

UPCOMING EVENTS

For details, visit the Events page on mgcci.org or call 847-965-0330

Wednesday January 9, 2013
Board of Directors Meeting
4:00 - 5:00 PM
Chamber Offices

Thursday January 17, 2013
Chamber Open House BAH
5:00 - 7:00 PM @ the Chamber
Offices, 6101 Capulina, Lower
Level

Thursday January 24, 2013
Women's Business Connections
12:00 noon—1:00 PM
El Sol Restaurant
6000 W. Dempster
Morton Grove

Wednesday February 6, 2013
Board of Director Meeting
4:00—5:00 PM
Chamber Offices

Thursday February 7, 2013
VIP Dinner & Board Installation
5:30 - 10:30 PM
Chateau Ritz
9100 Milwaukee Ave.
Niles, IL.

Wednesday February 13, 2013
Mega-Connect Breakfast
Holiday Inn North Shore
5300 Touhy Ave.
Skokie, IL

Wednesday February 20, 2013
Multi-Chamber BAH
5:00 - 7:00 PM
Bethany Terrace
8425 Waukegan
Morton Grove, IL

The MGCCI Mission:
To unite, promote,
improve and advocate for
the business community in
and around *Morton Grove*.

Chamber Annual Holiday Party a success!

Thank you to all who attended the annual holiday party. We hope that you had a great time. Not only did the Chamber's silent auction and raffles do great but thru the generous donations of our members we raised over \$200.00 for our food pantries. A huge **THANK YOU** to **Ron Lundin of Lin-Mar Motors** who matched the funds collected for the food pantries. Both the Niles Township and the Maine Township Food Pantries received over \$200.00 in donations from our Chamber members.

At the holiday party the Chamber was pleased to announce the Morton Grove Chamber 2013 VIP. The newest VIP for 2013 is Kristina Otte. She will be honored at the VIP Dinner and Board Installation on Thursday February 7, 2013. This event will take place at Chateau Ritz, 9100 Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Make sure to save the date to attend!!





2013 Chamber VIP of the Year

Kristina Otte

The Morton Grove Chamber is pleased to announce that the 2013 VIP of the Year is Kristina Otte. Kristina grew up in Decorah Iowa and moved to Morton Grove with her family in 2005. She found charm in not only in the town but in the forest preserves that surround Morton Grove and felt that this was the best place to raise her family.

It was on a trek through the forest preserves, on the way to the Glenview Farmers Market, that she had an idea of bringing a Farmers Market to Morton Grove. She has tirelessly devoted the last three years to developing her dream. She recruited a great group of community volunteers to help her bring the market to where it is today, a thriving community market. Her relentless devotion has created a wonderful Farmers Market experience for Morton Grove. She has brought energy and a progressive style to the community by bringing together community groups, religious groups, the park district, the senior center, library, scouting groups and various village commissions that are working toward a common goal. Through Kristina’s efforts, Morton Grove has a wonderful market for all citizens to purchase quality fresh foods for their families.

The 2013 VIP of the Year not only devotes her time to the Farmers Market but, is also involved in many other activities throughout the year. She not only tirelessly works with the Farmers Market but also finds time to volunteer at her children’s school. She has been involved with the “Celebration of Culture” in Skokie and works part-time for the Swedish American Museum in Chicago.

Kristina was raised to believe that one person can make a difference in the community. She has stated that “amazing people have come together to build a closer community through the Farmers Market”. Kristina also credits all the volunteers who have, and continue to help build the Market. She would like to thank her husband Louie Elipoulos and her children Kate and Linnea for their love and support.

2013 Morton Grove Chamber Board of Directors

President:
Richard M. Block -
Creative Promotional Products

Vice President:
Jeannine Como –
Dr. Robert E. Antman, DDS

Secretary:
Deborah Manno -
MB Financial Bank

Treasurer:
Terry Hoffman– Liston
Law Offices of Terry
Hoffman– Liston

Immediate Past President:
Christina Marino -
Century 21 Marino Real Estate

Past Presidents Club:
Nick Marino -
Century 21 Marino Real Estate

Directors:
Mark Albers—The Mark Albers
Company

Cindy Kopczyk - Inland Bank

Bea Lipski - Minuteman Press

Ron Lundin - Lin –Mar Motors

Mark Matz—Big City
Entertainment

Bill Gear - Village of Morton
Grove Liaison

Executive Director -
Debbie Juris

.....

A Letter from the Illinois Chamber of Commerce President

Doug Whitley
President & CEO
Illinois Chamber of Commerce

Significant Public Policy Issues Facing Illinois in 2013

Just like the federal government, the biggest issues confronting the returning and newly elected members of the Illinois' General Assembly are fiscal matters. Previous General Assemblies have, for years, defied the Illinois Constitutional mandate that requires the legislators to adopt a balanced budget. So, the top priority remains that of restoring fiscal integrity to state finances.

The legislature must develop budgets where spending matches or is less than the amount of revenue state government collects each year. It must eliminate the backlog of payments to vendors, local governments and agencies. State government balance sheets must achieve equilibrium where fiscal obligations are paid in a timely manner.

Most importantly, legislators must acknowledge that the current public employee pension programs are unsustainable and must be restructured to curb the excessive long-term costs to taxpayers. They must stop stalling and remove the uncertainty that influences business and personal decisions. The fiscal health of the pension funds must be fixed so retirees will receive benefits, even if they are less generous.

Governor Quinn is right to keep reminding members of the General Assembly and the public that rapidly rising pension costs are effectively squeezing out funds that would otherwise go towards financing education, public safety, health care for indigent and other public services.

Legislators must be reminded that our state's failure to successfully resolve the public pension debt obligations has made Illinois a national disgrace. Illinois' unfunded public employee pension debt is the largest in the nation and our bond ratings are keeping company with the most financially distressed nations in the world. Until our elected officials accept the tough decisions and cast responsible votes to put these funds on a path toward solvency business owners, investors and bond holders can have no trust or confidence in Illinois government. The continues failure to act has placed the economy, livelihood and quality of life for future generations at risk.

The newly elected General Assembly confronts other daunting public policy issues that require their attention. The capital funding program that was adopted in 2009 will be exhausted during the next legislative term. Legislators must act to reauthorize and fund a capital program if infrastructure investments are to be maintained in a state of good repair. Safe and reliable transportation networks are critical to Illinois' economy. Legislators should establish an annual capital spending program that provides predictable, consistent and stable funding for infrastructure investments,

Other important business climate issues pending before the General Assembly include the elimination or extension of the temporary corporate and individual income tax increases that were imposed in January of 2011. The 2011 law incorporated a sunset provision triggered for January 2015. The General Assembly members taking office in January must determine the fate of the tax rate increases that generate approximately \$7 billion to the treasury.

The workers' compensation law adopted in 2011 must be revisited in order to improve the states' cost of doing business competitiveness relative to other states.

The pending General Assembly's action that is most threatening the viability of many small businesses is the threat of another mandate to increase the state's minimum wage.

Continued page 4

.....

Illinois Chamber (cont.)

During the next two years, the critical assessment of Governor Quinn and the legislature will best be measured by the agenda they fulfill. Will they demonstrate fiscal discipline, promote expansive investment from existing businesses, generate population growth from job seekers migrating to Illinois because of a vibrant economy, promote new business opportunities, and substantially reduce unemployment? If there is limited or no progress on these fundamentals, it is likely they will become election themes for 2014.

Relay For Life of SLMGN receives American Cancer Society Relay All Star Award

EVANSTON, Ill. – Relay For Life of SLMGN (Skokie/Lincolnwood/Morton Grove/Niles) was awarded the American Cancer Society’s prestigious Relay All Star Award at the Society’s recent Relay Leadership Summit in Itasca, Ill.

With the Relay All Star Award, the Illinois Division of the American Cancer Society honors Relay events that achieve significant fundraising and participant growth. This year, Relay For Life of SLMGN raised more than \$82,000 with nearly 490 participants.

“By supporting Relay For Life of SLMGN, our volunteers are helping us save more lives faster,” said Alan D. Lev, chairman of the board of the American Cancer Society’s Illinois Division. “We invite all local residents to join us in fighting for every birthday threatened by cancer at this year’s Relay.”

Locals have already begun forming teams and raising donations for the 2013 SLMGN Relay. For more information call Jenna Kastan at (847) 328-5147 opt. 3 or visit Relayforlife.org/SLMGNIL.

About the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society combines an unyielding passion with nearly a century of experience to save lives and end cancer for good. As a global grassroots force of three million volunteers, we fight for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community. We save lives by helping you stay well by preventing cancer or detecting it early, helping you get well by being there for you during and after a diagnosis, by finding cures through groundbreaking discovery and fighting back through public policy. As the nation’s largest non-governmental investor in cancer research, contributing more than \$3.8 billion, we turn what we know about cancer into what we do. As a result, more than 11 million people in America who have had cancer and countless more who have avoided it will be celebrating birthdays this year. To learn more about us or to get help, call us anytime, day or night, at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.



**MORTON GROVE’S NORTHWEST COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION
WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT & CEO, JOSE GARCIA**

**Credit Union Veteran Tapped to Drive Growth through
Technology Expansion at 73-Year-Old Local Institution**



MORTON GROVE, IL, DECEMBER 17, 2012 - Northwest Community Credit Union proudly introduces new President and CEO, Jose Garcia. A sixteen-year credit union executive and former CFO of Advance Financial Federal Credit Union in Schererville, Indiana, Jose will hold executive level accountability for the growth and direction of the credit union. His growth strategy will be driven by emphasizing personal service and expanded use of technology.

Over the course of his career Mr. Garcia has developed a keen operational acumen with an emphasis on finance, technology and investment management. He will lean on this experience as he sets his sights on the following immediate goals:

- Consumer Lending** (auto and credit cards)
- Improving member communications** through social and other electronic media
- Improving member service** through increased access to the credit union (shared branching,

ATM and website)

Expanding services to our members through increased use of technology (electronic forms, digital signatures)

Out for the Welfare of our Members

Jose’s personal style stems from the national credit union motto of “people helping people.” “It motivates me to provide our membership with excellent member service while providing a variety of financial products that benefit members and their families. Ultimately, my goal is to contribute to our members’ financial success.”

Welcomed by the Staff

Candy Borkowicz, Executive Vice President and Director, who held the position of Acting President since March, is happy to welcome the experienced credit union veteran to Northwest Community’s team. “The entire staff is energized by Jose’s forward thinking. We are thrilled for our members to get to know him – both as a leader and as a person – and to benefit from all he has in store for the credit union.”

Born in Brownsville, Texas and raised in Chicago, Garcia lives in the South Loop/Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago with his wife Maria and two children Kristina and Nicholas. He holds a BBA in accounting from St. Xavier University. Mr. Garcia assumes the position Nick Bavaro held for the past 27 years.

GOT NEWS?

**SHARE YOUR SUCCESS & NEWS
WITH YOUR FELLOW CHAMBER MEMBERS.
EMAIL YOUR ARTICLES TO : DIRECTOR@MGCCI.ORG OR
FAX THEM TO US 847-965-0349.
WE WILL PUBLISH IT IN THE NEXT CHAMBER
NEWSLETTER.**



Village of Morton Grove News

LOCAL DEBT RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Village of Morton Grove is partnering with the Office of the Illinois Comptroller to assist in the recovering of outstanding debt owed to the Village. The Comptroller's Local Debt Recovery Program allows local government entities to submit their outstanding debt to the State and the State then matches the Village's debtors to those individuals and businesses due to receive monies from the state. Once a Village debtor is matched with the State's information, the amount of the debt is held for a 60 day period. During this 60 day period, debtors are sent written notification from the State of the debt owed to the Village and the amount of money which is being held. Debtors have this period to contact the Village at a number provided and contest the debt. If, after speaking with the Village, they still believe the debt is not valid, they can contact the State in writing to contest the debt. If the debt is found to be invalid by the Village or State, the money is released back to the individual or company. If, however, the debt is found to be valid by the Village and the State, the held money will be released to the Village after the 60 days to cover the outstanding debt. The Village will be posting a current list of debtors on the Village website so individuals and businesses can check to see if Village records show they owe the Village an outstanding debt. If you would like additional information about the Village's participation in the Comptroller's Local Debt Recovery Program please call Peter Falcone at 847-663-3019.

Advertise in the newsletter!

The Chamber newsletter is an inexpensive way to promote your business to other Chamber members.

Your Chamber Matters is published every other month and is sent out to over 200 contacts. Call (847) 956-0330 or email director@mgcci.org for the 2013 advertising rates.

ORTHODONTICS (BRACES) FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN



Show Off Your Smile, Not Your Braces With Clear Brackets!



FREE
ORTHODONTIC
CONSULTATION

Please present coupon at time of appointment. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Expires 10-15-11

BRACES ONLY
\$3900⁰⁰**
(Reg. \$2000)

**Fee subject to charge for patients needing additional treatment. Some cases may not be accepted and referred out. Patients will be notified prior to treatment. New patients only, not valid for prior services. Expires 10-15-11



PERRY DANOS, D.D.S., P.C.
General & Cosmetic Dentistry
5700 W. Dempster • Morton Grove
(847) 965-6223

www.procardental.com • Insurance Accepted

See Back Side For More Offers





The Net Connect Networking Group of Morton Grove and Niles Chambers of Commerce announce their speaker for their quarterly meeting on February 20, 2013 @ BMO Harris Bank 7077 Dempster in Niles from 7:30 –9:00 a.m.

LESLIE L. DAY

With more than 20-years in Human Resources management, and ten years as a self-employed Consultant, **Leslie L. Day, SPHR** has helped hundreds of companies and organizations solve problems and implement personnel and human resources programs that work!

As the Director of Client Services for Precision Human Resources, LLC, she provides cost-effective HR strategies and solutions for small to mid-sized organizations.

Her experience has been gained in employment and consulting in industries such as manufacturing and assembly, construction, paper, plastic, shipbuilding, healthcare, banking, insurance, non-profits and public sector. As a consultant, she has assisted organizations in a wide array of industries from small to large. And she has worked in a hands-on capacity in small and mid-size companies in both union and non-union environments.

For the past ten years Leslie has been a part-time Adjunct Instructor for the Professional in Human Resources (PHR/SPHR) Certification Preparation Course for DePaul University and Old Dominion University. She also leads seminars and workshops for DePaul University and the College of DuPage.

A graduate of Western Illinois University with a Bachelor of Business degree in Personnel and Industrial Relations, she has also been accredited as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR), the highest generalist human resources certification available, by the Society for Human Resource Management.

Leslie is a member of numerous organizations, including SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management), is on the Board of Directors for the DuPage SHRM chapter, and is on the Board of Directors for Rotary International - Naperville Sunrise Chapter, where she was 2005 “Rookie of the Year.”

She was selected by the Chicago suburban *Business Ledger* Newspaper for their “Influential Woman in Business” award in 2005.



**Open House at Simkins Funeral Home
February 2, 2013**

Simkins Funeral Home at 6251 Dempster ST. in Morton Grove will be hosting an open house on Saturday February 2, 2013 to showcase their expansion and remodeling. The hours will be from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.. Refreshments will be served and the Simkins brothers will be on hand to answer any questions you may have regarding funeral or cremation arrangements.

Simkins Funeral Home has been in business, in Morton Grove, since 1939 and at their present location since 1946. They are proud to contribute to the recent upgrade of the Dempster St. corridor with this project.

6101 Capulina Ave
Morton Grove, Illinois 60053

Phone:
(847) 965-0330

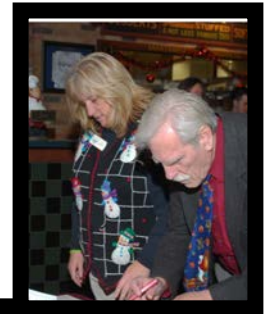
Fax:
(847) 965-0349

E-Mail:
director@mgcci.org

Web:
www.mgcci.org

Bulk Rate
US Postage
PAID
Morton Grove, IL
Permit # 73

2013 Holiday Party in Review



A Good Time was
had by All!

