



THE CHAMBER

FARGO MOORHEAD WEST FARGO

Leadership Fargo Moorhead West Fargo December Newsletter

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MOORHEAD
WEST FARGO

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Please dress in casual attire. Jeans at Microsoft are welcome!
- You will meet your nonprofit group members at this session. Be ready to coordinate schedules and start setting up meeting times.
- Post-session social will be held at Pepper's Sports Cafe!
- Be prepared for surprises at this month's session!

Thursday, December 8 LFMWF Session

Happy Holidays! As we reach the halfway point of our Leadership year, it's a good time to reflect on what we have learned so far. The remainder of the Leadership year will be rather busy with your group projects. Please be sure to allow yourself enough time to meet with your assigned nonprofits.

The December session is sponsored by Microsoft and will be held at their Executive Briefing Center. We will focus

us customer service, community leadership, communication skills, and gratitude. Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to ask our speakers and panelists questions.

Be sure to read through the entire newsletter. Your nonprofit groups can be found on page five. I was able to you all into one of your top three choices. Let the planning begin!

Important addresses & parking info

Microsoft - 3900 Great Plains Drive South, Fargo.

We will meet in The Commons building at the Executive Briefing Center. Please refer to the map in your email and bring your parking pass!

Pepper's Sports Café - 2510 University Dr S, Fargo. There is plenty of parking.

Welcome to Microsoft's Fargo campus!

Established in 2001 with the acquisition of Great Plains Software, the Fargo campus is now home to a major Microsoft Dynamics development center. The 80-acre campus employs more than 1,400 people. In addition to research and development, you will also find customer service and support, IT, inside sales, and marketing teams. Plus, the Fargo campus has a team of accountants and specialists who manage U.S. payroll,

global headcount operations, and other operational and financial needs for the *entire* company. They also run one of nine Executive Briefing Centers, which is where we are holding today's session! This makes Fargo pretty special, considering the other eight places are:

- Tokyo, Japan
- Thames Valley Park, Reading, United Kingdom
- Redmond, Washington

Thank you to Microsoft for generously donating the space and food for today's session.

- Sydney, Australia
- Brussels, Belgium
- Beijing, China
- Copenhagen, Denmark
- Cologne, Germany
- Munich, Germany
- Hyderabad, India

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Community Leadership Panel - Panelist Bios

Sheriff Paul Laney, Cass County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Paul D. Laney is a North Dakota native and was raised in rural Cass County near Horace, ND. He attended school in West Fargo, ND and graduated from West Fargo High School in 1984. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1984. While in the Marine Corps he served in a Communications Detachment with MSSG-13 of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Sheriff Laney was honorably discharged in October of 1988.

He returned to the Fargo area in 1989 and was hired by the Fargo Police Department in August of 1989. Sheriff Laney served in many capacities with the Fargo Police Department. He served as a patrol officer, gang/narcotics investigator, field training officer and tactical team member. When Sheriff Laney retired from the Fargo Police Department in December of 2006, he was a lieutenant and commander of the Red River Valley SWAT Team.

Sheriff Laney was elected to a four year term of office in November of 2006 and was sworn in as Sheriff on January 2, 2007. He was re-elected to a second term as Sheriff and was sworn in on January 3, 2011. Sheriff Laney has two daughters and lives in Fargo with his wife Patty.

Erv Inniger, Senior Director of Community Relations, Choice Financial

A native of Berne, Ind., Inniger was a standout performer in high school, where his teams went 67-0 over three regular seasons, and for Indiana University during the mid-1960s, where he was captain of the Hoosier team that won the 1967 Big Ten championship. That team went 18-8 and finished third in the NCAA Regional. He went on to play two years in the American Basketball Association with the Minnesota Muskies and the Miami Floridians.

Inniger is the winningest men's basketball coach in North Dakota State history. He guided the Bison to a 244-150 record over 14 seasons, including one North Central Conference title in 1981. In 1992, Inniger left his coaching duties to become Senior Associate Athletic Director for Development and External Relations at NDSU. Just a few of his accomplishments in that position include spearheading a fund drive for Newman Outdoor Field; organizing the fund drive for a new outdoor track facility at NDSU; bringing Gus Macker to Fargo to generate scholarship opportunities at NDSU; establishing endowments through the Heritage Fund for most collegiate sports at NDSU; and organizing goodwill trips to the Bahamas to take needy children and the elderly much needed supplies.

Inniger's accomplishments and contributions reach across the entire Fargo, Moorhead, West Fargo community. He was elected to the Fargo City Commission from 1994-2000; served on the board of directors for the Salvation Army; serves as a motivational speaker for various organizations throughout the region; and was chair of the 2010 Salvation Army Kettle Campaign. He has received numerous awards for his service to the community. He has received the Service to Mankind Award from the Sertoma Club for significant and meritorious service to mankind; the Jefferson award from WDAY Communications for outstanding public service; 2001 NDSU Hall of Fame Inductee; 1995 Doctor of Service Award from Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, awarded to "a man or woman, either from the University or in the state, who has given the greatest service to the University."

In May 2011, Inniger accepted a position at Choice Financial as Senior Director of Community Relations. He resides in Fargo with his wife Linda. They have two sons and five grandsons.

Community Leadership Panel - Panelist Bios

Sherri Thomsen, President, *United Way of Cass-Clay*

Sherri Thomsen was named the United Way of Cass-Clay President on May 5, 2011. Prior to taking over the President position, Thomsen was a long-time United Way of Cass-Clay volunteer and has lived in Fargo since 2003. She came to United Way of Cass-Clay with a wide range of non-profit management experience. Most recently, she served in the role of Regional Executive Director for the American Red Cross Minn-Kota Chapter in Fargo, for six years. During Thomsen's tenure, the Minn-Kota Chapter grew from one office serving 12 counties to seven offices serving all of North Dakota and 10 counties in Minnesota. One of Thomsen's biggest challenges while at the American Red Cross was helping lead over 900 disaster response volunteers and staff during the spring flooding of 2009. Prior to her experience with the American Red Cross, Thomsen served as the Executive Director of Kennebec Valley Humane Society in Augusta, Maine, and was responsible for raising funds to care for approximately 3,500 animals a year through an animal control facility for stray, abandoned, and owner-surrendered animals serving 23 cities. Thomsen has served as a United Way of Cass-Clay volunteer in nearly every aspect of the organization, including Board of Trustees, Community Investment Committee, Impact Speaker, Loaned Executive, and Campaign Cabinet, and 2009 Long Term Flood Recovery Fund Unmet Needs Committee.

Community Leadership Panel Questions

The Leadership Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Planning Committee has developed questions for the Community Leadership Panel. **Please come prepared with questions you would like to ask panelists.**

Personal and Professional

- 1) What is your personal and professional motivation?
- 2) What is your background/career path? How did you end up where you are?
- 3) With your current career in mind, is there something you would have done differently knowing this is where you'd be (regarding education, training, etc.)?
- 4) What's the most valuable less you've learned while servicing your industry?
- 5) What do you feel are some of the necessary traits to being successful in your specific industry, or other in our community?
- 6) What valuable lessons have you learned from some of your failures/mistakes?
- 7) How have you been able to motivate others or mentors those around you?

Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Community and Industry

- 1) What are some of the challenges you see facing the FMWF community?
- 2) What are some of the strong advantages regarding your business/organization and its location in the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo community?
- 3) Where do you see the FMWF community/your organization as far as growth, accomplishments, in the next one, five, ten years?
- 4) What is something we are lacking in the FMWF area in comparison to the rest of the nation?
- 5) What are some vital resources in our area that have proven helpful to the growth and/or success of your organization/industry?

Chris Thompson Bio

Chris Thompson is a Director and Americas Regional Cluster Lead for the Americas Office Support business. Chris has spent the last 13.5 years at Microsoft involved with the ERP, Field Service, Siebel, CRM and Office products. During the V1-V4 releases for Microsoft CRM, Chris had the opportunity to work with the group as the Group Manager and Global Cluster Lead before moving into Office Support as a Group Manager and Americas Regional Cluster Lead. In her current role as Director and Americas Regional Cluster Lead, Chris manages core teams within the Americas Office support business as well as driving the overall delivery strategy for Office in the Americas region; forecasting volume, TMPI and staffing requirements; and working with PQO and the product groups on sustaining, supportability and release management for the Office products. Chris is accountable for the business results and success of 135 team members within NA based out of Texas, WA, ND and NC as well as the results of team members in India who support the Office products.

Chris resides in West Fargo with her husband, daughter, horses and other pets and is a graduate at MSUM. Prior to her life at Great Plains/Microsoft she taught high school math and computers in TX and majored in Int'l Business and Education. She volunteers her time on the United Way Woman's Leadership Council as well as serve on the Advisory Board for the Operations Management program at MSUM.

WennSoft Background

Wennsoft is a Microsoft partner. Join us as we hear from Holly Holt, Marketing Manager of WennSoft, as she talks about how WennSoft works in conjunction with Microsoft to accomplish mutual goals. WennSoft grew from the operations department of a Midwestern mechanical contractor, which sought an effective software solution that would help it to manage large construction related projects and its service operations. In 1989, the WennSoft solutions were implemented within the company as a way of enhancing and expanding reporting, allowing proactive management processes, improving efficient and reducing overall costs. In 1995, WennSoft was incorporated as its own entity, allowing the company to expand its product line and begin servicing multiple industries.

Nonprofit Group Assignments

Rape and Abuse Crisis Center

Dustin Dale
 Erica Johnsrud
 Barry Kuhnke
 Jody Saum
 Alissa Sorum
 Daren Sullivan
 Janess Sveet

Contact person: Lynn Speral
Email: lynn@raccfm.com
Phone #: (701) 293-7273
Website: www.raccfm.com

Project HERO

Ranae Aakre
 Jeannie Camarillo
 Damon Janssen
 Kim Manuel
 Adrienne Olson
 Angie Stock

Contact person: Joyce Newton
Email: joyce@fmhero.com
Phone #: (701) 212-1921
Website: www.fmhero.org

Great Plains Food Bank

Jon Benson
 Michelle Edenberg
 Lisa Evenson
 Anthony Houkum
 Jade Rosenfeldt
 Wendy Thymian
 Amber Vogel

Contact person: Melissa Sobolik
Email: msobolik@lssnd.org
Phone #: (701) 232-6219
Website: www.lssnd.org/greatplainsfoodbank

United Campus Ministry

Tory Jacobson
 Kara Kalbus
 Jason Pratt
 Tyler Soper
 Charlene Swanson
 Kristi Leach

Contact person: Theta Miller
Email: revtheta@fmucm.org
Phone #: (701) 235-0672
Website: www.fmucm.org

TNT Kids Fitness

Kellie Albrecht
 Chuck Heiden
 Shelly Kegley
 Kristi Krebs
 Peter Matthaei
 Lisa Metzger
 Nate Noland

Contact person: Kim Pladson
Email: kim@tntkidsfitness.org
Phone #: (701) 365-8868
Website: www.tntkidsfitness.org

Thursday, December 8 Agenda

Microsoft
3900 Great Plains Dr S, Fargo

- 8:15 a.m.** Arrive and Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m.** Welcome to Microsoft: Don Morton, Fargo Site Leader, *Microsoft*
- 9 a.m.** Keynote Speaker: Chris Thompson, *Microsoft*
- 10:45 a.m.** Improve Your Communication Skills
- 12 noon** Lunch: Meet your non-profit group members!
- 1 p.m.** Community Leadership Panel
Sheriff Paul Laney - Cass County Sheriff's Department
Sherri Thomsen - President, United Way of Cass Clay
Erv Inniger - Senior Director of Community Relations, Choice Financial
- 2:30 p.m.** Break and snack time!
- 3 p.m.** Hidden Gem: Tour and Talk of WennSoft, a Microsoft Partner
- 4 p.m.** Social at Pepper's Sports Cafe: Optional for those that want to attend

Thank you to our December Session Sponsor.

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