

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CONNECTING THE CHAMBER WITH MEMBERS IN A MONTHLY NEWS SOURCE

CHAMBER PROFILE

MEET OUR 2010 BOARD CHAIRMAN

Rick Gronniger is a native of Troy, Kan., and attended Johnson County Community College and Missouri Western State University. He also received his drafting certificate from Kansas City Business College. He is the Human Resources Manager for Altec Industries, where he has worked for 31 years.

He and his wife, Claudia, have three daughters who are grown with families of their own. The Gronnigers are the proud grandparents of seven, who live in Troy, St. Joseph and Parkville, Mo.

Mr. Gronniger is very interested in the well-being of the Chamber and the St. Joseph community as a whole. Last year, he co-chaired the Chamber's Total Resource Campaign and Finance and Audit Committee while serving on the Board of Directors. He's also served as the Chamber's Vice-Chair of Community Development and on the Northwest Workforce Investment Board; then was appointed to the Governor's Workforce Investment Board.

Other volunteer positions have included the Specialty Industries Board, United Way Board, PIE (Profit in Education), Facilities Advisory Council of the St. Joseph School District, Success by Six and the Area Ministers Board.

He believes volunteering for the Chamber of Commerce is important for business people.

"It is the right place to feel the pulse of what is happening in the business community, as well as how St. Joe works in collaboration with other entities such as the government and non-profits," Mr. Gronniger said. "It is a great way to give back to the community."

As Chairman, he will pursue the Chamber's goals and focus on those he sees as very important.

"I'd like to see more integration of small business with large business in pursuing benefit for all," he said. "I believe there is a great wealth of information that can be shared that will benefit business as well as the community."

In politics, he thinks business leaders should focus on some major issues, like health care reform.

"I do not feel anyone is opposed to reform -- just the method of obtaining reform," Mr. Gronniger said.

"There is the concern about 'costs of healthcare' going up, mandated entrance into the program and the government option becoming the norm. There are a lot of questions that need to be understood as to what the effect will be. As it sounds currently, it is not business-friendly."

"It has been mentioned about the waste in Medicare -- maybe the effort should be started by removing waste where it is known to be and attack reform piece by piece."

He's also concerned with the proposed "Cap and Trade" energy bill and the Employee Free Choice Act. "All business owners and workers should go to the government web sites and research these topics so they might develop their own feelings and decide whether to support or rally against these efforts."

On the local business front, Mr. Gronniger believes the people of St Joseph care about their community.

"Sometimes events happen and we naturally react to things without considering what the proper recourse should be," he said. "I believe as different organizations become more aware to what they stand for and are doing in the community, then we can start to work toward common efforts instead of duplicating efforts."

He said this will, in turn, inform and educate residents and we will see great growth both economically and in building working relationships.

"I urge everyone to get involved by volunteering with community groups, schools, government and businesses. It's very gratifying," he said.



Rick Gronniger
Chairman

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NEW MEMBERS

The following businesses and individuals have been approved for membership in the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce:

Kansas City Chiefs Football Club

Marc Sandoval
One Arrowhead Drive
Kansas City, MO 64129
(816) 920-4815
msandoval@chiefs.nfl.com
www.kcchiefs.com

NFL SPORTS TEAM

Serenity Salon & Spa

Kari Harper
120 N. Seventh St. (01)
(816) 232-1600
kari@smartsavvystyle.com
www.smartsavvystyle.com
BEAUTY SALONS & SERVICES

Leaders Attend Great Northwest Day

Right: Missouri Western State University President Dr. Robert Vartabedian visits with Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder during the 2010 Great Northwest Day at the Capitol event. Chamber officials and representatives from the City of St. Joseph and Buchanan County joined 18 other counties from Northwest Missouri in Jefferson City to discuss legislative issues important to the area with elected officials.



Midtown Motors

Jan Jackson
727 S. Eighth St. (01)
(816) 232-8300
midtownmotors@att.net
AUTOMOBILE/TRUCK REPAIR

More Miche Please

Laura Peschong
5204 Red Barn Lane (03)
(816) 739-6623
laurap@micheexpo.com
RETAIL (PURSES)

Check your inbox...

Look in Chamber communications in the near future for information about a Social Media Series to be held in cooperation with the Small Business and Technology Development Center. The series will include educational sessions about Facebook, Twitter, Google and Web site marketing.



All members, employees and guests are invited to attend events.

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YEN Meeting

Presented by International Paper

The Young Executives Network provides professional development opportunities through social and educational programs to create leaders that are an asset to our community.

Monday, March 8
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., \$10, lunch included

Nodaway Valley Bank
Belt Highway & Faraon Street
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:

816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

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Lunch & Learn Box Lunch Seminar

Presented by Missouri Western State University

“Understanding Your Thinking Preferences: Play the Diversity Game and Find Out Far More About Your Own Brain Than Which Parts of Your Brain You Prefer to Use.”

Join Carol Roeber, Interim Dean of Missouri Western’s Steven L. Craig School of Business, for a fun and insightful game of exploration while enjoying lunch and fun with other local business professionals.

*Lunch by Famous Dave’s
Legendary Pit Bar-B-Que*

Tuesday, March 9
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
\$10, lunch included

Chamber of Commerce
3003 Frederick Ave.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:

816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

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DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast

Presented by Heartland Health

The Diplomats Club provides opportunities to promote your business and serve as a link between the Chamber and the community. Join us for our monthly meeting!

Thursday, March 11
7:15 to 8:30 a.m., \$5, breakfast included

Big Bob’s Outlet
3715 N. Belt Highway

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:

816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

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ST. JOE RISING

Presented by Heartland Health

Hosted by the Government Relations Committee, St. Joe Rising features issues involving social, economic, governmental, legislative and corporate activities that are of concern to members. At this event, you’ll be able to hear from and question the mayoral, City Council and St. Joseph School District primary election winners.

Friday, March 12
7 to 9 a.m., \$10, breakfast included

Holiday Inn Conference Center
102 S. Third St.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:

816/232-4461 or www.saintjoseph.com

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“Ten Ways to Return Your Investment in Chamber Membership.”

With a little focused effort, you can return the cost of your Chamber membership and then some, making the Chamber a valuable partner in your business’ success. Small business consultant Dodie Jacobi will present ways to get a tangible return on your membership investment. Stay after class to practice what you’ve learned at the Business After Hours.

Tuesday, March 16
4 to 5 p.m., FREE

The Old Hoof ‘N Horn
429 Illinois Ave.

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BUSINESS after HOURS

Presented by Altec

This networking event is hosted by the Diplomats Club Business Mixers Committee. Business Mixers take place the third Tuesday of every month at different Chamber member businesses. Attend six or more mixers a year and qualify to win a prize at the 2010 Holiday Party!

Tuesday, March 16
5 to 7 p.m., FREE

The Old Hoof ‘N Horn
429 Illinois Ave.

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2010 FARM/CITY Breakfast

In celebration of National Ag Day, this event is to recognize the farmer/producer and the importance of agribusiness to the area economy. Drew Cotton, former AFA Scholarship recipient, is invited to speak. KFEQ Farm Broadcaster, Tom Brand, will emcee the event.

Friday, March 19
7 to 9 a.m.
\$10, buffet breakfast included

Central Christian Church
1501 Leonard Road

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE CHAMBER OFFICE

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EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

“How to Increase Your Revenue In One MONTH”

Small business consultant Dodie Jacobi will present low- to no-cost ways to quickly increase revenue, then leads a peer discussion to share your experiences and ideas. The session will end with an introduction to the new Circle of Trust program, part of the Chamber’s commitment to increase the value of membership by helping business owners improve the way they do business. Visit dodiejacobi.com for more information.

Wednesday, March 24
4 to 6 p.m., FREE

Chamber of Commerce
3003 Frederick Ave.

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Mark your calendars now, and confirm your reservation one week prior to the event. Reservations must be cancelled 24 hours in advance to avoid charges. For more information, call 816/232-4461. **CREDIT CARD RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE, www.saintjoseph.com**