

February 2021

Connecting the Chamber with members in a monthly news source.



Connections

ST. JOSEPH Chamber of Commerce

The President's Perspective

New Start, Same Agenda

With January comes a new Congress and Administration along with a new Missouri Legislature. As is often the case with change, there is much hope and anticipation.

In the world of politics, the adage "the more things change, the more things stay the same," often seems to apply. As the new legislative bodies begin their work in 2021, the needs of business for the most part remain the same.

On the federal agenda, the priorities include continued support for businesses, individuals in need and the economy, as the country works to defeat the COVID-19 virus. Of course, effective vaccine distribution and inoculation will be critical to a recovering economy.

Also, there continues to be the need for a long-overdue federal infrastructure funding package. This includes roads and bridges, but also critical technology infrastructure that upgrades and expands broadband access. I would also offer that I believe it is time in this country to have a serious debate on immigration reform. While this issue is often covered by the media in terms of constructing walls and stopping illegal entry, for business this is a topic related to workforce shortages and talent attraction.

And, on both the federal and state list of legislative priorities

is providing resources to improve the skills of the country's workforce. More jobs are being created that require greater skills and an understanding of new technology. Providing an opportunity for reskilling of those out of work and offering training programs for those entering the job market is critical for business success. This is a priority in St. Joseph given our large manufacturing and production employment base.



R. Patt Lilly
President & CEO

In Missouri, the Legislature should pass legislation to address sales tax fairness. The legislation would provide for the collection of sales taxes on online purchases. This would offer a level playing field for our local retail businesses who must compete with online retailers, many of whom are not required to pay sales tax in Missouri.

There are certainly other legislative priorities to consider, but hopefully a fresh start in 2021 and the opportunity to defeat the virus and get back to a more normal life will be the catalyst to address many of the priorities that have been on the business agenda for years. We can only hope!

NEW MEMBERS

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

Farmers Insurance --

KCMO District

Angela Clark
116 W. Third St. Ste. 203
Kansas City, MO 64105
(630) 747-0105
chris@farmerskcmo.com
<https://www.farmers.com/>
Insurance

Kiske Law Office, LLC

Anne Kiske
1911 Jules St. (01)
(816) 265-5440
office@kiskelaw.com
kiskelawoffice.com
Attorneys

Know a business that should be a Chamber member?

Ask them to join today!

saintjoseph.com/join

Great Northwest Day at the Capitol

Great Northwest Day at the Capitol will look very different than in the past, with the event going virtual this year. Members of the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, as well as cities and Chambers from the 19 counties in Northwest Missouri come together annually to enhance the region's image in Jefferson City and to pursue issues and legislation beneficial to the "Great Northwest."

While the usual delegation of about 300 constituents will not be traveling to Jefferson City to visit with legislators in person, everyone will be represented in video format. Legislative issues of importance to the region and community highlights from around the region will be featured. Recording for the presentation began in January.

The virtual format also allows the events to be spread over multiple days and lets more people participate.

For the latest information (times below subject to change) follow Great Northwest Day at the Capitol and watch sessions on Facebook Live. www.facebook.com/greatnorthwestday



- ### Schedule
- Feb. 1 -- 2 p.m.**
Legislative Update: Panel of Regional Legislators
 - Feb. 2 -- Noon**
Gov. Mike Parson
 - Feb. 3 -- 10 a.m.**
Rob Dixon,
Director of
Department of
Economic Development

Left: Dr. Tim Crowley participates in a video shoot about Great Northwest Day.

Need help recruiting or retaining talent?



Uncommon Life is here to make recruiting employees to work and live in St. Joseph easier. The St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce has incorporated the Made with Uncommon Character brand to highlight why St. Joseph is a unique place...and why your recruits should call it home. This includes tools for you as a recruiter or human resources specialist to use when hiring and getting new hires acclimated to the community.

Tours -- Gift Baskets -- Welcomes -- Website

To see tools: uncommonlife.saintjoseph.com/hr

Share the website for potential residents: uncommonlife.info



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

February Calendar

For more information, call 816/232-4461. **CREDIT CARD RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE, www.saintjoseph.com**

All members, employees and guests are invited to attend events. Call the Chamber for any dietary needs. Reservations must be cancelled 24 hours in advance to avoid charges. See COVID-19 event guidelines at saintjoseph.com

3/17, 11/25 Circle of Influence

Circle of Influence is a leads group composed of small business professionals looking to exchange direct client referrals and leads. The group also provides a forum for the discussion of issues which businesses commonly encounter. Only one member per profession/speciality in each group is allowed. Cost is \$100 to join. There are two groups, one that meets the first and third Wednesdays and another that meets the second and fourth Thursdays. Contact Natalie Redmond for more information, redmond@saintjoseph.com or (816) 364-4107. Meetings held at Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, 1201 Woodbine.

Feb. 3 & 17 and Feb. 11 & 25
11:30 a.m. to 1p.m., **Guests Free**

11

Virtual DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast

Presented by CLA

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, Feb. 11
8 a.m., **Free**

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

16

Lunch & Learn Seminar

Presented by Butchart Flowers Inc. & Greenhouse

“Increase Your Sales in 2021” Learn lead generation strategy and how to nurture it into a long term relationship. Get sales tips and learn how to successfully service after the sale. Taught by MWSU Professor Casey Bell and Annette Weeks, Executive Director for Centers of Business.

Tuesday, Feb. 16
Free
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Virtual

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461
or www.saintjoseph.com

18

BUSINESS after HOURS

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

Check out a fun DIY shop while making your next business connection. Bring your business cards! Food, drinks and a make and take project will be provided.

Thursday, Feb. 18
5 to 7 p.m., Free

AR Workshop
139 N. Belt Highway, Ste. K

22

Virtual Women's Leadership Group

Presented by Human Resource Management Association of Northwest Missouri

Co-sponsored with Northwest Missouri State University's Small Business Development Center, each month has a different featured topic for women business owners, managers and employees. This month bring a story about an influential woman in your community or family to share with the group as we prepare for Women's History Month in March.

Monday, Feb. 22
Noon to 1 p.m., Free
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
816/232-4461 or
www.saintjoseph.com

Keep up with the Chamber

Sign up for text messages!

Text Chamber to 474747

ST. JOSEPH
Chamber of Commerce

Be a Champion of Commerce

SHOP LOCAL DECIDE LOCAL

CHAMPIONS of commerce championsofcommerce.com

J Justin

So...what's your plan after high school?

IDK, Mom

Sleep in, relax

😂 Hilarious. Maybe for a day

Then what? 4-year degree, community college, tech school, go straight to work?

😎 Seriously. You're getting off my couch.

Seriously. IDK

Go to edgefactor.com/stjosephMO and look at careers, videos

Edge Factor
edgefactor.com

Let's talk about it tonight