



**DeWitt
Chamber &
Development
Company**

DCDC Monthly

May 2015

THANK YOU to all the DCDC members that completed the online membership survey that we conducted several weeks ago. Overall, the survey results were very positive, and they helped the DCDC staff and Board of Directors better understand what we are doing right and where we can improve.



We had a diverse sample of respondents that included businesses from 16 different industry sectors, ranging from one employee all the way up to 100+ employees. A little less than a third of the respondents have been a DCDC member between 1 and 10 years while over half have been involved for more than 20 years.

We asked the question why your business belongs to the DCDC. The top answers included the importance of investing and being engaged in the community, receiving communications/news, credibility, economic development, promotion/exposure, and networking opportunities. When members were asked for their overall opinion of the DCDC, nearly three-quarters of the respondents felt the DCDC was doing an "excellent" and "outstanding" job while the remaining 25% had an overall "good" opinion of the organization.

Members also provided us with ways that we can better serve them, including offering more small business training and providing additional exposure/promotion opportunities. We take these comments and suggestions very seriously and will continue to work on ways to provide new and/or enhanced services that will positively affect business growth.

Once again, thank you to all of you that completed this membership survey! We look forward to another great year of providing our membership with benefits that bring value to your business and dollars to your pocket ☺

Sincerely,

P.S. Congrats to Jeff Rittmer of Rittmer Inc. and Steve Johnson of Kamper Korner, the lucky survey winners of \$100 in Chamber Bucks!!

Welcome to Jenny McGarry-new BE Coordinator!



Jenny McGarry facilitates partnerships between area schools and businesses in her role as Business Education Coordinator. Her primary responsibilities include providing students exposure to local career opportunities and assisting in the development of a qualified workforce for rural Clinton County businesses.

Jenny has a degree in Finance from the University of Iowa and Masters of Accounting degree from St. Ambrose University. Her career has been spent working in various areas of financial service, including wealth management, banking, and public accounting. She is a CPA and enjoys teaching college accounting courses at two universities in the Quad Cities. Jenny, her husband, and four children live on a farm northeast of DeWitt. She enjoys golfing, running, spending time with her family, and participating in community events.

Contact Jenny by email: becoordinator@dewittiowa.org

Workplace Experience Summer Program for K-12 Educators

The DCDC has partnered with Ashford University and area businesses to offer educators a unique summer professional development opportunity. The sixteen hour Educator Workplace Experience (EWE) program provides K-12 teachers in Central Community, Northeast, and Cal-Wheat school districts the opportunity to get out of the classroom and into the workplace.

The program begins on June 10th with an opening session at the Hausbarn. At the opening session educators will have the opportunity to discuss current workforce issues such as employability, career readiness, and hiring practices. During the summer, teachers will spend 12 hours in their chosen workplace, observing and participating in the operations of the business. Then, during the closing session on August 5th, participants will share strategies to bring their experience and workforce issues back to the classroom. The Educator Workplace Experience Program has proven to be an excellent opportunity for teachers, students, and area businesses! If you are interested, please contact Jenny at becoordinator@dewittiowa.org or [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Letter from the Executive Director	1	Member Spotlight: Necker's Jewelers	9
Welcome New BE Coordinator	2	Member Spotlight: Friends of Frances	9
Workplace Experience Summer Program	2	Save the Date	9
SBDC Business Counseling Opportunities	3	Revive After Five	10
"eat Lunch & Learn something"	4	Have you renewed your DCDC membership?	11
Keeping Downtown DeWitt Vibrant	5	Year in Review	12
Thomson Prison Showcase	6	Member's Choice Awards	12
Spotlight on Success Award	7	Welcome New Members	13
Hagie Workplace Culture Tour	7	Thank you, Madeleine!	14
Hagie Workplace Culture Tour Registration	8	DCDC Mission / Board of Directors / Staff	15



Looking to Start a Business or Need Some Existing Business Advice?

What: Free, Confidential and Individualized Counseling Sessions

When: Tuesday, June 16th, Noon — 4 pm (by appointment)

Where: 1010 6th Ave. DeWitt IA

(DeWitt Chamber & Development Company Office)

The DCDC has partnered with Marsha Rinetti, Director of the Eastern Iowa Small Business Development Center, to bring her services to DeWitt on the third Tuesday of each month. Marsha will be available to speak to both existing businesses and individuals looking to start their own business and provide counseling on a variety of topics, including but not limited to:

- New business guidance
- Business planning and modeling
- Loan proposal assistance
- Financing opportunities
- Market research services
- Export assistance
- Cash flow projections
- Business growth and succession strategies
- Strategic planning
- Business continuity planning



To sign up for a free, confidential one-hour session, please contact Kathy at the SBDC at 563-336-3401 by June 9th.

"eat Lunch & Learn something" with Matt Booth

June 16, 2015 Springbrook Country Club

Check-in: 11:30-11:45AM

Buffet Style Lunch: 11:30AM- Noon

Program: Noon until 1:00PM

Matt Booth – MATTITUDE

PROFESSIONAL SPEAKER AND AUTHOR *"Be Yourself, Improve Yourself – It's an Attitude Thing!"*

What's the Value of Your Attitude? There is an old saying that "attitude is everything". Is that true? I think Attitude is the START of everything! Attitude determines your thoughts and ultimately your actions. In this program you will find that being positive as often as possible helps you be more successful at what you do. You'll leave this program with practical take-a-ways and the motivation to implement them.

[To learn more about the event and to register to attend click here!](#)



Thank you to our Lunch & Learn Sponsor!



Investigation Continues into Keeping Downtown DeWitt Vibrant

Over the last several months, the DCDC, the City of DeWitt and the DeWitt Downtown Improvement District (DDID) have been having thoughtful conversations with state and local organizations and attending workshops revolving around downtown improvement initiatives. All of these activities are based around a goal to educate ourselves about the different programs and activities we can potentially pursue to continue increasing Downtown DeWitt's vibrancy, which is vital to community prosperity. These activities included/will include:



Photo: The Observer

- Iowa Downtown Resource Center representatives in January presented to over 30 interested business owners and citizens on general downtown improvement initiatives and specific examples of how simple and inexpensive building facade improvements could enhance the overall appearance of downtown DeWitt.
- In March, the City of DeWitt and DDID approved first-time façade improvement grants to Sandry Fire & Supply, Art Barber and Emma Rae's Antiques & Uniques.
- DCDC, City of DeWitt and DDID representatives:
 - attended a Main Street Iowa (MSI) workshop in March to learn more about the opportunities of becoming a MSI-designated community.
 - met with Iowa State University Extension in April to learn about their available community, downtown and retail services.
 - will be attending a state-led downtown forum in Manchester on June 17 to learn how other communities are implementing downtown business development initiatives.
 - will be attending the Iowa Downtown Summit on August 27 and 28.
- The DCDC and City of DeWitt assisted in the logistics and presentations of an April Downtown Revitalization workshop in DeWitt sponsored by the East Central Intergovernmental Association. Over 40 attendees learned about several different downtown revitalization resources available to communities. *(On a side note, we heard MANY positive comments about our downtown!!)*
- The DCDC introduced an area real estate development company specializing in historic preservation to DeWitt. A few downtown buildings were identified as potential projects for restoration, including upper floor housing rehab.



Before



After

As we continue to gather ideas and resources, the DCDC is looking for eager downtown business representatives to join us in these conversations and help us facilitate future implementation of downtown improvement initiatives. Please contact us if you have interest in learning more!!

DCDC Spreads the Word at Thomson Prison Community Showcase

The DCDC, along with 14 other area chambers of commerce, were able to show off their communities April 16 to approximately 150 newly hired employees during a Community Showcase at the Thomson Federal Prison located in Thomson, Illinois.



The event was designed to let representatives from the regional communities interact on a one-to-one basis and provide the new employees with information about each community. Many of the employees have transferred in from other locations across the country.

Tami Petsche, Kim Broders (DCDC Ambassador Chair), and Dan Peterson (DCDC Board Member) represented the DeWitt community and were thrilled to share the many reasons why the employees should visit DeWitt and consider living in DeWitt. Each employee was given a goodie bag that included a community guide, visitor guide, events calendar, and a DeWitt Delivers notepad and bag clip/fridge magnet. A few employees indicated that they currently live within the Central Community School district while others have just visited (and loved it!). Many commented on the Aquatics Center image found on the DeWitt Delivers banner and couldn't wait to bring their families here this summer to swim.

Eventually, the Thomson Prison will employ 1,000+ employees. Future events to engage with these employees are currently in the planning stages.

The DCDC encourages members to keep your information updated on the DCDC website as the majority of the prison employees are researching this region online and go to the local chamber sites first. In addition, if you are a business seeking to do business with the Thomson Prison, reach out to the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) office in Bettendorf at [563-359-7577](tel:563-359-7577) or contact the DCDC for more information.

Spotlight on Success Award

In April, the DeWitt Ambassadors presented St. Joseph Catholic School a Spotlight on Success Award, celebrating their 150 years in the DeWitt community! Congratulations, and thank you for your investment in our community!



Hagie Workplace Culture Tour

In November 2014, Prosperity Eastern Iowa (PEI)—a regional economic development organization in which the DCDC is an active member—hosted a one day seminar on workforce culture in Dubuque. One of the presenters at that seminar was Hagie Manufacturing. Hagie has been a family-owned company in Clarion, Iowa – population 2,789 – since 1947, with manufacturing, direct sales and service on-site. They were always a good company, but they weren't growing. That changed when the company started focusing on culture.

In addition to the impressive revenue growth, Hagie was also [recently named to an international list of the World's Most Democratic Companies](#), compiled by [WorldBlu](#). Hagie is trying to show that the principles of creativity and democracy work. This approach is beloved by startups and companies in traditionally creative fields, but can also have a profound impact in a blue-collar workforce.

Prosperity Eastern Iowa is organizing a day field trip to tour Hagie Manufacturing on Thursday, June 18th to learn more about their unique workforce culture. The DCDC is encouraging all businesses to consider attending! Please see the invitation on the next page for more details.

Prosperity [eastern
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JUNE 18TH, 2015 HAGIE MANUFACTURING BUS TRIP & TOUR

See for yourself how Hagie does business!

Corporate Culture is the shared values, traditions, policies, and the overall philosophy of an organization. It is also the professional atmosphere that grows from this and affects behavior and performance.

Join us for the day to take a tour and spend some time learning about how Hagie has improved their culture and how their changes have led to success!

Jim Ott, Bridges Out of Poverty trainer and co founder of the the Dubuque Circles Initiative will be joining us on the bus to discuss company culture associated with poverty; as well as addressing systemic issues related to the intersection of middle class organizations and the "culture" of generational poverty.

Cost is \$20 per person (includes lunch and snacks)

Register now, limited space!

Detach and return with payment.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Itinerary of Events:

7:00 am

*Bus departs ECIA Office:
ECIA
7600 Commerce Park
Dubuque, IA 52002*

7:30 am

*Bus pick up in Dyersville:
Dyersville Economic Development
1100 16th Ave Ct SE
Dyersville, IA*

7:55 am

*Bus pick up in Manchester:
E Z Picken's
2210 Highway 13
Manchester, IA 52057*

10:30 am

Arrive at Hagie Manufacturing

*Tour Facility, Lunch - On Site &
Culture Presentation*

3:30 pm

Depart Hagie Manufacturing

6:00 pm

Drop off in Manchester

6:25 pm

Drop off in Dyersville

7:00 pm

Arrive back at ECIA.

Please send checks payable to:

Prosperity Eastern Iowa
7600 Commerce Park
Dubuque, IA 52002

Questions?

Contact:
Holly Kueter, Regional ED Coordinator
(563)-556-4166

Prosperity [eastern
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Member Spotlight: Necker's Jewelers



Necker's Jewelers was bought by Don and Dorothy Necker in 1952 from U.S. Brumer, who started it in the late 1800's. It started as a small store with fine jewelry and giftware and has grown into the area's largest jewelry store. Dave And D.J. Necker took the store over in 1989, and have grown it into two locations, DeWitt and Davenport. Necker's takes pride in their selection, customer service, and being in the top 3% of jewelers in the country. Stop by our DeWitt or Davenport location and experience our beautiful jewelry and excellent customer service!

Member Spotlight: Friends of Frances

Friends of Frances' purpose is to meet current needs through assistance with special events, fund-raising, and gifts to the library. It also assist with the volunteer program, special reading programs, adding technology, and other activities that serve the Central Community in the 21st Century. All communities need a place available for free wifi to work with future technology.

"We are not just books anymore" future funds will go towards: video photo editing software and hardware, Smart TV, Projector and laptop in meeting room, study rooms, I pads, laptops, library expansion, comfortable seating, and drive-up book drop, technology classes, etc.



Save the Date

5.21.15 Revive After Five at IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union

6.16.15 SBDC Counseling Opportunity at the DCDC

6.16.15 "eat Lunch & Learn something" with Matt Booth

6.30.15 DCDC Year in Review (registration coming soon)

7.21.15 SBDC Counseling Opportunity at the DCDC

7.23.15 DCDC 101

7.30.15 DCDC Golf Bash (registration coming soon)

[Click here to view our Community Events Calendar!](#)



A big "thank you" to **Necker's Jewelers** and **Friends of Frances** for hosting the March and April Revive After Five Events. Plan on joining us for the next Revive After Five **May 21** at **IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union**.

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

All DCDC member employees are welcome and encouraged to attend these worthwhile and relaxing networking events!



2015 Revive After Five Schedule

Revive anytime between 5-7PM on the 3rd Thursday of the month and join other professionals for these "open house" style networking events! Enjoy a variety of great food, beverages and prizes in a laidback setting while getting to know other DCDC members and learning about the hosting business.

All DCDC member employees are welcome and encouraged to attend!

May 21st -IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union

June, July, August -Summer Break

September 17th –Springbrook Country Club

October 15th - Iowa Mutual Insurance Company

November 19th – DeWitt Memorial Company

December - Holiday Break

Have You Renewed Your 2015-2016 DCDC Membership?

Here's Why Others Have....

(Top reasons taken from the 2015 DCDC Membership Survey results.)

Sense of Community. Your investment allows you and other DCDC members to make our community the kind of place you want to live and do business in. A strong business community means a strong overall community.

Economic Development. Your investment ensures that the DCDC can continue to focus on economic growth. Our priority of fostering quality job creation will benefit your business and our community by providing new customers, an expanded workforce, improved infrastructure, and many other invaluable services.

Credibility. Your investment instills trust amongst consumers of your product or service. Two-thirds of consumers believe that chamber members use good business practices, are reputable, care about their customers, and are involved in the community. (The Schapiro Group, 2012 national study on effects of chamber membership)

Networking. Your investment means you have the opportunity to network with business and community leaders through events like monthly Revive After Fives, Lunch-n-Learns, community programs and events, and forums related to specific industry needs. Remember: it's not who you know but who knows you!!

Promotion. Your investment provides you 24/7 exposure through the DCDC's powerful website (tools include business directory, logo display, company video, banner advertising, community calendar and much more!). Make your business visible by displaying your marketing materials in the DCDC lobby, sponsoring an event, or utilizing the community electronic sign.

Focused Support. Your investment provides you resources that will strengthen your business. From access to market intelligence to meetings facilitated with appropriate support agencies to posting open job positions on the DCDC website. The DCDC offers a variety of ways to build positive opportunities for your business!

Chamber Bucks. Your investment allows you to accept Chamber Bucks. Over \$40,000 in Chamber Bucks was purchased last year that stayed right here in our community!

Small Business Advocacy. Your investment gives you the opportunity for your voice to be heard. The DCDC actively cultivates relationships with local, state, and federal elected officials in order to advance our shared goals of job creation, economic growth and a business climate conducive to success!

Training and Professional Development. Your investment provides you and your employees access to timely programs at affordable prices through its quarterly "eat Lunch and Learn something" programs. You will stay updated, informed and educated at prices much lower than programs that could be obtained through other means.



2015 Member's Choice Awards



Initiated to honor and bring awareness to DCDC member businesses for their successes and overall support of our community's vitality, we are excited to continue on with our Member's Choice Awards for the second year! Categories will include *Business of the Year*, *Most Promising New Business*, *Excellence in Customer Service*, *Excellence in Social Media* and *DCDC Friend of the Year*. A new category to this year's awards is *Non-Profit of the Year*. Voting will be open to our DCDC Membership from May 19th– May 26th. Please look for an email to reach you on the 19th with information on voting. During this time our Membership will narrow down the nominees to three per category, these nominees will be presented to the community for voting between June 1st-15th. The winners will be announced on June 30th at our Year in Review that will be held at TYCOGA Vineyard & Winery!

[Check out the nominees and winners from last year's awards here!](#)

Welcome New DCDC Members!

Yoerger Automotive & Exhaust
416 1st St.
DeWitt, IA 52742
(563) 320-7101

Yoerger Automotive & Exhaust is your full automotive service shop that covers custom exhaust, mufflers, brake service, tires & tire repair, batteries, starters & charging systems, steering & suspension, cooling & heating systems, oil changes & more!



ABC Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
1388 278th St.
Wheatland, IA 52777
(563) 388-0655

ABC Heating and Air Conditioning is a quality HVAC company that was established in 1998. They serve the Iowa Quad Cities, Scot County and the southern part of Clinton County.



Hasenmiller Spreadsheet Solutions, LLC
917 3rd St.
DeWitt, IA 52742
(563) 212-9702

Hasenmiller Spreadsheet Solutions creates fully-customized Excel spreadsheets for businesses and home applications. We also do on-site Excel training for local businesses.



Aerotek
5357 Eastern Ave
Davenport, IA 52807
(563) 823-3922

Aerotek, headquartered in Hanover, MD., is a leading provider of technical, professional, and industrial staffing services. Established in 1983, Aerotek is an operating company of Allegis Group.

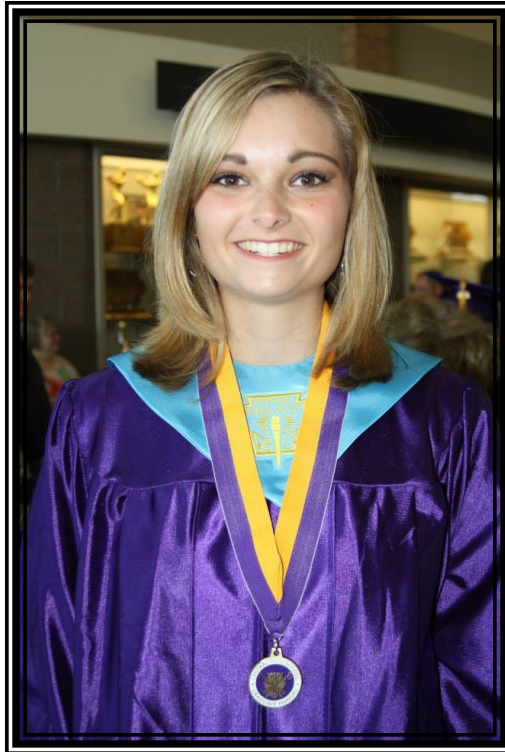


Cornerstone Assembly of God
2108 11th St.
DeWitt, IA 52742
(563) 659-9944

Lead Pastor Curt and Gloria 1991 - present
Youth Pastor Steve and Lisa 3/09 - present
Children's church - 2nd service Come, Grow, Go!!!

Thank You, Madeleine!

This month we said good-bye to our remarkable high school intern, Madeleine Blandin. Madeleine has been with the DCDC her entire senior year. She has assisted with social media, events, organizing her own high school focus group and many other DCDC projects. We wish her the best of luck at Iowa State next year!



Congratulations, Madeleine!!!
Class of 2015

Mission Statement

The DCDC's mission is to lead, inform, advocate and advance business interests and promote community growth. Our core focus is to support existing businesses, attract new businesses, and assist in enhancing the quality of life for our community.

DCDC Board of Directors

Greg Gannon, DeWitt Bank & Trust, Chair
Brian Volkens, First Central State Bank, Treasurer
Wayne Stuedemann, Ag Spectrum,
Don Thiltgen, DeWitt Mayor
Mary Rueter, DeWitt Resident
Dave Deke, Deke Insurance
Dawn Marcus, City Council Representative
Merle Ocken, DeWitt Resident
Dan Peterson, Central Community School District
Steve Lindner, DeWitt City Administrator
Tina Lively, DeWitt Bank Tax & Accounting Services
Garey Chrones, Office Machine Consultants
Luanne Smith, City Council Representative
Joe Tabor, ITW Fluids North America
Kasey Kleinsmith, Flowers on the Side
Kim Broders, Ruhl & Ruhl Realtors

DCDC Staff

Tami Petsche, Executive Director
Emily Schmitt, Programs & Events Coordinator
Stephanie Sagers, Administrative Assistant
Madeleine Blandin, Marketing Intern

DeWitt Chamber & Development Company

1010 6th Ave
DeWitt, IA 52742
Phone: 563-659-8500
Email: info@dewittiowa.org
Website: www.dewittiowa.org
Hours: M-F, 9-4



**DeWitt
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Development
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Connect with the DCDC



www.dewittiowa.org