

Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

The mission of the Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote Chamber members while enhancing the livability and connectedness of the community.

Annual review & social time: 3:30-4:00

Refreshments

Introductions

Lu will be presenting an overview of the year

OFFICIAL MEETING: 4:00 – 4:30

AGENDA : Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

The mission of the Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote Chamber members while enhancing the livability and connectedness of the community.

Current Executive Board Members:

Chair: Jodi Dixon, Vice Chair- Jeremiah Zahnow, Secretary/Treasurer- Denita Wisniewski

Board Members: Todd Ecker, Andy Otremba, Chris Amundson, Teresa Sorenson

4th Wednesday of the month, March 25, 2026 –MEETING 03:30 PM @ CITY HALL

Members Present: Jodi Dixon, Denita Wisniewski, Todd Ecker, Chris Amundson, Teresa Sorenson

MEETING

1-Call to Order/Roll Call:

- Called to order at 4:26 by Jodi Dixon

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions & minutes

- On a Motion by Chris and seconded by Todd, minutes and agenda were approved as presented.

3- Financial Report – Financials - Renewals

- Account Balances:
 - AHNB General Checking account: \$59,262.96
 - AHNB CD's: \$43,881.69
 - MN National Chamber Bucks: \$3,768.17
- Gross Profit from January 1, 2026 to March 20, 2026 is \$43,045.29
- 30 members need to pay their renewals for 2026
- We typically lose 15-20 memberships per year. Those include businesses that close or are downsizing.
- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Theresa, the financials were approved as presented.

4- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members: Viva Bar & Restaurant & J Brothers Plumbing

5- Director's Report-

6- Old Business

Chamber Event reports & updates:

Networking events

– February –

- Child Care Appreciation - Business of Child Care, LPEDA, Chamber, TCDC, TC
 - Child Care Appreciation event was sponsored by the Initiative Foundation. 15 daycare providers from Todd County attended. There were \$1200 in donations for local gift cards. The meal was catered by local food businesses.

March:

- Annual meeting – Held prior to the monthly March meeting.
- Refreshments
- Introductions of members and guests
- Lu presented an overview of the year

April 23:

- Hilltop Kitchen- lunch @ MN National Bank
- They will talk about senior living, Hilltop got accepted for a grant to make the Eagle Bend school into an apartment complex for seniors.

May 14:

- Sauk Centre & LPACC at Camphill Village LUNCH
 - This will be a collaboration between the Sauk Centre and Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber organized events:

Career Fair – click link- [slides](#)

- Friday, March 27th – wide variety of exhibitors. Every session is full.

Updates & Fundraising:

- Prairie Days
 - \$22,000 left to raise. We have received a \$5,000 grant from the 5 Wings Art Council
- Latino Festival
 - \$8,000 left to raise. We have received a \$5,000 grant from the 5 Wings Art Council
- Summer Concerts
 - \$9,000 left to raise.

Tourism request:

- The Tourism Committee requested the Chamber to be a named sponsor in the amount of \$500 for the Independence Day Celebration. The biggest expense for the weekend will be the fireworks display on July 5th. They are planning many events for the day including a fishing derby. Request failed for lack of a motion.

7- New Business

- Board Recognition posts
 - Lu is posting the Board members on Facebook – 1 per week.
- A-Z Member visits
 - Lu is doing A-Z member visits – 3 per week. These will be posted on Facebook. She is taking pictures of employees and the businesses.

8- Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned by Jodi at 4:53 p.m.

Our Core Values:

Promoting and connecting Chamber Members

Information and Resource Hub

Community enhancement

Welcome New 2025 Chamber Members! (31)

Ona's Alterations LLC – Chasity Arnold (January)

Joann Schroeder (individual - January)

BK Blooms (February)

Prairie View Diesel (February)

Childcare - Tia Nathaly LLC (February)

Initiative Foundation (March)

Lakeland Dental(March)

Northern Pines Mental Health Center (March)

Hearts United (March)

Bolton & Menk (April)

All in Common (April)

Angeles Construction & Cleaning LLC (April)

Northstar Plumbing, Heating & Air (May)

Meadow Place Assisted Living (May)

Long Prairie Health Care Center – Nursing Home (May)

Penmac Wadena (May)
Akira Torres Cleaning (May)
Absolutely Sunshine (May)
Kylie Natural - Hair Products (June)
7 House Bar & Grill (August)
DW Jones (August)
Oasis Skin Grove LLC (August)
Sol de Vida (August)
Angeles Reyes Cleaning (September)
Star Bank (September)
Just For Kix – Long Prairie (October)
Edita's Bar & Grill (October)
Karls Recycling (November)
Ring Studios (November)
Explore the Prairie (December)

Dropped: (16...6 with specific reasons)

Long Prairie Chiropractic – slowing down
Rose City Signs – change in leadership
Flavor Shack
John Wiese Ford
Karina's Creations
VIDA- Vital Interpreting Delivering Access - dissolved
Luna's Country Foods
Battle Lake Outdoor - dissolved
Taqueria Chavez
Wireless World
Penny M-Barbershop
Valley View Assisted Living and Memory Care
Lakewood Health System – Medical Place is a member
Long Prairie Vision Center (Dr. Larson)
Prairie Ridge Inn
All This And More Events with Troy Lounsbury – personal reasons

Membership Benefits

- Promotion via Facebook,
- Electronic Sign on HWY 71 & Email
- Free website & FB job listings
- Newspaper announcement of your NEW membership
- Monthly Networking Opportunities
- Phone Referrals

- Bi-Weekly emails: Chamber News, Upcoming Events
- Membership Certificate and decal
- Chamber Bucks promotion- Keep it local
- Online Membership Directory
- Member brochure, business cards and flyer display in office lobby
- Career/Job Fairs and other employee search and retention programs
- No cost participation in Trick or Treat

Community Benefits

The Chamber organizes and fundraises for the following events & initiatives:

- Monthly Networking
- Prairie Days
- Latino Festival
- Career Fair
- Community Gardens
- Downtown Flowers & Deco
- Harmony Park trees & scrubs
- City Wide Garage Sales
- Homecoming Parade float prizes
- Halloween Trick or Treat
- Bright Light Festivities
- Arts & Craft Show
- Outdoor Rink
- Public Forums

Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

2026 Strategic Goals

Increase Chamber Membership

Secure **15** new members in either Long Prairie or the surrounding area.

Show non-members the value of membership by introducing them to the Chamber Website, Facebook page and Membership Benefits flyer.

Retain Current Membership –

Make members feel valued by visiting and calling. Focus on connecting with at least 5 dormant members each month to check-in and remind them of the available membership benefits.

Promote and share business events and content via the chamber website, Facebook, GMLP Breakfasts, radio, emails etc.

On going

Brand the LPACC as the information Hub of Long Prairie

Send out **Bi-weekly** emails utilizing direct links for advertisements and events.

On going

Update the chamber website monthly to ensure it is an efficient and effective way to connect the community with resources

On going

Organize Networking events monthly

