

February 2019

Connecting the Chamber with members in a monthly news source.



# Connections

**ST. JOSEPH**  
Chamber of Commerce

## The President's Perspective

*It's All About Talent*

As we work with local employers, the one thing we find they all have in common is the need for talent; people with experience, skills and initiative to fill available jobs. In fact, even if you have no skills, but are willing to learn and come to work you are in demand. Hundreds of jobs go unfilled in St. Joseph every day because employers cannot attract people to fill them. This is not a problem unique to St. Joseph as communities across the country have the same issue, an inability to attract talent for available jobs. As a result, the competition for talent is fierce.

In St. Joseph it's not about the lack of good paying jobs, as St. Joseph is ranked number three in the state in average hourly wages paid, behind St. Louis and Kansas City. Instead it's about the lack of available labor. Those not available for jobs include those who can not work, those who choose not to work, as well as those working. The result is a local unemployment rate of 2.5 percent.

To address the labor shortage, we need to take steps to prepare adults and students for the jobs that are available now and those that will be available in the future. We also need to attract talent to St. Joseph and retain the talent we have. The Chamber has partnered with the School District, MWSU, and other area higher education institutions to bring additional vocational technical training and education to the community to provide job skills and certifications for those seeking jobs. Progress has been made, but there is more that

must be accomplished to inform people of local career opportunities and increase our capacity to provide vocational and technical certifications and degrees.

In terms of attracting and retaining talent, the Chamber is focused on today's jobs, as well as jobs of the future. We have begun an initiative to work with local employers to attract talent to St. Joseph. If we do not have the people here to take the jobs, we must attract them. We will provide services to support local employers and market to those out of the area about the good job opportunities here. Long-term though, we will pursue initiatives that are part of the Imagine St. Joseph 2040 Plan. Making St. Joseph a better place – improving our education system, cleaning up our neighborhoods and addressing poverty are all things that will make St. Joseph the kind of place people want to live and work.

Yes, it's all about talent, and the communities who figure it out will be the communities that thrive in the future. Let's make sure St. Joseph is one of those communities.



R. Patt Lilly  
President & CEO

## MEMBER PORTAL

# MEMBERS *only!*

Thank you for being a valued Chamber member.

As part of our commitment to providing the highest level of member value and engagement, we've launched a **MEMBERS ONLY** area...just for you!

In this area you can:

Update contact information  
Pay invoices  
Access exclusive content

Participate in surveys  
Upload images to your online listing  
View and Print Referral Reports

Take part in the Member-to-Member  
Discount Program  
Have more control of your membership

Visit [saintjoseph.com](http://saintjoseph.com) and click on MEMBERS ONLY to log in.

Contact the Chamber at (816) 364-4103 or [greiner@saintjoseph.com](mailto:greiner@saintjoseph.com) for help.

**2019 POLAR PLUNGE**  
FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS MISSOURI

**JOIN THE GREATEST PLUNGE ON EARTH**  
and you could win a 2018 Sea-Doo!

For details and all 11 Plunge dates and locations, visit [www.SOMO.org/Plunge](http://www.SOMO.org/Plunge).

# February Calendar

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

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## Foodie Friday

Join other Chamber members as they experience foods all around St. Joseph in a new networking event. Enjoy specials at each restaurant and get to know some new business contacts. Free to attend, but cost of meal is up to the individual.

**Friday, Feb. 1**  
**7:30 to 9 a.m., Free**

Pappy's Grill & Pub  
2501 Messanie St.

5/6

## Great Northwest Day at the Capitol

The Chamber partners with other Northwest Missouri communities to sponsor a trip to the State Capitol to meet and talk with our state legislators. The two-day trip includes a luncheon with regional legislators, viewing of the Legislature in action, and a reception for all members of the General Assembly.

**Tuesday & Wednesday,**  
**Feb. 5 & 6**  
**Jefferson City, MO**

\$90 -- To register:  
[www.greatnorthwestday.com](http://www.greatnorthwestday.com)

6, 20/  
14, 28

## Circle of Influence

Circle of Influence is a leads group composed of small business professionals looking 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 at Stoney Creek Hotel and another that meets the second and fourth Thursdays at Commerce Bank at Ashland and Karnes roads. Contact Natalie Redmond for more information, [redmond@saintjoseph.com](mailto:redmond@saintjoseph.com) or (816) 364-4107.

**Feb. 6 & 20 and Feb. 14 and 28**  
**11:30 a.m. to 1p.m., Guests Free**

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## Lunch & Learn Seminar

*Lunch by The Enchilada Lady*

Presented by CLA

"How to Get the Most Out of Your Chamber Membership"

New to the Chamber or been a member for a while but haven't done much with your membership? Join Natalie Redmond, Kristi Bailey and Deanna Greiner from the Chamber staff and learn how your business could grow with a little help of our resources.

**Tuesday, Feb. 12**  
**11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Free**  
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce  
3003 Frederick Ave.

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

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## BUSINESS after HOURS

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

Come sail away at this special Business After Hours -- Cruise Ship Style. Go from room to room in Spratt Stadium to experience all of your favorite parts of a cruise ship, a spa, a dance club, food and drinks and much more!

**Thursday, Feb. 12**  
**5 to 7 p.m., Free**

MWSU Athletic Suites  
Spratt Stadium, 4525 Downs Drive

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## Open Spaces Downtown Workshop & Tour

Are you thinking of opening a business, or new a need space? Fall in love with the opportunity that awaits in Downtown St. Joseph. Come to a workshop at 2 to ask questions and hear answers about opening a business and then stay for a tour of six open spaces.

**Wednesday, Feb. 13**  
**2 p.m. Workshop,**  
**3 p.m. Tour,**  
**Free**

CoJoe, 518 Felix St.

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## 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, Feb. 14**  
**7:15 to 8:30 a.m., \$7**

Breakfast provided  
Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory  
5005 Frederick Ave.

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

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## Public Affairs Coffee

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

This Public Affairs Coffee will feature Mayor Bill McMurray, who will give his State of the City address. 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, Feb. 15**  
**7:30 to 8:30 a.m., \$15**

Continental breakfast provided  
Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center  
1201 N. Woodbine Road

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

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## Women's Leadership Group

Presented by Sam's Club

Co-sponsored with Northwest Missouri State University's Small Business and Technology Development Center, each month has a different featured topic for women business owners, managers and employees. Bring a canned good and learn how to "have a heart" with Second Harvest Community Food Bank.

**Monday, Feb. 25**  
**Noon to 1 p.m. Free**

St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce  
3003 Frederick Ave.  
Bring your own lunch.

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## BUSINESS after HOURS

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

It's a short month, but there's no shortage of chances to meet new people through the Chamber! There's not one, but two Business after Hours this month! Bring your business cards, talk to some potential new customers and make some new friends.

**Thursday, Feb. 28**  
**5 to 7 p.m., Free**

Muny Inn  
3229 Mitchell Ave.

Mark your calendars now, and confirm your reservation one week prior to the event. Reservations must be cancelled 24 hours in advance to avoid charges. For more information, call 816/232-4461. CREDIT CARD RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE, [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)