



## 2018 Chamber Impact and Projects Highlights

- Advocated for our members, our business community and our region to protect our way of life.
  - Supported legislative priorities for the region through the leadership and guidance of our Legislative Affairs Committee.
  - Corresponded with lawmakers on legislative priorities, such as workforce shortage, mental health, child care shortage, health care, broadband, mining and taxes.
  - Hosted the Statewide Policy Tour for the Minnesota State Chamber in Virginia that gave our members an opportunity to voice local legislative issues.
  - Connected with the Minnesota State Chamber to provide our regional priorities.
  - Had a presence at the MN Chamber Legislative Priorities Session, St. Louis County Days, and Business Day at the Capitol providing a voice and visibility for our members
  - Voiced opposition to the Wild Rice Sulfate Rule.
  - Supported mining including the PolyMet Project by attending rallies and speaking at public hearings.
  - Forums and Legislative Forums including 8th Congressional Candidate Forum.
  
- The Quad Cities under an application from the Chamber has been chosen to be an Iron Range Blandin Broadband Community enabling the Quad Cities to apply for grant funding for technology projects and a broadband access feasibility study.
  
- Coordinated a Quad Cities hospitality study under an Iron Range Resources grant to evaluate conference and hotel needs in the region.
  
- Supported local and our chamber members by promoting Small Business Saturday, shopping at our member business throughout the year, using our member services and patronizing their business and encouraging our board,

committee members, the community and others to do the same. #shoplocal.

- Coordinated technology trainings to provide regional business with access to trainings to help market their businesses.
- Successfully applied for the Blandin Community Leadership Program to the Quad Cities region. This program supports growth and leadership development in the region.
- Brought people together who share common goals and provided networking opportunities and events including Breakfast Connections, Business After Hours and Chamber Golf Classic.
- Celebrated our members at the Laurentian Chamber Fundraising Gala, our Member Appreciation Picnic, by providing at ribbon cuttings and doing Facebook live events, highlighting member accomplishments in our newsletter and online.
- Participated in Grow Laurentian Grow Minnesota an effort that helps local businesses succeed, stay and grow in our state and links businesses to resources, such as financing programs and workforce recruiting and training.
- Supported the community and our members by participating in and attending local events and activities, such as the Iron Range Home, Sport & Travel, local parades, Bridge Daze, Virginia Community and Lakes, Eveleth Heritage Committee, Festival of Trees and the Iron Range Job Fair.
- Marketed our members through eblasts, online website directory, social media posts, word-of-mouth, newspaper advertising, and brochure placement at our office.
- Joined the Quad Cities Core Team for focusing on the childcare challenges faced in our region and coming up with solutions to make an impact.
- Provides a support network, so members know there is a Chamber community there to offer guidance and assistance and help make connections to help each other and support one another.