

ONAWA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
707 IOWA AVE
ONAWA, IA 51040
712-423-1801

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **President:** Curtis Sturgill, Morton Buildings
- **Vice President:** Rob Meyer, Bank First
- **Jenn Collison,** Director
- **Katie Ramm,** Burgess Health Center
- **Lori Beck,** Onawa Public Library
- **Nick Holverson,** Hoffman Agency
- **Bryana Beneda,** Minnihan Law Firm
- **Jen Andresen-Shilling,** Family Focus Chiropractic
- **Elizabeth Sturgill,** Monona County Fair
- **Kenzie Moreno,** Frannie's Cafe



Chamber News

JANUARY 2024

2024 Chamber Membership Dues

The 2024 Membership dues statements were mailed in the December Newsletter and a personal one was mailed to each member. Please submit your statement and dues to the Chamber office at your earliest convenience. Another membership form is included in this Newsletter for your use.

Please encourage all businesses, non-profits and individuals to join the Onawa Chamber of Commerce. Invite others to attend Chamber Coffees and Chamber functions. We would like to be able to have more Chamber Coffees in 2024. If you are wanting to host a coffee or an after hours, please let me know. We all know how challenging the last 3 years have been for our town, let us remember our community is only as strong and prosperous as we make it together. Let's keep this going for 2024. Together we can promote our citizens, our businesses and our services. As a Chamber Member, you are investing in the future of Onawa.

We look forward to making 2024 a great year in Onawa! If you have any questions, please contact Jenn Collison at the Chamber Office 423-1801 or email chamber@onawa.com.

Chamber Board Members New and Re-elected

At the regular Board Meeting of the Onawa Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, December 7, 2023, the Board verified the election results for the 2024 Board members. Curtis Sturgill, Morton Building, was up for re-election and was voted in for another 3 year term. Newly elected Board Member is Amy McDermott, Onawa Public Library.

Your Board Members for 2024 are Kenzie Moreno, Frannie's Café; Katie Ramm, Burgess Health Center; Lori Beck, Amy McDermott, Onawa Public Library; Nick Holverson, Hoffman Agency; Curtis Sturgill, Morton Buildings; Bryana Beneda, Minnihan Law Firm; Elizabeth Sturgill, Monona County Fair and Jen Shilling-Andresen, Family Focus Chiropractic.

Retiring Board Member is Rob Meyer, Bank First. Thank you Rob for serving on the Chamber Board. We appreciate your years of service and dedication. You will be greatly missed!

The new Board will elect officers at the January 16, 2024 Board Meeting. The Chamber will be hosting a Coffee on Friday, January 26th at the Onawa Public Library to welcome Amy McDermott to the Chamber Board and introduce the officers for 2024.

CHRISTMAS 2023

Unfortunately due to the construction downtown this year, we were not able to have the lighting ceremony. Watch out for next year as the big guy will be back to turn on the lights.

On Saturday, December 2nd a free movie as offered to the community at the Iowa Theater by the Onawa Chamber. The movie shown was Dr. Seuss The Grinch. Even the Grinch showed up to welcome everyone to the free movie. The place was filled to it's capacity!

Thank you Stephanie and Chris Johnson for bringing back our amazing Theater so we an offer this to our community again.

Thank you to Fantastic Photos for having the Grinch available that day to see the kids. They loved it!

Thank you to all the businesses that had a drawing box in their business for the Holiday Chamber Buck drawing.

The winners of the Holiday Bucks were:

\$100 – Lisa Stanislav, Blencoe

\$50 – Fred Carr, Hornick

\$50 – Candace Phipps, Onawa

\$50 – Peggy Lage, Blencoe

\$50 – Brenda Thompson,
Onawa

\$50 – Ashley Beebe, Onawa

\$50 – David Brown, Onawa

Congratulations!!!!



Happy Holiday's
from the Chamber!

Thank you to everyone who purchased Chamber Bucks for their employees, family, etc. Over \$8,200 was purchased during 2023!!!!

Remember every dollar spent in Onawa turns seven times in our community. In addition, the Chamber Bucks encourage people to shop in Onawa instead of going out of town.

Thanks again!!!!

Onawa Public Library Silent Auction & Bake Sale a success!

The Onawa Public Library along with the Friends of the Library held a silent auction and bake sale in December to raise money for their next projects. The next projects are a pollinator informational sign, story walk and a musical garden. There were 28 beautiful baskets and wreaths to bid on. Final tally raised was \$2,102! This will help tremendously towards their projects this spring.

Thank you for your love and generosity for one of the greatest assets our community can have. Thank you for seeing the importance and the value of the library even if you do not use it. Your donations great and small help us provide more to the community and helps us maintain a safe and welcoming home for everyone!

Hosts for Chamber Coffee needed. Chamber Coffees were very slow in 2023. Please e-mail or call Jenn and set up a time to host a Chamber Coffee in your business. This is a great time to bring people into your business and show them what you are all about!

Notice to businesses with new sidewalks

Use of Deicers on New Pavement May Be Harmful

Veenstra and Kimm advises business and residents where newly installed sidewalks and/or driveways were constructed during the 2023 construction season to use sand (plain) for ice melt this winter. The use of sand follows guidance shared recently by The Iowa Concrete Paving Association (ICPA) regarding the harmful effects of deicer chemicals on new concrete pavements. The ICPA advises using plain sand during the first winter after new pavement has been installed to increase the life of a new sidewalk and/or driveway.

Additional information about the use of deicers and the harm they can cause to new pavement can be found at <https://www.concretestate.org/deicer-warning.html>.

SAVE THE DATE

Mark Friday, March 1st on your calendar now for the Chamber Annual Dinner. The Board Members will be selling tickets early this year to ensure everyone can make it. The dinner will be held at Blackbird Bend Casino and the entertainment will be One Piano, 2 Much Fun dueling pianos. You can contact any Board Member or Jenn Collison to get your tickets. You won't want to miss this night of fun!

*Happy
New Year*

Calendar of Events for January 2024

January 1 Happy New Year

January 9 Onawa City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

January 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 16 Chamber Board meeting at noon at the Library.

January 19 Chamber Coffee hosted by the City of Onawa at the Community Center.

January 23 Onawa City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

January 26 Chamber Coffee hosted by the Chamber at the Onawa Public Library.