This month’s MetroNorth membership luncheon event will inform you about one of the most pressing issues affecting individuals and businesses today.

You don’t need to be told that health care costs are skyrocketing. Over the past year, most small business owners experienced double digit increases.

Based on that fact, Governor Pawlenty named a blue ribbon group made up of business and community leaders to tackle this issue.

The panel was chaired by Cal Ludeman, the Commissioner in charge of the Department of Health and Human Services. Commissioner Ludeman will give an overview of what the panel was able to accomplish and what challenges still need to be addressed.

Colleen Reitan is our second guest. She is the President of Blue Cross Blue Shield. Ms. Reitan will also address the health care challenge facing Minnesota businesses.

This event will be interactive, giving the attendees an opportunity to address their specific health care business needs.

Mark down Monday, June 16th, to attend this informative event. It will be held at the Mermaid in Mounds View which is located off County Road 10 and 35W.

Registration begins at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. The program is scheduled to run until 1:15 p.m. Cost to attend is $20 for members and $25 for non-members. For information or reservations, please e-mail rita@metronorthchamber.org or call (763) 783-3553

Still time to get involved in 6/11 golf tournament

There still are opportunities to participate in the MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament on Wednesday, June 11, at the Ponds Golf Course in St. Francis.

Hole and tee sponsorships are available at $150 each. Tent food and drink sponsorships are also $150. Through the “Taste of MetroNorth feature, the Chamber’s hospitality members are invited to provide samples of their products on the course.

There may also be a few openings for players left. Cost is $99 for a single, $198 for a pair, and $396 for a foursome.

Darbi Comparetto receives the April Member of the Month trophy from Mike Thorsland of Nationwide Insurance. Darbi is a Realtor with Remax Associates Plus, an Accredited Staging Professional (ASP), and the Owner of Bella Interiors & Staging. Darbi’s proven marketing and selling techniques have made her a top professional in her field. She also brought in two new members to the Chamber in April. Thank you Darbi!
B.E.L.L. Presents…

Guerrilla Marketing for the small business

If you missed The BELL in May, you missed an opportunity to increase your profits. Receiving a rating of 5.0 BELLS out of a possible 5.0 from the attendees (that’s right, a perfect score), Tom Barrett shared the techniques of the Toyota Management System, also known as “Lean Management.” Attendees learned how to harvest the strength of their employees to generate continuous improvement, reduce costs, and increase profits while increasing employee retention and customer satisfaction.

Whether you’re an owner or a manager, whether you’re a sole-proprietor or have 150 employees, BELL luncheons are designed to bring you cutting-edge, best-practice ideas to implement immediately. Learn, network, and reward your most valuable asset—your employees. The Business/Education committee’s BELL program is a “Don’t Miss” event.

Your next opportunity to attend a BELL lunch is Thursday, June 12th. Are you looking for cost-effective ideas to market your company? Do you want more business from existing customers? How about new customers and more referrals?

You can create a high-impact, low-budget promotional campaign that delivers above-average results. Mark Widdel is a high-energy trainer, business-owner, Communications Manager with the Carlson Company, and member of the Anoka-Ramsey Community College faculty. He will share his experience with unconventional marketing methods known as Guerrilla Marketing Tactics to gain maximum results from minimal resources. Mr. Widdel is a high-energy trainer with a passion and enthusiasm for helping businesses prosper. You’ll leave energized to incorporate these new ideas into your marketing plan.

Join your Chamber colleagues for training and networking at Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Coon Rapids Campus, 11200 Mississippi Blvd. NW. Registration is at 11:30 with Mr. Widdel’s presentation beginning at 11:45. Lunch will be served so your RSVP is greatly appreciated.

If you don’t pre-register, we can’t guarantee a lunch. The cost for MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce members is just $20 in advance, with $5 going to the MNCC Education Scholarship fund. For non-members and pay-at-the-door, the cost is $25. Contact Rita today at (763) 783-3553 or rita@metronorthchamber.org to reserve your spot.

Renewals during April

Thanks to the following business leaders for renewing their MetroNorth Chamber memberships during April:

- ActionCOACH Metro North
- Babcock, Mannella, Klint, PLLP
- Blaine International Village
- CB Richard Ellis
- Central Bank
- Coon Rapids Fairfield Inn
- Dailey Homes
- Disabled American Veterans – Anoka #39
- Dynamic Engineering, Inc.
- Erhart & Associates, L.L.C.
- Erickson Metals of Minnesota, Inc.
- Family Friendly Chiropractic
- First Advantage Bank
- Four Paws and a Tail
- Friendly Chevrolet, Inc.
- Hansen, Dordell, Bradt, Odlaug & Bradt
- inPursuit Consulting LLC
- Insurance Brokers of Minnesota Inc.
- Kozlack-Radulovich Funeral Chapel
- Majors Sports Café
- Manning Transfer, Inc.
- Management Specialties
- Mart Financial Services, Inc.
- Minnesota WorkForce Center – Anoka County
- Nationwide Insurance
- Northern Sanitary Supply Co., Inc.
- Print Central
- Red Oak Steaks and Wine
- Spring Lake Park Lumber Company
- Stone Construction, Inc.
- Today’s Window Fashions
- UBUILDIT/Nettum Consulting
- Von Hanson’s Meats
- Xcel Energy
General Marketing Services Merges with Turnkey Marketing
Strategic Partners General Marketing Services of Champlin and Turnkey Marketing of Egan, have merged to form GENERAL MARKETING SOLUTIONS.

The new company is uniquely positioned to provide a wider selection of marketing capabilities to meet clients’ goals. Turnkey Marketing and General Marketing Services have strategically operated as sister companies for some time.

Anoka Hennepin Credit Union marks opening of its 8th branch

Anoka Hennepin Credit Union celebrated the grand opening of its eighth branch, in St. Francis, on Monday, May 19. The new location is at 23280 St. Francis Boulevard NW, near the intersection of St. Francis Boulevard and 233rd Avenue NW.

“The branch is designed to encourage more conversations with members,” said Jeff Claussen, President/CEO of AHCU. “By removing that barrier of a traditional teller line and working side by side with members we’ve created a more member-friendly environment that is more conducive to conversation and really learning our members’ needs.” The new branch also offers the St. Francis area a community room. AHCU will use the community room to host free educational seminars. It will also offer the room for use to groups within the area during and after hours.

Kathi Jensen Named Exec. Director of County’s Mediation Services
Kathi Jensen was recently named Executive Director of Mediation Services for Anoka County. MSAC is a non-profit agency which has provided 21 years of free or low cost mediation services to Anoka County residents using volunteer mediators. Jensen has been on the staff at MSAC for the last eight years and is a MetroNorth Chamber member.

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad is Honored by Anoka County Community Action

State Representative Kathy Tingelstad was recently honored with the Legislator of the Year Award by the Anoka County Community Action Program Inc. for her leadership on transportation issues.

Kathy Tingelstad is the State Representative from House District 49B in Andover and Coon Rapids. She was first elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1996 and currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee and the Co-Chair of the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.

Mark Robertson is named Superintendent of the year
The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Mr. Mark Robertson, Superintendent for the Fridley

Members in the news (to page 4)

ANNIVERSARIES
Happy Anniversary to our Chamber Members who have been members for:

25 years:
North Suburban Agencies, Inc.
Northern Asphalt LLC
Northtown Mall
Print Central

5 years:
HTG Architects
AirTran Airways
First Advantage Bank

Business Anniversaries:
10 Years:
First Choice Insurance

1 year:
Apparel Design Center
Moe’s - Coon Rapids

Congratulations and thank you for being a part of our community. We need your help — if you have a Business Anniversary coming up, please let us know! Email information to: jill@metronorthchamber.org

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Members in the News (from page 3)

Schools, the 2008 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year.

Mr. Robertson has been superintendent for the Fridley Schools since 2003. During his tenure, the district has refocused its mission to reflect a new motto of “Fridley Schools, A World-Class Community of Learners,” resonating both a global perspective to education and the diversity of the student population.

Local window fashion franchise sets a national company record

Minnesotans may still be waiting for a Super Bowl Trophy or Stanley Cup, but they do have at least one home-state championship team. Jeff Wellen and Jon Schmidt, owners of the Today’s Window Fashions franchise serving the metro area and outstate Minnesota, were recently honored by the nationwide company for top sales and service during 2007. In fact, they recorded the highest sales in the company’s history.

The award was presented at the Today’s Window Fashions Business Conference at the Pala Mesa Resort in San Diego, California. While setting their sales record last year, members of the local franchise also found time to work on the Extreme Makeover Home Edition project and Habitat for Humanity.
Debi and Dave Kraus invite you to the visit their Italian designed salon and spa. With their outstanding professional team they will provide you many services in health and beauty. Their mission for you is to relax and enjoy yourself as their guest and experience “the beauty of life”! Welcome to the Chamber!

Congratulations to Serendipity Café, Gifts & Floral, 3450 Bunker Lake Boulevard, Andover — celebrating their 1st anniversary.

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Meeting Sponsors
The MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the following companies for sponsoring our membership meetings:

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Blaine, MN 55449
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New Brighton, MN 55112
(651) 635-1737
Financial Planning

Bella Italian Grill
Jeff Taylor
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Blaine, MN 55449
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www.bellablaine.com
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Copeland Truc-King, Inc.
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Fridley, MN 55421
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www.copelandtruck-king.com
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(763) 780-7500, Fax: (763) 786-5907
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Jessirischdesign.com
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- **5:00 - 7:00 p.m.: Women Doing Business with Women (T-Asia in Blaine)**
- **7:30 - 9:00 a.m.: Gov't Affairs Committee (Bakers Square - Blaine)**
- **4:00 - 5:00 p.m.: Membership Committee (Chamber office)**
- **8:00 - 9:30 a.m.: Fall Fundraiser meeting (Chamber office)**
- **7:30 - 9:00 a.m.: Sunrise Networking (Time Out)**
- **9:30 - 11:00 a.m.: BELL (Chamber office)**
- **11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Membership Lunch (The Mermaid)**
- **5:00 - 7:00 p.m.: Sunset After Hours (Bella)**
- **8:00 - 9:00 a.m.: New Member Orientation (Chamber office)**
- **7:30 - 9:00 a.m.: Sunrise Networking (Old Country Buffet, Coon Rapids)**
- **11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: Jump Start (The Seasons, Coon Rapids)**
- **3:00 - 4:30 p.m.: Ambassadors (TBD)**

**Independence Day**

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