. This year it is being hosted by the Oconto Area Chamber and will be an amazing extravaganza!

"An Evening in Vegas" will be held Saturday, January 16th at the Oconto Golf Club, 532 Jefferson St., Oconto. The Oconto Chamber is partnering with Oconto Travel to offer an awesome grand prize...A trip for 2 to Las Vegas! There will also be an evening of live entertainment, provided by the band Renegade, which will follow dinner. The meal will be a "Vegas-style" all you can eat buffet of prime rib and broasted chicken, provided by Brothers 3.



The event will also benefit Oconto's own food pantry

"Bread by the Bay". We will be taking cash donations and accepting canned goods at the door, to help restock their shelves after the busy holiday season.



Each guest will receive goodie bag with coupons, small gift certificates or give-a-ways provided by interested members from BOTH chambers. These items can be dropped off at Flowers at 1042 Main Street in Downtown Oconto or either Chamber office. With approximately 80-100 guests expected, this is a great way to get your name out to your business customers and fellow chamber members. During these economic times we will rely on networking and the support of our business organizations more than ever.

Watch for your invitation in the mail!



Volume 2, Issue 12
December 2009

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Office hours: Behind the municipal building at
Monday-Thursday 8a-7p 649 E Jackson, Oconto Falls
Friday 8a-3p

President's Message

Dear Chamber Member:

Since this is my last newsletter message for my term, I thought I would take the time to give a big welcome to Ken O'Dierno, the new Chamber President and reiterate the Chamber's goals for 2010 and why being a part of the Chamber is so important.

Goals for 2010

Retain members and add benefits for current members including group advertising, website promotions, business to business discounts and coordination of events

Grow membership through attaining non-profit status and securing grant and donation funding. Put mechanisms in place to more effectively utilize the marketing/membership consultant in soliciting new member businesses

Format the chamber structure to ensure that meetings add value and are timely for members while enticing non-members to consider the benefits of joining the organization

Increase efforts to make people within and outside of the organization aware of the services and opportunities provided by the Chamber through the web, print media, realtors and other communication tools.

All the while that efforts will be made in these areas in 2010, members will still retain the benefits of Chamber membership that have been strong over

Calendar of Events

December

<u>6</u>	ST. NICHOLAS DAY
<u>7</u>	COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION Love Lights Tree Lighting Ceremony Community Memorial Hospital
5:30 pm	
<u>12-19</u>	HANUKKAH
<u>24</u>	CHRISTMAS EVE
<u>25</u>	CHRISTMAS DAY
<u>26-Jan 1</u>	KWANZAA
<u>31</u>	NEW YEAR'S EVE

January

<u>1</u>	NEW YEAR'S DAY
<u>16</u>	JOINT OCONTO FALLS/OCONTO HOLIDAY CHAMBER DINNER Oconto Golf Club Las Vegas Night of Fun & Entertainment **Grand Prize** Trip for 2 to Las Vegas RSVP'S BY JANUARY 6, 2010 WILL BE REQUIRED

the last few years including:

The Chamber newsletter with advertising, educational and community information, training opportunities, etc.

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President's Message continued from page 3

Networking with area businesses for services and suppliers

Website connections around the globe with proprietary domain name for the area

Opportunities to be involved with Chamber activities to raise funds to help local organizations serve the needs of the community

Resource bases such as insurance companies, educational facilities, health care facilities, power companies, and local government to contact as needed with questions in those areas

In closing, I just want to say thanks again for your support over the last two years. I look forward to continuing our work to help us be successful in 2010.

Happy Holidays!
April Konitzer
Chamber President

Annual Business Meeting Highlights November 19, 2009

STRATEGIC PLAN

An overview of the information gathered from the member survey and the strategic planning meeting were discussed. The focal points of non-profit status, member benefits, new revenue options and meeting options will be addressed in 2010.

2010 BUDGET

Total anticipated income for 2010 is \$26,700.00. Total expenses for 2010 are also \$26,700.00. An increase in hours for contracted services is planned with the anticipated results of an increase in membership and more hours spent in the service of members. Website design services

will be offered to other providers. The Chamber is on its way to becoming a non-profit corporation. We can then accept donations, apply for grants, etc. The 2010 Budget passed with a unanimous vote.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Most of the current officers are willing to continue in their positions for one more year.

President April Konitzer (right), however, will no longer be able to continue her service.



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2009 Oconto Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Officers

<p>President: April Konitzer 920-848-6982 or 866-639-6982 april.konitzer@nwtc.edu</p>	<p>Vice President: Dick Cromell 920-897-2104 rcromell@peshtigobank.com</p>	<p>Treasurer: Debbie Arndt 920-846-3444 ext. 1436 respite@bayland.net</p>	<p>Secretary: Lisa Christensen 920-846-4508 lchristensen@wppienergy.org</p>
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Annual Business Meeting from page 4



Ken O'Dierno (left) was recommended by the nominating committee to serve as President for 2010. Unanimous vote confirmed all their service.

JANUARY SOCIAL

Oconto Falls & Oconto Area Chambers of Commerce will hold their annual Holiday gathering Saturday, January 16, 2010 at the Oconto Golf Club. This year's theme will be Casino Night. Reservations are required. The Chamber will be sending out invitations to all members of both Chambers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 4-H OCONTO COUNTY ROBOTIC PRESENTATION



Oconto County 4-H has a new team with futuristic goals. A robotics team is constructing robots capable of picking up objects and depositing them over a barrier. The group will compete in a multi-state, regional event. They need donations of both money and materials to accomplish their goals.



Cindy Culver and Kent Lyng (below) are helping the kids in their quest. If you are interested in finding out more about the 4-H robotics project and their donation needs, please call Cindy at 846-8151. If the team is successful at the regional competition, they will advance to a national challenge.



About this Newsletter

O.F. Chamber Notes is a monthly publication by the Oconto Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. The intent is to keep Chamber members informed about issues of interest and promote Chamber meetings and activities. To the extent possible, the newsletter will be sent out in electronic format, but paper versions will also be sent out to those members who cannot access it electronically. If you currently receive a paper version and would like to get it in electronic format or know of someone who is a Chamber member and is not getting the newsletter please contact Michele Ripley at 920-604-1008 or OFChamber@centurytel.net.

For other information on the newsletter or to submit items of interest, contact the editor, Michele Ripley at 920-604-1008 or OFChamber@centurytel.net.

Oconto Falls Library

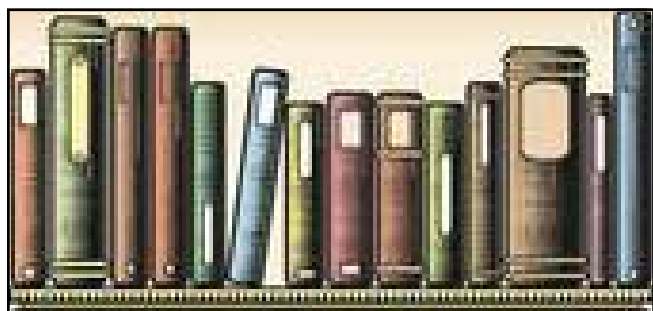
Needs Your Help

Dear Chamber Of Commerce Member:

The Friends Of The Oconto Falls Community Library are planning a raffle for February 27th, 2010, and would appreciate donations of prizes from area businesses. During these difficult economic times, the demand for library services continues to rise. Assistance is needed to provide items and materials which are beyond the budget.

The Library is funded by tax dollars, and is required to submit a yearly line-item budget. For example, the book budget for 2009 is \$14,000, which doesn't go far when purchases need to be distributed among adult non-fiction and reference, adult fiction in regular and large print, books for children of all ages and young adults. In addition, there are many other needs that would go unmet if not for the efforts of the Friends.

Since the inception of the Friends organization in 2001, the Friends have replaced outdated computers, purchased printer/scanner/display cube/disk repair machine, materials for craft activities for story hour and prizes for the summer reading program, small scholarships for



graduating seniors based on their library usage, contributions toward staff development/convention attendance, recorder with software, professional publications, die-cut machine, large-print books, books, music cds, copy machine, etc.

If you would care to make a contribution, please respond by January 11, 2010 to Donna Bubolz at 920-604-3396, speak to Joan Denis at the library, or mail to: Friends: C/O Donna Bubolz, Oconto Falls Community Library, 251 N. Main St., Oconto Falls, WI 54154

Thank you for your help in providing better library service.

Sincerely,
 Amy Dessart, President
 Jennifer Bahrke, Vice- President
 Donna Bubolz, Treasurer
 Jeanne Waschbisch, Secretary

2010 CENSUS - BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU SAFETY TIPS

Over the next 18 months, 1.4 million U.S. Census workers will be surveying the population of the country to gather demographic information about everyone living here. As the 2010 census process begins, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Serving Mississippi advises citizens to cooperate carefully in order to avoid becoming a victim of census-related scams.

Citizens are required by law to respond to the U.S. Census Bureau's requests for information. Census data will be used in allocation of more than \$300 billion in federal funds as well as in determining the number of Congressional representatives that each state is allowed.

"Most people are understandably cautious about giving out personal information to unsolicited phone callers or visitors, but the Census is an exception to the rule," said Bill Moak, President/CEO of the Mississippi BBB "Scammers know that the public is more willing to share personal data when participating in the Census, so they take advantage of this opportunity by posing as government workers to get access to personal financial information."

The BBB and local media have gotten calls from citizens who have been approached by census workers, but are uncertain about giving out personal information. The BBB has been in contact with local census officials, who have urged Mississippi residents to call to verify the identity of census workers. That number (in Dallas, TX) is 214-253-4400. Helpful information may also be found on the Census Bureau's website by clicking [here](#).

The BBB offers the following advice to help distinguish between bona fide Census workers and con artists:

- U.S. Census workers will have identification, a handheld device and a confidentiality notice. Caution: never invite strangers into your home.
- U.S. Census workers will not ask for your Social Security number or any information about bank or credit card accounts.
- U.S. Census workers will not ask you for money or say that you owe money.
- U.S. Census workers will not harass or intimidate you.
- U.S. Census workers will not contact you by email – only by phone, by mail or in person.

For more information regarding the 2010 Census, visit the U.S. Census Bureau online at www.census.gov.

Key Dates

March 2010

Census forms are mailed or delivered to households

April 1, 2010

National Census Day—use this day as a point of reference for sending your completed forms back in the mail

April - July 2010

Census takers visit households that did not return a form by mail

December 2010

By law, the Census Bureau delivers population information to the President for apportionment

March 2011

By law, the Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states

Economic Snapshot from UW-EXT

Our two cents: Two things the Vanguard folks did not mention. (1) on the international financial front, Dubai (the city-state in the middle-east that is renowned for building huge developments immediately off-shore) has sent strong signals that it might default on billions in loans-debt, this sent shock-waves through international financial markets, and (2) initial evidence from "Black Friday" is that people might be opening up to holiday shopping (clearly, state employees spent their furlough day spending money...uhm, maybe not).

Economic Week in Review: Plodding growth, with some surprises November 27, 2009

The economy continues its upward slog, as chronicled by this week's mixed bag of reports. Consumer confidence, consumer spending, and home sales rose more than forecast, but durable goods orders defied expectations by declining. Meantime, a revised estimate of third-quarter real gross domestic product (GDP) finds output growth softer than initially thought. For the week, the S&P 500 Index was unchanged at 1,091 (for a year-to-date total return of about 24%). The yield of the 10-year U.S. Treasury note fell 16 basis points to 3.20% (for a year-to-date increase of 95 basis points).



Sales of new and existing homes surge

Sales of existing homes climbed 10.1% in October, sharply higher than expected and the second straight month of strong sales. Some analysts, noting the extension and expansion of the first-time homebuyer tax credit, believe that similarly robust gains may occur in November. Buyers who scrambled to make the original

November deadline also pushed sales of new homes above expectations; they rose 6.2% compared with an expected 2% increase (although sales gains occurred only in the South).

GDP gains slower than initially thought

The nation's real GDP grew at an annualized rate of 2.8% in the third quarter, down from an initial estimate of 3.5%. Cutting back the original estimate—the first upswing in GDP after four quarterly declines—were slower-than-estimated growth in business investment and consumer spending (which dropped following the end of the federal Cash for Clunkers stimulus program) and stronger-than-estimated imports.

The GDP's price gauge continued to indicate that inflation was muted. Since the initial estimate, enough data has come in to allow an estimate of corporate profits: Reflecting the effect of job cuts,

Continued on page 9

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profits rose 10.6% from the second quarter—below year-ago levels but the third straight quarterly gain, almost all of which came from financial firms.

Consumer confidence—in the dump—inches higher

Consumer confidence edged higher in November to 49.5, following declines in the prior two months that economists had expected to continue. Yet confidence remains low compared with a reading above 90, which would designate an economy on solid footing. A big damper on confidence, analysts noted, was consumers' gloomy assessment of the job picture.

"Income expectations remain very pessimistic," said Lynn Franco, director of The Conference Board Consumer Research Center, "and consumers are entering the holiday season in a very frugal mood."

Federal Reserve raises its economic projections

Federal Reserve policymakers have raised their forecast for economic growth from earlier estimates, although they continue to see slow growth and stubbornly high unemployment rates. In the minutes from their early-November meeting, the Federal Open Market Committee predicted that the "central tendency" of real GDP growth would be in the range of -0.4% to -0.1% in 2009, but between 2.5% and 3.5% in 2010. For 2010, the Fed projected inflation rates of 1.3% to 1.6% and slightly lower jobless rates of 9.3% to 9.7% .

Durable-goods orders surprise by declining

New orders for manufactured durable

goods—from refrigerators to airplanes—unexpectedly fell in October, by 0.6% . Shipments also declined after increasing in the prior month. October orders were down after a revised 2% gain (up from 1%) in September. Behind the decline in new orders was a plunge in military demand; excluding these sales, new orders would have risen by 0.4% . Orders for nondefense capital goods excluding aircraft, viewed as an indicator of business spending, declined by 2.9% .

Consumer spending turned up in October

Consumer spending rose 0.7% in October—the fifth increase in six months—after declining in September, largely due to the expiration of the federal Cash for Clunkers program. Consumption was strong across the board in October, led by motor-vehicle sales. Personal income rose for the fourth straight month, although wage income (its largest component) was flat. Consumers remain focused on saving: The personal savings rate crossed the 4% threshold late last year and, while it's moved up and down since then, stood at 4.4% in October.

The economic week ahead

A full slate of reports is in the pipeline: construction spending and the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) manufacturing index on Tuesday, the Federal Reserve's Beige Book on Wednesday, productivity and unit labor costs plus the ISM's nonmanufacturing index on Thursday, and the jobless rate, payroll numbers, and factory orders on Friday.

renew

summit 2009

location: **KI Center, Green Bay**

date: **12.08.09**

time: **7:30am–5:00pm**

Reunite with New North and NEW END for a day long economic development event calling us to **reflect** on progress, **realize** our business potential and **reposition** ourselves for the future. The **renew** summit represents the successful partnerships between business leaders, entrepreneurs and the community of New North's 18 counties.

agenda

New North

7:30 am	Registration / Continental Breakfast / Networking
8:30 am	Welcome by Green Bay Leaders
9:00 am	Special Guest
9:30 am	Collaboration Reports / Success Videos
10:30 am	Recognition Awards
11:00 am	Keynote Speaker: David Ward, President and Founder of NorthStar Economics, to Speak on "A Look Back, A Look Ahead"

NEW END

12:30 pm	Taste of Entrepreneurship Luncheon
1:30 pm	Social Media 2.0 Panel
2:45 pm	Keynote Speaker: LeRoy Butler

Social Networking reception and cash bar to follow

Alternative Afternoon Sessions

1:30–2:30 pm	Arts in the Creative Economy Champion's Club Room
1:30–2:30 pm	Workplace Excellence Panel Discussion Ballroom A1
1:30–2:30 pm	Embracing an Inclusive Culture: Roundtable Ballroom A2
1:30–2:30 pm	Manufacturing Alliance Survey Results Ballroom A3
1:30–2:30 pm	Sustainability Best Practices Ballroom A4

This agenda is subject to change. Check the event Web site at www.thenewnorth.com or www.thenewend.com for a current agenda and more information. If you are unable to join A Date to Renew, you may cancel your reservation on or before Dec 4th by contacting the Green Bay Chamber of Commerce. This event will continue regardless of weather conditions.

registration

Visit www.thenewnorth.com or www.thenewend.com.
\$55/person

The cost to attend includes continental breakfast, full day summit admission, Taste of Entrepreneurship Luncheon and attendance to the afternoon social networking reception. Registration deadline is Tuesday, December 1st.

location

The KI Center is located at 333 Main Street in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Please check the event Web site at www.thenewnorth.com or www.thenewend.com for parking and additional information.

