

Hi Community Friends:

Please see the page below from the Milwaukee Business Journal dated June 10, 2016. The Hales Corners Chamber of Commerce made the top 25 of the Largest Milwaukee -Area Chambers of Commerce.

Not bad for an all volunteer group to accomplish. Here's a little background for your consideration. Back in April, 2003, I was elected to the Village Board and new business development had just been completed in the Village of Hales Corners with the new Pick N Save opening the same week I took office. Our late Village President,, Jim Ryan, suggested to me that it would be great if we could get the chamber re-chartered. I later, learned, that the Chamber had been defunct for over 26 years. Anyway to make a long story short, I organized the business community and community organizations and hand picked the officers and board of directors and by the spring of 2004 the Hales Corners Chamber was up and running. I stayed on for a few years and then turned it over to President Ryan and after Jim passed away, Village President, Bob Ruesch, became the village liaison. When the economy went bad in 2008 a number of businesses approached me and said that the Chamber was down to 15 members and was slowly dying. They knew it was my bay so I took charge and have been the President now for eight years and we have over 100 paid members. Also, the Hales Corners Chamber of Commerce has a tremendously positive working relationship with the Village of Hales Corners. This just didn't happen. A lot of work over the 12 years and mutual respect for community priorities were put jointly in place. I'm happy to report we are going in the direction as a Village.

Just wanted to share this great news and acknowledge the great Board of Directors that we have in place on the Chamber who all have worked very hard to get us in the top 25 in south eastern Wisconsin.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Donald G. Schwartz
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President, Friends of Hales Corners Park & Pool, www.halescornerspark.com

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T H E L I S T

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LARGEST MILWAUKEE-AREA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

RANKED BY NUMBER OF TOTAL PAID MEMBERSHIPS

Rank	Chamber name Website	Address Phone	Total paid membership	Employees represented by business memberships	Sample events	Chamber staff	Top executive Year est.
1	Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce ① mmac.org	756 N. Milwaukee St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 414-287-4100	1,900	300,000	Future 50; World Trade Day; COSRE business roundtables	48	Tim Sheehy, President 1861
2	Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Wisconsin ② hccw.org	1021 W. National Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53204 414-643-6963	1,220	90,000	Veterans recognition breakfast; Salute to Hispanic Women; CEO leadership summit	48	Jorge Franco, President/CEO 1972
3	Waukesha County Business Alliance ③ waukesha.org	2717 N. Grandview Blvd. Waukesha, WI 53188 262-542-4249	1,105	60,000	Alliance Morning Program; Young Professionals of Waukesha County; Professional Women's Development Network	10	Suzanne Kelley, President 1918
4	Kenosha Area Chamber of Commerce ④ kenoshareachamber.com	600 52nd St. Kenosha, WI 53140 262-654-1234	665	25,002	Kenosha Expo - Health & Home Show; Regional Connections multi-chamber networking; Scholarship Golf Classic	4	Lou Molitor, Executive director 1916
5	Greater Brookfield Chamber of Commerce ⑤ brookfieldchamber.com	17100 W. Blue Mound Rd. Brookfield, WI 53005 262-786-1886	571	14,275	Business After 5; Active Business Leads Exchange; annual golf outing	2	Carol White, President 1957
6	West Bend Area Chamber of Commerce ⑥ wbchamber.org	304 S. Main St. West Bend, WI 53095 262-338-2666	509	15,976	Home, Sporting & Recreation Expo; Business of the Year Awards dinner; West Bend \$1,000 Cache Bash	5	Craig Farrell, Executive director 1913
7	Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce ⑦ burlingtonchamber.org	113 E. Chestnut Rd. Burlington, WI 53105 262-763-6044	450	4,300	Awards Dinner/Auction; Home & Garden Show; multi-chamber networking events	3	Jan Ludtke, Executive director 1943
8	Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce ⑧ wislgbtchamber.com	5027 W. North Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53208 414-678-9275	436	100,000	Business Diversity Summit; Out in the Kitchen Food Tasting; LGBT Wedding Expo	1.25	Jason Rae, Executive director 2012
9	Mequon Thiensville Chamber of Commerce ⑨ mtchamber.org	6331 W. Mequon Rd. Mequon, WI 53092 262-512-9358	419	8,675	Chamber Luncheon meetings; annual Golf Classic; Celebrate Your Community Awards dinner	2	Tina Schwantes, Executive director 1980
10	Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce ⑩ racinechamber.com	300 5th St. Racine, WI 53403 262-634-1931	410	35,000	Business Blindes (after work hours networking event); Supervision Training Series; Legislator Breakfast	4	Jim Ladwig, President/CEO 1962
11	Muskego Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism ⑪ muskego.org	574 W16894 Janesville Rd. Muskego, WI 53150 414-422-1155	330	2,500	Jammin' on Janesville; annual Golf Open and Fall Community Dinner; State of the City Plus Breakfast	5	Deborah Skrusky, Executive director 1963
12	South Suburban Chamber of Commerce ⑫ southsuburbanchamber.com	8580 S. Howell Ave. Oak Creek, WI 53154 414-768-5845	325	14,000	Monthly breakfasts; Bi-monthly lunches; annual Awards Dinner	2	Barbara Wesener, Executive director 2001
13	Glendale Chamber of Commerce ⑬ glendalechamber.com	6270 N. Port Washington Rd. Glendale, WI 53217 262-442-0730	304	NA	NSI-GCC B2B/B2C Breakfast Club; BIZ showcases and information events	2	Dale Schmidt, President/CEO 1950
14	Menomonee Falls Chamber of Commerce ⑭ fallschamber.com	N88 W16621 Appteton Ave. Menomonee Falls, WI 53051 262-251-2430	300	17,000	Leadership Menomonee Falls Roundtable groups; monthly Business After Five networking	2.5	Tom Cumina Yates, Executive director 1940
15	Wauwatosa Chamber of Commerce ⑮ tosachamber.org	10437 W. Innovation Dr. Wauwatosa, WI 53226 414-453-2330	300	600	Small Business Owner Roundtable; Women Leadership Group; annual Showcase and Social	2	Terry Edness, Executive director 1919
16	Hartland Chamber of Commerce ⑯ hartland-wi.org	116 W. Capitol Dr. Hartland, WI 53029 262-367-7059	291	7,033	Lake Country Community Fest; networking and education seminars; Hartland Street Dance	2	Lynn Minturn, Executive director 1950
17	Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce ⑰ hartfordchamber.org	1246-A E. Summer St. Hartford, WI 53027 262-673-7002	257	3,568	Member celebration and annual dinner; Ambassador Golf Outing; Future Hartford Leadership Program	2	Scott Henke, Executive director 1922
18	Mukwonago Area Chamber of Commerce ⑱ mukwonagochamber.org	100 Atkinson St. Mukwonago, WI 53149 262-363-7758	251	250	Farmers' Market; Fall Fest; Midnight Magic	2	April Reska, Executive director 1985
19	African American Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin ⑲ aacwisconsin.org	633 W. Wisconsin Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53203 414-462-9450	248	1,500	Certification Summit; Breakfast of Champions; Women in Business	5	Eve Hill, President/ CEO 1993
20	Pewaukee Chamber of Commerce ⑳ pewaukeechamber.org	1285 Sunnyside Rd. Pewaukee, WI 53072 262-691-8851	230	2,500	Government Update Luncheon; Awards Gala; Biz After Biz networking	1.25	Nancy Waters, Executive director 1941
21	New Berlin Chamber & Visitors Bureau ㉑ newberlinchamber.org	13825 W. National Ave. New Berlin, WI 53151 262-786-5280	210	7,852	Discover New Berlin Community Fair; quarterly general membership meetings; Legislative Dialogue Breakfast	1	Edward Hojfer, Executive director 1959
22	Germantown Area Chamber of Commerce ㉒ germantownchamber.org	W156 N11251 Pilgrim Rd. Germantown, WI 53022 262-255-1812	188	4,626	Monthly networking events; golf outing; Community Awards Dinner	1	Lynn Grigch, Executive director 1981
23	Greater Union Grove Area Chamber of Commerce ㉓ unionsgrovechamber.org	925 15th Ave. Union Grove, WI 53182 262-878-6606	150	1,000	Racine County Business Roundtable; Union Grove 4th of July Parade; Great Pumpkin Chuckin' Fest	1	Jennifer Ditschelt, Executive director 1986
24	American Indian Chamber of Commerce of WI ㉔ aicwi.org	10809 W. Lincoln Ave. West Allis, WI 53227 414-604-2044	130	1,500	Market Place; Tribal Transportation Conference; REZ	5	Craig Anderson, President 1991
25	Hales Corners Chamber of Commerce ㉕ halescornerschamber.org	P.O. Box 2 Hales Corners, WI 53130 414-418-8299	105	2,500	Chamber socials; Chamber Awards Banquet; informational sessions	3	Donald Schwartz, Founder/President 2004

NOTES: NA - not applicable, not available or not approved

► CLOSER LOOK

15

The number of chamber of commerce organizations on The List that have more total paid memberships than they did the previous year

48

The number of total staff employed by the two largest chambers of commerce on The List - Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Wisconsin and Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce

MEMBERSHIP CONNECTIONS

Many chambers utilize outreach to keep membership growing:

Greater Union Grove Area Chamber of Commerce

"Our Racine County Business Roundtable event is a multi-chamber event hosted in the heart of Racine County connecting people, ideas and resources."
Jennifer Ditschelt, Executive director

West Bend Area Chamber of Commerce

"We are currently collaborating with several school districts to develop a 'School to Work' youth apprentice program. I believe that the best way to keep our member businesses successful is to 'home grow' our future employees."
Craig Farrell, Executive director

Waukesha County Business Alliance

"The Alliance serves our members through its four pillars: Advocate, Develop, Network and Promote. Each program ties into one of these pillars, so as to ensure that it not only aligns with our core mission, but that the program itself benefits our attendees."
Suzanne Kelley, President

ABOUT THE LIST

Information was obtained from chamber representatives through surveys and telephone correspondence. Total paid members includes business and individual memberships. Chambers not responding by press deadline were not considered for inclusion. Ties are broken by number of staff members. Circled items indicate prior rank.

Sponsor these UPCOMING L I S T S

JULY 01

Wisconsin Wineries

JULY 08 Largest Area Construction Projects Underway

JULY 08 Largest Milwaukee-Area Nursing Homes

MILWAUKEE BUSINESS JOURNAL

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