

## [Small business of the year award nominations now open](#)

The Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce & Industry is seeking nominations for its 2010 Small Business of the Year and Rising Star Awards. The Small Business Awards recognize excellence in Manufacturing, Retail/Wholesale, and Service trades. The Rising Star Award recognizes entrepreneurial firms in business less than five years but already exhibiting signs of success. Innovative companies with strong business plans and creative strategies are highlighted.

First National Bank – Fox Valley and Schenck SC are returning as the award sponsors in conjunction with The Post-Crescent and WHBY 1150 AM.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Chamber website [www.foxcitieschamber.com](http://www.foxcitieschamber.com) or call (920) 734-7101.

## [Leadership Fox Cities applications now being accepted](#)

The Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry is now accepting applications for the 2010-2011 Leadership Fox Cities class. Since 1991 LFC has trained potential leaders to have an ongoing pool of candidates who could continue to serve the community. Recruitment for LFC attracts both long-time residents who want a deeper connection to their community, and newcomers who want to become familiar with the history, needs and resources of their new hometown. The program covers local history, biographies of past and current leaders and philanthropists, a wide-ranging sampling of resources and attractions in the community. For more information contact Gayle Schultz, director for Leadership Fox Cities, by calling the Chamber office at (920) 734-7101 or emailing to [leadership@foxcitieschamber.com](mailto:leadership@foxcitieschamber.com)

## [Morning Business Advice for March](#)

**When:** Thursday, March 11, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

**Where:** FVTC DJ Bordini, 5 Systems Drive, Appleton

Lisa Cruz of Red Shoes PR, Inc. will speak about "Social Media: So How's That Been Workin' For You?" She will review small business case studies of firms using social media – what they have done right, and what they wish they'd done. The event sponsor is Lakeview Credit Union. Registration is at 7:15 a.m. Cost is \$7.00 for Chamber members in advance or \$10.00 at the door and \$15.00 for non-members. Advance registration is accepted until noon the day prior to the event.

Coming up in April [MBA for April 8 -- Business Metrics: Converting Your Data into Actionable Information](#)

## [Business Connection for March](#)

**When:** Wednesday, March 24, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Players Choice of the Fox Cities, 3035 Edgewood Trail (Hwy JJ), Appleton

A monthly, informal, after-hours event sponsored by a Chamber member. Bring your business cards and mingle! Cost for Chamber members is \$2.00 if registered and paid in advance or \$4.00 at the door. Non-member cost to attend is \$20.00.

[Business Connection for April 13 -- Butte des Morts Country Club](#)

## **Breakfast Networking for March**

**When:** Thursday, March 25, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

**Where:** Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce, 125 N. Superior St., Appleton

Members have the opportunity to meet at the Chamber office and give a two minute talk about themselves and their company and can distribute materials. A maximum of 30 people may attend. Individuals from Chamber member firms can sign up for as many dates as they would like. The cost to attend is \$2.00 per person which includes a continental breakfast. To register, go to the Chamber website [www.foxcitieschamber.com](http://www.foxcitieschamber.com) and click on Chamber Events on the left side. Go to the months you wish to register for and follow the instructions.

## **Pulse March Madness Membership Drive**

Pulse, the Young Professionals Network, will be holding a membership drive for the entire month of March. Join during the drive for only \$50 per person and receive many giveaways. This rate also is available to current members to renew their membership for one year. A culminating event will be held in April with prize drawings. For more information, go online to [www.foxcitiesyoungprofessionals.com](http://www.foxcitiesyoungprofessionals.com) or call Joy Kapheim the Fox Cities Chamber at (920) 734-7101.

## **Committee Membership**

The Fox Cities Chamber is currently looking to broaden the membership of both the **State & Federal Issues Committee**, as well as the **Local Issues Committees**. Both committees are involved in the development of position statements for the Chamber.

The creation and adoption of a position statement by the Chamber is a process designed to garner diverse opinions on an issue to ensure that it adequately represents the opinion of a majority of the Chamber's membership. All position statements begin as a general discussion and research in one of the subcommittees of the Chamber's State & Federal Issues Committee (S&FIC). If adopted, it is forwarded to the full S&FIC for debate and possible adoption. If adopted, it moves to the Chamber's Executive Committee for additional conversation before being recommended to the Chamber Board of Directors for adoption. Upon adoption by the Chamber Board of Directors, the policy statement becomes the position that Chamber staff lobbies.

If you are interested in being "part of the solution," contact Thom Ciske by emailing to [tciske@foxcitieschamber.com](mailto:tciske@foxcitieschamber.com) or call Thom at the Chamber at (920) 734-7101.

## **The following events are co-sponsored with the Fox Cities Chamber**

### **PCI Compliance Seminar**

**When:** Wednesday, April 7 from 7:30 to 9 a.m.

**Where:** Bridgewood Hotel & Convention Center, 1000 Cameron Way, Neenah

As a credit card merchant, it's your job to know about PCI compliance. The set of requirements is designed to ensure all companies – big and small – that process, store or transmit credit card information maintain a secure environment. If your customers' credit card information is breached, your business could be held financially liable. Don't assume your credit card software or processing company has this covered on your behalf. The cost for the seminar is \$25.00 for Chamber members and \$35.00 for non-members and includes a continental breakfast.

## [2010 UBA Employer Opinion Survey and Special Supplement on Health Care Reform](#)

Hierl Insurance Inc., a member of United Benefit Advisors (UBA), one of the nation's leading employee benefits advisory organizations, announced the opening of the 2010 UBA Employer Opinion Survey, which delineates employers' opinions in four key areas: Health Plan Strategies, Benefits Philosophy and Opinion, Health Plan Management and Consumer Driven Health Care.

The survey results will provide employers who participate with critical benchmarks that allow them to compare their attitudes and strategies regarding employer-provided health care with those of their peers and competitors.

The survey is open from February 10 through March 5. Employers who participate in the 2010 UBA Employer Opinion Survey will receive a complimentary electronic synopsis of the final report and a summary of this year's special supplement on Health Care Reform issues.

To participate, click on the following link [www.keysurvey.com/survey/291499/1be5/?LQID=1&BMN=151](http://www.keysurvey.com/survey/291499/1be5/?LQID=1&BMN=151) or contact Hierl Insurance Inc. at 800-462-8931, or go online to [www.hierl.com](http://www.hierl.com)

### **Save the Date**

Small Business Awards Luncheon, Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Chamber Scramble Golf Outing, Monday, July 26, 2010

Business Expo 2010, Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Annual Meeting, Wednesday, October 27, 2010

Up2DATE, a weekly e-newsletter from the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce, features Chamber sponsored programs and events including Business Connections, Morning Business Advice, seminars and other relevant news for the coming week.

**Up2DATE is best viewed in HTML format.**

To register for any of the following Fox Cities Chamber events or to inquire about Chamber membership, call (920) 734-7101, [go online](#) or [email](#). To read a full description of the information, click on the title of the event or [go online](#) to [www.foxcitieschamber.com](http://www.foxcitieschamber.com)