

Spooner Area Chamber of Commerce

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

8:00 AM | Spooner Health Classrooms A&B

Call to order: Ted Schmitz, President - Ted called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

Introductions: Each person will introduce themselves and what business they're representing

Treasurer's Report: Mark Olson, Treasurer - No report as Mark was on vacation.

Executive Board Report: Michelle Martin, Secretary - Michelle gave a summary of yesterday's board meeting.

Old Business:

- Membership & Volunteer Appreciation Event (February 26, 2026) - Any current chamber member that offers food/event space will be invited to provide a proposal for hosting this event.
- Business After Five - A couple of businesses are interested (Cobblehaus Food Truck - needs location), Washburn County Humane Society is set to host in January; Economart will host in March.
- Membership Mailing - Reminder to pay dues by December 1 to be included in the Spooner book. Reach out to Lisa Barnett at info@spoonerchamber.org if you didn't receive your renewal letter.

New Business:

- 2026 Meeting Dates - Meeting dates for 2026 are included below.

Committee Reports:

- Marketing Committee (Kelsy) - Calendar of Events update (any Spooner business can post; member events may be highlighted on social media); Room Tax Budget was approved at \$40,000; Radio ads have been placed; Window clings have arrived; Spooner Police Calendar and SAYHA banner ad have been approved; Updating Winter in Spooner page on the website and adding a Relocation page. 2026 Spooner Book ad renewal is coming up - Deadline is December 1st. The committee is working on an agreement with Your Photography with Kimberly Kalan to provide photos yearly as part of their membership.
- Membership Committee (Bryanna & Lisa B.) - Membership mailing is out; updated the prospective member list; First Dollar Visits are being scheduled; discount coupons are being offered for new businesses; discussed membership & volunteer appreciation event - that will be discussed more at the meeting later this month.

Upcoming Events:

- Ladies Night (November 24, 2025) - Posters and brochures are here; calendar will be worked on soon; Santa arriving at 3:30 via firetruck; waiting to hear on carolers; tree lighting will be at 6 pm; everything is coming along smoothly; prize baskets will be put together in the coming weeks and on display in the Staube Computers winners; do not need to be present to win; food pantry would prefer hygiene items for donations.
- Food & Wine Tasting (April 30, 2026) - The committee will be working on location and getting the beneficiary application out by December 1st.

Other Business

- Chamber Dollars - Just a reminder from Lisa B in the office that there are forms in the chamber office and on the website to order chamber dollars.

- Elections - Lisa Olson, Forrest Schraufnagel, and Mark Olson are up for re-election. Ted will contact each to see if they are interested in running again. If you are interested in a board position, please email info@spoonerchamber.org.
- Strategic Planning - Any final thoughts before the board meetings tomorrow?
 - Great partnership and sharing at chamber meetings
 - Emily Gall shared an idea of highlighting the chamber member initiatives and community resources for food insecurity since there are a lot of great efforts being made. It would be great to find a way to share that information with the community.

Member Updates

- Spooner Health - Volunteers of Spooner Health is bringing back their Christmas Bazaar (November 21; 9-4); Love Light Ceremony & Silent Auction (December 1; 2:00); Blood Drive (December 17; 9-3)
- Lakeland Family Resource Center - New Director, Amber LaRue; Annual Boo Haha had 625 attendees; Santa's Workshop coming up (Crafts, Cookie Decorating, Letters to Santa, Gift from Santa) on December 13; Tastefully Together Gala, partnered with Sacco Group, will be held at Hunt Hill on February 20. This is a large fundraiser for Lakeland; personal invitations will be coming to your businesses. Lakeland offers a self-serve pantry seven days a week; donations from WCTA of winter gear have started to arrive as well.
- Edina Realty Sacco Group - A lot of sales are done in the fall; hoping that this is another good fall - and things are moving for sure.
- Spooner Advocate - Christmas Drive with the Lions Club has started. The applications for gifts are now being accepted and you can pick those up at the Spooner Advocate office.
- CCF Bank - Thanks for giving campaign in October and November (hats, gloves, socks to school, treats to the humane society, etc.). If you open money market accounts of over \$5,000, you get a credit and a portion goes to area nonprofits.
- State Farm - Open enrollment with Medicare, supplements are offered through State Farm.
- Spooner Mercantile - Shop all year long, not just Christmas. Brooks will have some deals. Icebug boots from Sweden are in that have traction.
- Washburn Co. Humane Society - Tree of Lights in memory of pets (December 13), treats and coffee. Have turned the place around, cleaned it up, new staff, etc. Will be at Palace Theater on Ladies Night. Fundraising event in September at Spooner Island Oasis was very successful with great turnout. Thanks to CCF Bank and Jack Link's for the donations. Thanks to the Advocate for running the story. Dogs are ½ price (\$150) right now, they are fully vaccinated, chipped, spayed/neutered. The WCAHS has a pet food pantry for those in need.
- Washburn Co. Tourism - Winter gear donation boxes are available in Minong, Spooner Health, Washburn County Visitor Center.

Adjourn: Mary/Vic made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 a.m. MC.

2026 GENERAL MEETINGS:

January 7 – Classrooms A&B

February 4 – Classrooms A&B

March 4 – Classrooms A&B

*April 8 – Classrooms A&B (Changed due to Spring Break for Spooner)

May 6 – Classrooms A&B

June 3 – Classrooms A&B

July 1 – Classrooms A&B

August 5 – Classrooms A&B

September 2 – Classrooms A&B

October 7 – Classrooms A&B

November 4 – Classrooms A&B

December 2 – Classrooms A&B