

April 2026

Connecting the Chamber with members in a monthly news source.



ST. JOSEPH  
Chamber of Commerce

# Connections

## The President's Perspective

### The Chamber Opens Doors -- You Walk Through Them

At the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, we are proud to champion our local businesses every single day. From community-wide initiatives like Shop St. Joseph and Restaurant Week to ribbon cuttings, advocacy, and marketing support, our goal is simple: create an environment where businesses have the opportunity to thrive.

But there's an important truth that deserves to be said clearly—success doesn't happen *to* a business. It happens because of the business owner's initiative, adaptability, and willingness to grow.

The Chamber is just a partner in *your* journey.

We work hard to provide tools and opportunities designed to help you succeed. Through educational workshops like Lunch and Learns, the Small Business Summit and leadership programs, we aim to equip you with practical knowledge you can apply immediately. Our networking events, whether it's Business After Hours, Young Professionals, or industry roundtables, are intentionally designed to help you build relationships that lead to real opportunities.

We also connect you with critical resources beyond our walls, including partnerships with organizations like the Missouri Small Business Development Center, where expert guidance, business planning support, and one-on-one advising are readily available.

These tools are powerful, when they're used.

We often hear from business owners who want more visibility, more customers, or more growth. And while Chamber programs like Shop St. Joseph and Restaurant Week are designed to drive traffic and awareness, they are most effective when businesses actively

participate, promote themselves, and fully engage with the opportunity. Those who show up, follow up, and take advantage of what's available are the ones who see the greatest return.

At the end of the day, the Chamber can open doors, but it's up to each business to walk through them.

Our community is filled with hardworking entrepreneurs who care deeply about what they do. We believe in you, and we're committed to standing beside you. But the most successful businesses in St. Joseph (and there is a long list!) aren't waiting for something to happen, they're making it happen.

So, attend the workshop. Show up to the networking event. Schedule the advising session. Promote your business during community campaigns. Take full advantage of what's in front of you.

Because when you invest in yourself, your business and our entire community benefits.

We're here to support you every step of the way. Please let me or anyone on the Chamber staff know if you need assistance.



Natalie Hawn  
President & CEO

## NEW MEMBERS

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

### Ro-Mac Logistics

Jason Davis  
3709 N. Belt Highway Ste. C (06)  
(816) 505-4405  
jason@ro-mactransport.com  
www.ro-maclogistics.com  
**Trucking**

### Summers Equipment

Andrew Summers  
405 N. Lyon St.,  
Grant City, MO 64456  
(816) 351-6638  
summersequipment@hotmail.com  
**Industrial Equipment & Supplies**

### The Paden Link

Kamille Paden  
3906 Oakland Ave. No. 8914 (06)  
(816) 752-8100  
kamille@thepadenlink.com  
thepadenlink.com  
**Marketing**

### High & Tight Roofing

Blake Cliett  
2400 Frederick Ave. Ste. 316 (06)  
(816) 441-3862  
info@hightightroofing.com  
www.hightightroofing.com  
**Roofing Contractors**



WHERE REGIONAL ENTREPRENEURS COME TO GROW

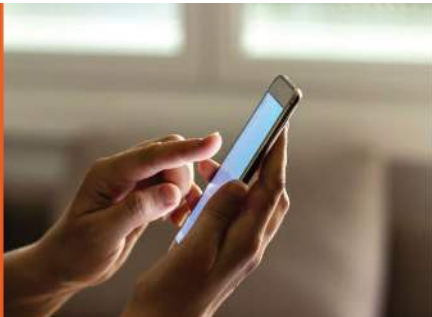
The Launch Pad gives startups and small businesses the tools, support and space to thrive.

Learn more today:

[stjlaunchpad.com](http://stjlaunchpad.com)

Know a business that should be a Chamber member?  
Ask them to join today!  
Contact [luke@saintjoseph.com](mailto:luke@saintjoseph.com) or send them to our website: [saintjoseph.com](http://saintjoseph.com)

**WANT TO KEEP UP WITH THE CHAMBER?**  
Text Chamber to (877) 313-4032 or scan the QR Code on this ad.



# April Calendar

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

## Circle of Influence

1 & 15

9 & 23

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 N. Woodbine Road.

April 1 & 15 and April 9 & 23  
11:30 a.m. to 1p.m., Guests Free

## First Friday Power Lunch Bunch

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Join us on our First Friday Power Lunch Bunch! This is a way to get to know different Chamber member restaurants throughout the year and another way to support local. This month lunch is provided by the St. Jo Frontier Casino for those who attend.

Friday, April 3  
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Winners Bar & Grill  
St. Jo Frontier Casino  
777 Winners Circle

## DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast

9

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc., Nodaway Valley Bank & Rogers Pharmacy

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, April 9  
7:15 a.m., \$12  
Breakfast provided  
St. Jo Frontier Casino  
777 Winners Circle  
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:**  
816/232-4461 or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

## Lunch & Learn Seminar

14

Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.

Topic -- How to Retain Employees Through Engagement

Join us for this session on how to boost retention by building a workplace where employees want to stay. Disengaged employees are 11 times more likely to look for another job, and employees who feel appreciated are 17 times more likely to see a long-term future at their organization. Learn ways to improve workplace culture and increase discretionary effort. This class is for anyone in HR, operations, personnel management, as well as those seeking to improve employee engagement, attendance, and retention. It will be presented by Shawn Esry, Project Manager at Missouri Enterprise.

Tuesday, April 14  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$12  
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.

Don't miss Business After Hours downtown. Join us at Room 108 for food, drinks and the opportunity to make some new business connections.

Thursday, April 23  
5 to 7 p.m., Free  
Room 108  
722 Felix St.

## Women's Leadership Group Keynote Speaker

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

Women's Leadership Group is a monthly meeting where female business leaders gather to discuss topics important to women in the workplace. This month is a special keynote address.

Topic -- The Thin Line Between Cupcake and Bossy

Have you ever been accused of being too nice? Too harsh? Maybe both at the same time? Women navigate that thin line in workplaces, civic leadership and in their communities all the time. Joni Wickham will tell you why this happens and what you can do about it. Joni is a former Chief of Staff for Kansas City Mayor Sly James and was honored as a Woman Who Means Business by the Kansas City Business Journal in 2023.

Monday, April 27  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$25  
Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center  
1201 N. Woodbine Road

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

## 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.

On the web: [uncommonlife.info](http://uncommonlife.info)  
E-mail [arthur@saintjoseph.com](mailto:arthur@saintjoseph.com)