

March 2018

Connecting the Chamber with members in a monthly news source.



# Connections

## ST. JOSEPH Chamber of Commerce

### The President's Perspective

#### Creating Opportunity

This year St. Joseph will celebrate its 175th anniversary. This is a remarkable feat for a community with a remarkable history. While I enjoy learning about and celebrating our local history, I am much more interested in our future. What is the future of St. Joseph?

I have lived in St. Joseph for more than 27 years, and during that time there has been change, some good, some not so good. We have made progress but, in some ways, we have regressed. The truth is this community has unlimited potential, but for a variety of reasons, we have not lived up to this potential.

From my vantage point St. Joseph is at a crossroads. There are many positive things to point to, such as the redevelopment of downtown, a growing job base, a wonderful park system and a low cost of living. But we also have challenges, such as the condition of our neighborhoods, an abundance of trash, concerns about crime and a lack of educational opportunities. Despite the positives and past accomplishments, we are losing the battle. What battle you ask? The competition between cities to attract and retain talent, to grow and to become more prosperous.

This may seem like a strange thing for a Chamber President to say, but the harsh reality is, in this competitive world, a community and its leadership must be willing to take on the difficult issues, understand and embrace the need for change and make the effort to be better. Doing the same thing will only keep us in the same place.

So where do we begin? It starts with creating a vision for our future, the future of St. Joseph. What do we want it to be? What can it be?

Over the next several months the Chamber will bring to St. Joseph a community visioning process called "Foresight Planning." Other communities have pursued the process, most notably Omaha with its "Omaha 2040 Plan." The process is designed to bring people together to create a future vision for St. Joseph and create shared goals that we can embrace and aspire to. From that, various organizations in the community, public, private and not-for-profit, can build their own organizational strategic plans, based on achieving a shared vision of the future. All of us on the same page, working together, achieving together on our shared future.

Unrealistic, you say? Perhaps. Naive? Maybe. But this I know, there is nothing that we can't achieve when we all work together and if we do nothing, we will leave a legacy of failing to reach our potential. Our future is before us, let's seize this opportunity to be the kind of community we can be and want to be.



R. Patt Lilly  
President & CEO

## NEW MEMBERS

The following businesses and individuals have been approved for membership in the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce:

**MK Minerals Inc.**  
Xochi Romero  
1025 Vernon Road,  
Wathena, KS 66090  
(785) 989-4566  
xromero@mkminerals.com  
www.mkminerals.com  
**Manufacturers**

**Simply graced, LLC**  
Grace Dahlgren  
3907 Damascus Drive (06)  
(816) 383-3964  
simplygracedeventdesigns@gmail.com  
www.facebook.com/  
Simplygracedeventdesigns  
**Decorators**

**Houck Transit Advertising**  
Cayce Wallace  
1025 Tomlyn Ave.,  
St. Paul, MN 55126  
(800) 777-7290  
cayce@houckads.com  
www.houckads.com  
**Advertising**

**Dee Forsberg Golf Instruction**  
Dee Forsberg  
6480 S.E. U.S. Highway 169 (07)  
(612) 247-3479  
deeforsberg@me.com  
www.deeforsberg.com  
**Sports**

**Northwest Endodontics**  
Ryan M. Walker  
803 N. 36th St. Ste C (06)  
(816) 364-4422  
frontdesk@mynorthwestendo.com  
www.mynorthwestendo.com  
**Dentists**

**Round Tuit Travel, LLC**  
Wendy Eidmann  
3133 N. Belt Highway (06)  
(816) 259-5454  
wendy.eidmann@roundtuittravel.com  
www.roundtuittravel.com  
**Travel Agencies**

**FFO Home**  
Braden Fouts  
3715 N. Belt Highway (06)  
(816) 934-4245  
bfouts@ffohome.com  
www.ffohome.com  
**Furniture**

**Tompkins Industries, Inc.**  
Doug Schussler  
(816) 749-6896  
dschussler@tompkinsind.com  
www.tompkinsind.com  
**Industrial Equipment & Supplies**

**Independent Child Montessori School, LLC**  
Roan Paulson  
1302 N. 49th Terrace (06)  
(816) 396-9016  
independentchildmontessori@gmail.com  
www.independentmontessori.com  
**Child Care**



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Ph: 816-390-8898 Fax: 888-536-6414 NMLS# 886738

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www.saintjoseph.com  
(816) 232-4461  
chamber@saintjoseph.com



# March Calendar

All members, employees and guests are invited to attend events. Call the Chamber for any dietary needs.

## 8 DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast

Presented by Mosaic Life Care

The Diplomats Club is a fun group that provides opportunities to promote your business and serve as a link between the Chamber and the community. Join them for their monthly meeting!

**Thursday, March 8**  
7:15 a.m., \$7  
Breakfast provided  
Pizza Ranch, 3007 N. Belt Highway

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:  
816/232-4461 or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

## 13 & 14 Washington, D.C. Fly-In

Presented by Missouri Western State University

A delegation of local business and community leaders annually visit the nation's capitol as part of the Chamber's Fly-In. While in D.C., the delegation meets with members of Congress, U.S. Senators, legislative staff and U.S. Chamber officials. Contact Steve Johnston for more information at (816) 364-4109.

**Tuesday & Wednesday,  
March 13 and 14**  
Washington, D.C.

## 13 Lunch & Learn Seminar

Presented by CliftonLarsonAllen

Tax Reform Update presented by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP – This lunch and learn session will address the key provisions and impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act including tax planning considerations under these new rules for businesses and individuals as well as an update on other relevant tax topics to be aware of beginning in 2018.

*Lunch by Galvin's Dinner House*

**Tuesday, March 13**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$10  
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce  
3003 Frederick Ave.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:  
816/232-4461 or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

## 13 BUSINESS after HOURS

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

Need to broaden your portfolio of potential clients and customers? Make some new real life connections at this networking event. This month will be a special Cruise Ship theme. Visit different suites of Spratt Stadium where members will have activities, prizes and more. Food and drinks provided.

**Tuesday, March 13**  
5 to 7 p.m., Free

Spratt Stadium Football Suites  
MWSU, 4525 Downs Drive

## 15 Speed Networking

Need to network, but don't like to approach strangers in a mixer-like environment? Come to the Chamber's Speed Networking event for your chance to make many meaningful business connections in a very short amount of time.

**Thursday, March 15**  
8 to 9:30 a.m., \$10, continental  
breakfast provided

St. Jo Frontier Casino  
777 Winners Circle

## 16 & 30 Public Affairs Coffee

Presented by Cochran, Head Vick & Co., P.C.

This month the Chamber will hold two Public Affairs Coffee events to help bring members and the general public more information before the upcoming election. **The first will feature candidates for Mayor and City Council and the second will feature School Board candidates.**

Public Affairs Coffee events feature issues involving social, economic, governmental, legislative and corporate activities that are of concern to Chamber members and the business community.

**Friday, March 16**  
7 to 9 a.m., \$15

Coffee & conversations  
Fulkerson Center, MWSU  
4525 Downs Drive

**Friday, March 30**  
7 to 9 a.m., \$15

Coffee & conversations  
Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center  
1201 N. Woodbine Road

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:  
816/232-4461 or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

## 23 FARM CITY BREAKFAST

Presented by LifeLine Foods

This popular event is held in celebration of National Ag Day. It recognizes the farmer/producer and the importance of agribusiness to the area economy. Proceeds benefit Agriculture Future of America (AFA) scholarships. Erica Baier, National FFA Secretary, will be the guest speaker, with a special guest appearance by U.S. Rep. Sam Graves.

**Friday, March 23**  
7 to 9 a.m., \$12

Word of Life Church  
3902 N. Riverside Road  
Tickets available at the Chamber or online

## 27 Career Fair

This is the largest annual career fair in Northwest Missouri. The St. Joseph Employment Coalition assists in the organization and planning for this event. Have jobs you need filled and want to participate, for more information call Mary Brown at (816) 364-4102 or visit [saintjoseph.com](http://saintjoseph.com).

**Tuesday, March 27**  
2 to 5 p.m., Free

Civic Arena  
100 N. Fourth St.

## 28 Chairman's Breakfast

Presented by Farmers State Bank

The Chamber is going to help bring the community together and build a strategic plan that will help St. Joseph in the years to come. You will not want to miss hearing futurist Rebecca Ryan as she helps guide St. Joseph's leaders in the business, government and non-profit areas on the path to a brighter future.

**Wednesday, March 28**  
7:30 to 9 a.m., \$25

Fulkerson Center, MWSU  
4525 Downs Drive

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:  
816/232-4461 or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)