



WHAT IS OCLA?

Owatonna Community Leadership Academy or **OCLA**, is a comprehensive nine-month leadership program designed to enable candidates to learn about Owatonna resources, values, strengths, weaknesses, and challenges.

education **agriculture**
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
public safety Healthcare
Leadership Training **CULTURE**
government **& DIVERSITY**



Email Rhonda Guthier at rguthier@owatonna.org to ensure you're on the list or for other ways to engage!



LEAVE A LEGACY

The Chamber has a long standing commitment to developing leaders in the community for the past 20 years, the OCLA program has been a great way for employers to provide leadership development and training opportunities for their employees and our community.

20 GRADUATED
CLASSES

9 MONTHS

MORE THAN
335 ALUMNI

APPLICATION DEADLINE MAY 22

Applications for the 2020 – 2021 class of OCLA will open March 6. For more information on the program and how to apply, visit <https://owatonna.org/owatonna-community-leadership-academy/>

OCLA Applications now available on-line <https://owatonna.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/88376-OCLA-Flyer.pdf>

LOOKING FOR EMPLOYEES? THERE'S A STORY TO TELL

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2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ▶ **Nathan Dotson, Chair**
Dotson Woodworking
- ▶ **Kelly Boomgarden, Incoming Chair/ Tourism Rep**
Country Inn & Suites-Owatonna
- ▶ **Andy Cowell, Past Chair**
Profinium, Inc.
- ▶ **Todd Trout, Treasurer**
US Bank
- ▶ **Paul Smith, At-Large**
Federated Insurance
- ▶ **Wayne Starman, Ex-Officio**
Cash Wise Foods
- ▶ **Deb Gillard, At-Large**
RE/MAX Venture
- ▶ **Doug Betti**
Viracon
- ▶ **Syd Briggs**
Steele Waseca-Cooperative Electric
- ▶ **John Champa**
Cybex
- ▶ **Randy Doyal**
Al-Corn Clean Fuel
- ▶ **Mike Herman**
Driessen Water, Inc.
- ▶ **Scott Mohs**
Mohs Contracting, Inc.
- ▶ **Rich Pettet**
Rich's Window Cleaning
- ▶ **Luke Schmidt**
CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP)
- ▶ **Brandon Wayne**
Ameriprise Financial -Dufresne, Wayne & Associates
- ▶ **Stacy Wilson**
Old Town Bagels



Health Science Technology was held in February offering high school students an opportunity to learn about healthcare careers, the future of Healthcare in general and touring facilities.

Students heard from Mayo Clinic Health System – Owatonna, Wottreng Family Dental, Michaelson Funeral Home, Balanced Healthcare Centers, Horizon Eye Care Professionals and toured KODA Living Community and Allina.

Thank you to sponsor  **BOSCH**



LOOKING FOR EMPLOYEES? THERE'S A STORY TO TELL

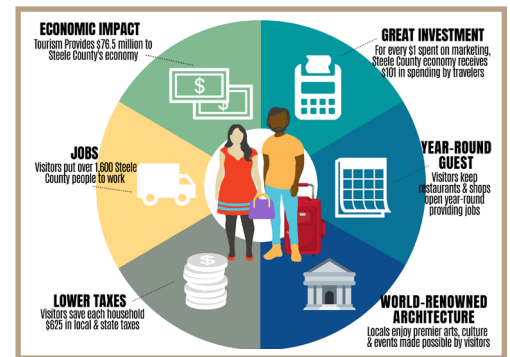
Your business is looking to add an employee, or maybe looking to add 50 employees, either way, you need a compelling story to tell about both your company and the community. I'd guess you know how to tell your business story. The community? Here's a few suggestions that may get you started:

- ▶ Did you know that Owatonna was just recently recognized as a Top 10 Most Affordable places to live?*
- ▶ Let's recruit families to our town, Owatonna just rated 24th Best Place to Raise a Family! **
- ▶ How about equity? Owatonna was just recognized for shrinking its gender pay gap at one of the fastest rates in the country over the last decade. The gender pay gap change of -11.05% ranked Owatonna #21 in the USA, and #2 in Minnesota.***

*<https://www.homesnacks.net/most-affordable-places-in-minnesota-126818/>
 **<https://www.homesnacks.net/best-cities-for-families-in-minnesota-1211110/>
 *** <https://lendedu.com/blog/cities-states-gender-pay-gap/>

Visit Owatonna Tourism Works for Steele County

In recognition of National Travel and Tourism Week May 3-9, Visit Owatonna will celebrate our tourism partners with a Tourism Award Luncheon on May 6th at the Owatonna Arts Center. We will recognize the dedication and passion of those working in the tourism industry BUT, we need your help!



The Search for Our Local Hospitality Superstars is on!



If you know of an individual that works in hospitality and who goes the extra miles to ensure visitors in Owatonna have an amazing and unforgettable visitor experience, now is the time to show them how much they are appreciated!

There are seven award categories that recognize an individual who advocates and supports travel and tourism in Owatonna. The categories are: Outstanding Service in: Restaurant, Lodging, Attraction, Retail, Events; Owatonna Tourism Champion and Innovation in Tourism.

Nominate your industry superstars TODAY by visiting www.visitowatonna.org Deadline is April 13th.

► NEW Members

► Edina Realty

Heidi Kohanek
120 Landmark DR
Owatonna
507-214-7653
heidikohanek@EdinaRealty.com



► Piepho Roofing Inc.

James Piepho
5098 SW 18th ST, Owatonna
507-451-1686
jpiephoroofing@hotmail.com



► Gene Drake Agency - Senior Care Insurance Services

Gene Drake
111 W Vine ST, Owatonna
507-413-0960
genedrakeagency@gmail.com

► Schwan's Home Delivery

Wendy Mathison
2795 Park DR, Owatonna
507-446-9075
Wendy.mathison@cygnusdelivers.com



► Kwik Trip - Store # 1088 (Hoffman DR)

Theresa Johnson
410 Hoffman DR, Owatonna
507-213-6666
1088@kwiktrip.com



► Sollid Studios

Stephanie Hanson, Katie Berg, Katie Sollid
1400 S Oak AVE, Owatonna
507-438-5965
sollidstudios@gmail.com



► Owatonna Sports and Physical Therapy

Scott Nelson
1414 S Oak AVE, STE 2, Owatonna
507-451-8254
Scott.nelson@osptinc.com



► TriMa Testing

Trish Noyce
151 Prospect, Owatonna
866-553-5534
trish@trimainc.com



► Philly's Billiards

Phillip Wright
120 W Broadway, Owatonna
507-213-0817
phillip@phillysbilliards.com



► Valley Staffing Inc.

Rebecca Nelson
211 1st AVE NW, Faribault
507-332-9041
faribault@valleystaffinginc.com



Statewide Issues That Impact Business

Tax Competitiveness

The top priority is enacting tax relief for pass-through entities by reducing rates for business income and adopting federal conformity with Section 179 expensing rules.

Environmental Sustainability

Foster both environmental sustainability and economic growth by driving private investment, business starts and jobs in Minnesota while helping employers reduce environmental impacts.

Health Care Costs

Support requiring a cost-benefit analysis before any proposal to add insurance mandates to state law.

Workforce Development

Support private sector initiatives to increase employer engagement in the training of workers, and support policies that ensure student readiness.

Workplace Management

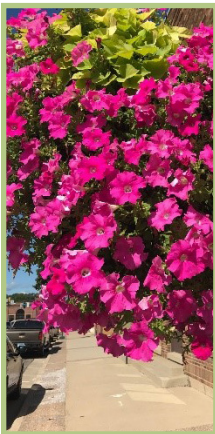
Enacting employee wage, benefit or scheduling mandates on private employers should be outside city authority. We support statewide preemption of local government labor mandates.

Bonding

We support the Steele County Free Fair's request for funds to help them bury power lines on the fair grounds—a safety concern. We support the Rochester International Airports request for funds that ensure on going commercial airline traffic regionally.



► MAINSTREET Update | Shirley Schultz, MainStreet Director



The Flowers are coming!

Donate a flower basket or 20 as a gift, memorial, or just because you love flowers and Owatonna. The baskets are only funded by donations and memorials from individuals and businesses in the community. 100% of donations are used to purchase, water and maintain the flowers. MainStreet provides in-kind administration. Find info online: MainStreet page at Owatonna.org and Downtown Owatonna on Facebook. Donors will be acknowledged on social and print media.

Downtown Thursdays are back for 2020...

Downtown Thursdays are back for 2020... the 1st Thursday of June, July & August. Jaguar Communications is returning as headline sponsor this summer! Follow Downtown Owatonna for announcements and the lineup. Over 8000 people enjoyed Downtown Thursdays in 2019. Contact Shirley for information on how you can be in front of that many pairs of eyes along with advance marketing. Let's meet Downtown.



BUSINESS *after* HOURS



Networking, and food at January and February's Business After Hours! Thank you to our great hosts for sharing their wonderful space with us.

Don't miss our next Business After Hours!

March 17th
5:30pm - 7pm  **ECUMEN® Brooks**
Sponsor: Ecumen Brooks
Location: 2480 St Paul Rd, Owatonna

April 28th
5:30pm - 7pm  **ECUMEN® CountrySide**
Sponsor: Ecumen CountrySide
Location: 650 El Dorado St SE, Owatonna



young
professionals
of **Owatonna**
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM



Upcoming events...

Y-Pro Social at Mineral Springs Brewery

March 19th | 5PM - 7PM

Join us at Mineral Springs Brewery for drinks (non-alcoholic drinks available), a brewery tour and time to connect with other Young Professionals after work.

April 14th | 12pm - 1pm

Lunch & Learn with Diane Amundson
Talking About Our Generation: Learning
To Communicate More Effectively Across
Generations
Owatonna Public Utilities-Morehouse
Room

Need a reason to join the Young Professionals of Owatonna?

There are many reasons to join but here is an important one... Building Relationships! Whether you are from the area or just moved to town; joining Y-Pro can connect you with a whole new group of friends from outside your normal circle.

Follow the OACCT Young Professionals on Facebook!



▶ **Business Bootcamp**

Wage Theft Law and Other Wage Protection Laws with John Stiffin

March 19th 12pm-1pm
Owatonna Public Library-Gainey Room

Partner Meeting with SRHM

2nd Chance Month
April 16th 12pm-1pm
Owatonna Country Club

▶ **MARCH & APRIL** Events

▶ **BUSINESS AFTER HOURS** ***Note Earlier Date***

March 17
5:30 – 7:00 pm
Sponsor: Ecumen Brooks
Location: 2480 St. Paul RD, Owatonna



▶ **BUSINESS BOOT CAMP**

March 19
12:00 – 1:00 pm
Owatonna Public Library – Gainey Room, 105 N Elm AVE
Topic: Wage & Theft Law and other Wage Protection Laws with John Stiffin, MN Department of Labor

▶ **YOUNG PROFESSIONALS -Social**

March 19
5:00 – 7:00 pm
Mineral Springs Brewery
111 N Walnut, Owatonna

▶ **BUSINESS BOOT CAMP**

April 16
12:00 – 1:00 pm
Owatonna Public Library – Gainey Room, 105 N Elm AVE

▶ **STEELECOWORKS JOB FAIR AT OHS**

April 22
Looking to recruit summer help? Interested in sharing more about your business with prospective employees? Sign up to have a booth at the job fair. azak@wdimn.org

▶ **BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**

April 28
5:30 – 7:00 PM
Sponsor: Ecumen Countryside
Location: 650 El Dorado, Owatonna



CHAMBER PACK INSERT DEADLINE

Supply 550 copies of your promotional insert by April 22 for May/June mailing; \$150

The OACCT Office will be closed at noon on Friday, April 10, 2020 for Good Friday



AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM

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Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 AM–5 PM

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