



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 following information, click on the title of the event or [go online](#) to www.foxcitieschamber.com

LEGISLATIVE LINK

Fairness and freedom in the workplace recently received a boost when Senators Arlen Specter and Michael Bennet announced their opposition to the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), better known as card check. This economically damaging legislation would effectively eliminate the right to secret ballot elections in unionization votes and, through binding arbitration, it would give government authorities the power to dictate wages, benefits, and other fundamental business operations. Without Senators Specter's and Bennet's support, card check advocates will find it more difficult, though not impossible, to muster the 60 votes necessary to break a Senate filibuster. For more information, contact Thom Ciske tciske@foxcitieschamber.com or call (920) 734-7101.

Bi-annual Membership Directory

Every two years, the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce produces a Membership Directory. Recent research by Chambers on a national level has indicated that online directories are becoming more popular, but that a printed version is also preferred. The directory is a resource for members who wish to seek out other Chamber members to do business. It is a valuable business resource of more than 1,600 members including approximately 3,000 contacts. The Directory provides access to pertinent information including member websites and informational contact email addresses. Print [advertising in the directory](#) is an extremely cost effective venue to market your products and services to an already qualified group of business prospects. Additional category listings are available at the greatly reduced rate of \$25.00.

[Business Connection for April](#)

When: Tuesday, April 21, 2009, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Red & White, 2400 S. Kensington Drive, 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.

Upcoming Business Connections

May -- Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Sues Electronics, 2520 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Appleton

June -- Tuesday, June 30, 2009, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Appleton Yacht Club, 1200 S. Lutz Drive, Appleton

Pulse Event for April

When: Wednesday, April 22 (Earth Day)

5:15 – 5:45 Registration & Networking

5:45 – 7:45 Main event (speakers, exhibits and lots of fun!)

Where: Time Warner Cable, 3520 Destination Dr., Appleton

This interactive event is all about the environment and it's going to prove that you don't have to be extreme to be green. Learn about "green" things from the automotive industry, to eco friendly cleaning supplies and organic foods and how to calculate your own carbon footprint. There will be a tour of the new "green" Time Warner Cable building as well. As if that isn't enough, we will play a game and there'll be fabulous prizes at stake. As always, food and beverages will be available. Cost is \$10.00 for Pulse members and \$20.00 non-members

Northeast Wisconsin Chamber Coalition Washington Fly-In

When: May 4 & 5, 2009

Where: Washington D.C.

Washington Fly-In will be a joint event with Chambers from throughout NE Wisconsin. The Fly-In will include issue briefings at the Heritage Foundation and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, as well as personal visits with our Congressional Delegation. There is also a social/networking dinner planned.

Morning Business Advice for May

When: Thursday, May, 14, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Where: FVTC DJ Bordini Center, 5 Systems Dr., Appleton

Kyle Restoule of TechNosis will speak about "Securing your Information & Data for Small Businesses." Restoule will cover how to protect against accidental data loss and how to protect against malicious thieves and hackers. The event is sponsored by Omni Resources. 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.

The 14th annual [Christa McAuliffe Academy](http://www.christamcauliffeacademy.com) is accepting applications for the summer workshop at North High School July 13-17. The Academy is a one-week teacher training for preK-12 teachers in the areas of math, science, technology, literacy and other areas of interest to teachers. Participants receive 1, 2, or 3 graduate credits from UW-O for their work. During the week teachers tour local companies to learn about their products, services and skill needs for workers. For more information, call Mary Jane Grissman at the Fox Cities Chamber by calling (920) 734-7101. View our web site at www.christamcauliffeacademy.com

Applications are now being accepted for the 2009-2010 [Leadership Fox Cities](http://www.leadershipfoxcities.com) class. The leadership development program trains individuals for a broad view of civic leadership to enhance our community. The program covers local history, biographies of past and current leaders and philanthropists, a wide-ranging sampling of resources and attractions in the community. Tuition covers all expenses. Some scholarships are available. A printable application for the 2009-2010 class is now available at www.leadershipfoxcities.com. For more information contact Gayle Schultz, at the Chamber by calling (920) 734-7101.

[Octoberfest](#), the area's largest community event, is in need of volunteers in several capacities.

[License to Cruise](#) (Friday 9/25/09)

- Help park cars from 4 to 6 p.m.
- Block captains from 6 to 10 p.m.

[Octoberfest](#) (Saturday 9/26/09)

- Block captains from 5 a.m. to noon and noon to 6:00 p.m.
- Bartending – all shifts, but specifically the 3 to 5:30 p.m. shift
- Headquarters (City Center Plaza) various shifts throughout the day.

To register to volunteer go to www.octoberfestonline.org, click on the word "volunteers" on the right side and complete the form.

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

[How to Make the Best of Tough Times](#)

When: Tuesday, April 14, 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

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

Jeffrey Strenger from Sustainable Continuous Improvement, LLC will present this free program on how to focus your leadership and entire team on controlling what you can do so your business isn't feeling like a victim of the economy. Learn how to invest your time and energy in strengthening your business and emerge stronger than ever!

[Telecommunications Solutions for Growing Businesses in a Slow Economy](#)

When: Tuesday, April 28, 8:15 to 10:00 a.m.

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

Running and growing a successful business is all about information - and being able to respond to customer needs. Learn how technology can improve office efficiency and lower your bottom line, lower service costs and keep you mobile and well connected. Cost for Chamber members is \$10.00; non-member cost to attend is \$15.00 and includes a continental breakfast and materials.

Global perspectives with international trade representatives

There are many changes taking place in markets around the world and it is important to get a clear picture of the opportunities available to Wisconsin exporters and the different strategies that can lead to success in various markets. Each May, the directors of Wisconsin's international trade offices visit the state. [Global Perspectives](#) will be held on Wednesday, May 13 from 11:30 to 4:40 p.m. at the Rock Garden – Comfort Suites Convention Center in Green Bay. Cost to attend is \$20.00.

Customer Service Workshops

[Morning Session 8:00 to 11:30 a.m.](#)

[Afternoon Session 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.](#)

When: Thursday, May 28

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

Joe Constance of Constant Training will speak on customer service as an integral part of any business and how treating customers can affect your business. The cost to attend either workshop is \$70.00 for Chamber members and \$80.00 for non-members. All participants will receive a copy of Constance's book *Customer Service Eagles*.

Save the Date

[Small Business of the Year Awards Luncheon](#) – Wednesday, June 10

Business Expo 2009 -- Tuesday, September 15

Annual Dinner -- Wednesday, October 28