

February 2024

Connecting the Chamber with members in a monthly news source.



ST. JOSEPH  
Chamber of Commerce

## The President's Perspective

It is the start of a new legislative session for the year. You should have received the Chamber's legislative priorities for 2024 in the mail for national, state and local issues.

Priorities for 2024 include – workforce, economic development, broadband, childcare, education, mental healthcare, substance abuse prevention, public safety, infrastructure, housing, community revitalization, health care and more.

New this year we have a military advocate joining our team – Ed Black with the St. Joseph Community Alliance. The Chamber was concerned about the Air Force's decision that left the 139th Airlift Wing out of the plan to recapitalize the existing fleet of C-130 H model aircraft to the newest C-130 J aircraft. We believe it puts the long-term viability of the wing in jeopardy. The proven 139th war-fighting capability and global contributions of the Advanced Airlift Tactical Training Center are vital components of our state and national strength and are vital to the local economy. We have enlisted Ed to help us advocate.

How can you get involved? Read the weekly legislative email updates and give feedback to elected officials. Attend School Board or City Council meetings. Join a commission or committee through the City, County or SJSD. Join the Chamber's Government Relations Committee or Housing Task Force (email Natalie to join) or attend an upcoming event:

- Great Northwest Days at the Capitol: Feb 6-7, Jefferson City
- Public Affairs Coffee – SJSD Board Candidate Forum: March 21, 7:30 a.m., Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center
- Washington, D.C. Fly-In: April 10-11



Natalie Hawn  
President & CEO



## Annual Banquet 24

"St. Joe 24" was the theme of this year's Annual Banquet and guests dressed in their best 70s Studio 54 attire for the event presented by Commerce Bank.

Annual Banquet, of course, is more than a gala, it's the Chamber's annual business meeting for its members. The changing of the guard happened as Don Tolly, of Tolly and Associates, stepped down as Chairman of the Board and Ashley Albers, of Nor-Am Cold Storage, took over for 2024.

We also recognized retiring board members Jody Carlson, Pat Dillon and Brian Shewell.

The Diplomat of the Year Award was given to Gracia Pinzino.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

**A. Arnold of Kansas City Moving and Storage**  
**Timothy Liebeno**  
 15761 S. Keeler St.  
 Olathe, KS 66062  
 (913) 829-8267  
 tim.liebeno@aakcmoving.com  
 www.aakcmoving.com  
**Moving Services**

**Bright Designs & Business Solutions**  
**Derrick (DJ) Lambricht**  
 2308 N. Belt Highway (06)  
 (816) 427-4448  
 sales@bdshirts.com  
 www.bdshirts.com  
**Graphic Arts & Design Insurance**

**Play Event Co.**  
**Isaiah Colbert**  
 7811 E. 73rd St.,  
 Kansas City, MO 64133  
 (816) 882-0893  
 playeventmail@gmail.com  
 www.playeventco.com  
**Entertainment Event Production Photographers**

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**LeeAnn Leonard, AAMS™, CRPC™** | First Vice President/Investments, Branch Manager | [leonardl@stifel.com](mailto:leonardl@stifel.com)  
**Lyle E. Officer, CRPC™** | First Vice President/Investments | [officerl@stifel.com](mailto:officerl@stifel.com)  
**Kerry Ames** | First Vice President/Investments | [amesk@stifel.com](mailto:amesk@stifel.com)  
**Mike Portman, CRPC™** | Vice President/Investments | [portmanm@stifel.com](mailto:portmanm@stifel.com)  
**Craig L. Grable** | Associate Vice President/Investments | [grablec@stifel.com](mailto:grablec@stifel.com)  
**Heidi R. LaFave** | Financial Advisor | [lafaveh@stifel.com](mailto:lafaveh@stifel.com)  
**Julie Barber** | Branch Operations Manager | [barberj@stifel.com](mailto:barberj@stifel.com)  
**Paula McDowell** | Client Service Associate | [mcdowellp@stifel.com](mailto:mcdowellp@stifel.com)  
**Jill A. Gaiser** | Cashier/Wire Operator | [gaiserj@stifel.com](mailto:gaiserj@stifel.com)

# February Calendar

For more information, call 816/232-4461. **CREDIT CARD RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE**, [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

**6&7** **Great Northwest Day at the Capitol** **Tuesday & Wednesday, Feb. 6 & 7**  
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. **Jefferson City, MO**  
[www.greatnorthwestday.com](http://www.greatnorthwestday.com)

**8, 22** **Circle of Influence** **Feb. 8 & 22 and Feb. 14 & 28**  
**14, 28** 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. (Holidays affect this schedule.) Contact Tony Luke for more information, [luke@saintjoseph.com](mailto:luke@saintjoseph.com) or (816) 364-4101. Meetings held at Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, 1201 Woodbine. **11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Guests Free**

**8** **DIPLMATS CLUB Breakfast** **Thursday, Feb. 8**  
Presented by Altec Industries, Inc., John Joe Insurance & Rogers Pharmacy **7:15 a.m., \$10**  
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! **Breakfast provided**  
Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art  
2818 Frederick Ave.  
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:**  
816/232-4461  
or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

**13** **Lunch & Learn Seminar** **Tuesday, Feb. 13**  
Presented by Altec Industries, Inc. *Lunch by Tropical Smoothie Cafe* **11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$12**  
Motivational speaker Kardell Sims will present on "Taking a Passion and Making it a Career." Come learn from his experiences and get ideas for your future. **St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce**  
3003 Frederick Ave.  
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:**  
816/232-4461  
or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

**22-3** **Restaurant Week** **Feb. 22 - March 3**  
Presented by John Joe Insurance **STJrestaurantweek.com**  
Foodies are invited to savor and save on new dining options or tried and true favorites during St. Joseph's fifth annual Restaurant Week, coordinated by the Chamber and Joe Town Fun. Enjoy food specials and exclusive menus. To see which restaurants are participating and what specials will be offered visit [STJrestaurantweek.com](http://STJrestaurantweek.com).

**22** **BUSINESS after HOURS** **Thursday, Feb. 22**  
Presented by Altec Industries, Inc. **5 to 7 p.m., Free**  
Don't miss Business After Hours! Bring your business cards and make some new connections. **This month will be the official kick off to Restaurant Week!** **Room 108**  
722 Felix St.

**26** **Women's Leadership Group** **Monday, Feb. 26**  
Presented by Altec Industries, Inc., BMS Logistics, Inc., Candlewood Suites, Human Resource Management Association of Northwest Missouri, RitePack, Inc. Sealed Air Corporation, Top Property Realty LLC and Triumph Foods **Noon to 1 p.m., Free**  
Bring your own lunch  
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:**  
816/232-4461 or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)



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*(Small employer listings appear under the Chamber icon.)*