CONSENT AGENDA

LINCOLN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Every October, as we move into the fourth quarter, the Chamber turns its attention towards recognizing the contributions made by businesses and individuals that shape the future of Lincoln. It's a season of celebration of the contributions that business leaders make. I say it often – Lincoln is remarkably fortunate to have business leaders (large and small) who not only create so much economic opportunity to the community but gladly roll up their sleeves and work alongside community institutions to catalyze important progress for our city. This is something not every community, and not every Chamber can credibly claim.

October is the beginning of that season of celebration, and we start with recognizing and celebrating the contributions of Lincolns young professionals. This year YP week will be October 19 - 23, and in that time the Young Professionals Group of the Chamber have organized nine events...NINE! You can find more about the whole week here: www.lcoc.com/lypg.

The highlight of the week, and sometimes of my whole year, is the Young Lincoln Leader Awards, or YLLA's. It is an inspiration to learn about the nominees and award recipients each year, and every YLLA event I remind myself, while the contributions of these leaders are significant, all of them are just getting started. All of them have more time left in their career to pursue their passions, shape the community, become involved in new ways and grow in their respective leadership of Lincoln.

This is even more important in the moment of uncertainty we live in. It's appropriate for all of us to be aware of our concerns about the future of our economy and community. However, the young leaders of Lincoln are my greatest source of confidence in that future. Rather than ask permission or seek support, this year's YLLA cohort are all people that have shouldered into the everyday work of making Lincoln an even better place to live, start a family, seek entertainment and to pursue a career.

On behalf of the Lincoln Chamber's Board of Directors, and all of our members, I want to thank all the nominees and award winners for showing up every day and shaping our future. Most importantly, I look forward to watching and celebrating what you all do next!

Sincererly,



MEMBERSHIP

We welcomed 11 new members to the Lincoln Chamber, including:

Snarks Computer Repair
Golden Heart Veterinary Hospital
Running Red's Hot Chicken Lincoln
Mid-West Slims / d.b.a. Slim Chickens
ACE Cleaning LLC
Susa's Sweets & Balloons LLC
Lincoln Hygiene Network
Gatlin Psychiatric Services LLC
Hometown Hero Appliance Repair
Mourning Hope
Elevate Local

We also hosted ribbon cutting events for the following Chamber members:

True North Restoration of Lincoln
Carpetland
Slim Chickens
Clinic with a Heart
Escape Lincoln (The Nook and Parlor)
Mederi Functional Health & Wellness
SpringPad
Tredz Central
Mama Bear Nutrition

UPCOMING EVENTS

Latino Connect
October 13 | 8:30 - 10 am
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

Public Policy Forum
October 14 | 8 - 9 am

YP Week
October 19 - 23
Various Locations

Growing with Care
October 21 | 8 - 9:30 am
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

Face the Chamber
Featuring Paige Piper of BraveBe
October 21 | 12 - 1 pm
Country Club of Lincoln

Young Lincoln Leader Awards
October 21 | 6 - 8 pm
Wilderness Ridge Golf Club

YP Membership 101
October 28 | 8 - 9 am
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

The LNK
October 29 | 4 - 6 pm
WarHorse Casino

Chamber Coffee
November 4 | 8 - 9 am
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

Chamber U
November 4 | 11 - 11:45 am
Lincoln Chmaber of Commerce

RISE & Connect
November 5 | 4 - 6 pm
Malone Community Center

Latino Connect Business Awards
November 9 | 5 - 8 pm
Delray 817

YP Level Up Lunch
November 10 | 12 - 1 pm
Doane University, Lincoln Campus

Growth and Development Forum
November 11 | 8 - 9 am
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

PUBLIC POLICY

Local Policy Updates

- Recently, Jason Ball testified before the Planning Commission in support of the "Last Mile" comprehensive plan amendment, introduced by Kent Seacrest on behalf of the South Beltway Coalition. Over the past several years, Kent and the coalition have worked closely with the City and County to identify opportunities to extend infrastructure to the area south of Saltillo Road and north of the South Beltway.
- The proposed comprehensive plan and zoning changes would create opportunities for additional residential and commercial development, as well as establish two large industrial sites in the area. The Lincoln Chamber appreciates the work Seacrest and the South Beltway Coalition have done in partnership with City and County staff to plan for infrastructure and future growth in this important area of the community.
- The Planning Commission passed the proposed changes unanimously and will be in front of the City Council in late October for a hearing and vote.

State Policy Updates

- Reviewing and developing 2027 State Policy Agenda with Public Policy Advisory Committee members.
- Organizing Lincoln elected officials and business community leaders for post-election meetings to focus on growing our community and advancing Lincoln interests.
- Working with interested parties to ensure discussions on digital infrastructure development (data centers, electrons) are factual, data-driven and do not lead to simple moratoriums on growth.
- Continuing to meet with local and statewide legislative and other candidates to learn about their key issues and perspectives and share information on our state policy agenda. Looking forward to having the elections behind us. Next steps will be to focus on important issues.
- Participated in the NCCI Foundation Go Big Momentum discussions and follow-up to help drive pro-growth policy for our state.
- Working with chamber and other association partners on interim study issues related to economic development, infrastructure, tax, K-12 finance and other growth-related issues.
- Working with chamber and other association partners on assessment/analysis of tax and spending policies at the local and state level.
- Participating in NCCI Working Groups related to pro-growth policies related to pro-growth policies for our state.

Federal Policy Updates

- Reviewing and developing 2027 Federal Policy Agenda with Public Policy Advisory Committee members.
- Met with new staff in Congressman Mike Flood's Washington, D.C. office.
- Continued work with local companies on urgent concerns related to trade issues.
- Signed on to U.S. Chamber Coalition Letter to Congress on Permitting Reform.
- Signed on to U.S. Chamber Coalition Letter to Congress on Immigration Reform and Border Security.

VISIT LINCOLN

Staff will host six planners in October for a Familiarization tour including association, corporate and religious conference planners that staff have established relationships with from conferences and market specific sales missions. There will be 2 ½ days of all things attractions, food and fun in hopes of solidifying long-term hosting of their conferences and meetings.

With a record setting event summer behind us, our team is focused on even better results in the summer of 2027 and will include many of the same events we hosted this year. New will be the 2027 USA BMX Nationals- August 13-15. In addition, with the recent news of the National High School Finals Rodeo leaving in 2027, staff are busy looking at replacement events with the staff at the Sandhills Global Event Center.

Staff attended the 2026 Upper Midwest CVB Conference in Grand Island. This multi-state conference featured a great slate of speakers and provided powerful networking opportunities for future partnerships and idea sharing. This is our state's 2nd chance to host after Lincoln hosted in 2014. The conference will next be held in Kansas City in 2027.

Sales and service activity for the month of September included:

In the month of September, Visit Lincoln issued 11 sales leads with the potential for 1,578 room nights. A total of 10 events, for 1,450 room nights were booked with an estimated economic impact of $541,500. Throughout the month, the staff contacted 37 prospective clients and conducted 155 retention calls. Services were provided to 10 organizations hosting their event in the Lincoln community.

The team toured Southeast Community College to learn about their campus projects and event partnership opportunities. In both athletics and program specific conferences, there are new opportunities in the coming year for Lincoln to host. The first of two Visit Lincoln hosted Historic Haymarket Tours began in September with guests that included residents and weekend visitors.

Director of Sales, Lindsey Bolander, started Leadership Lincoln and is looking forward to engaging with the community.

September Visitor Center numbers included 301 visitors and 35 calls to our center at 7th and P in the historic Lincoln Station.

MARKETING & PROGRAMS

Plans are underway for the 2026 Celebrate Business Awards Reception on December 10 from 4-6 pm at the Lincoln Cornhusker Marriott Hotel. We look forward to recognizing: Hoppe Development (Cornerstone Award), Derek Feyerherm (Tom Lorenz Tourism Development Award), The Mill (Entrepreneurial Spirit Award),

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MARKETING & PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

The Golden Chickens (Small Business of the Year), Lincoln Electric System (Green Business of the Year), Jeff and Diane Cunningham (Roger T. Larson Community Builder Award), and Cleaver-Brooks (Manufacturer of the Year). Registration is open at lcoc.com/events.

The BusinessLNK podcast continues to serve as a unique platform for telling the stories of the businesses and people who make Lincoln an incredible place to live, work and play. Recent podcast guests include Joseph Young (Nebraska Chamber of Commerce), State Senator Bob Hallstrom, Jake Thiessen (Hub Cafe), Sarah Waldman (Girl Scouts Spirt of Nebraska), Sam Lesoing (Lincoln Sports Foundation), State Senator Carolyn Bosn, and Jake Christensen (MicroFarm OS). View our 100+ video podcast episodes at lcoc.com/videopodcast.

LINCOLN PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Lincoln Manufacturing Council
LMC completed all ARPA workforce development grant expenses by September 30, 2026. Final financial closeout and comprehensive data reporting will be completed by December. Moving forward, LMC will sustain operations beyond the grant period through continued support from industry sponsors.

September training updates:

- Catholic Social Services: 13 students successfully completed the Manufacturing Basics class.
- People's City Mission: 7 PCM residents successfully completed the course.
- Lincoln Lighthouse & Southeast Community College: Hosted a combined Level 1 (Manufacturing Basics) and Level 2 (Manufacturing Skills, with a focus on precision machining) training cohort for Lighthouse students at SCC.

The LMC Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 19 and will feature presentations from the Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Lincoln Bioscience Council
The pilot Bioscience 101 class is currently underway at Southeast Community College with seven learners enrolled and will conclude on October 15.

EmployLNK
Monthly meetings continue, averaging 27 career coaches and case managers attending each month. Year to date, meetings have featured six employer presenters and seven community resource and education presenters.

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LINCOLN PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

Lincoln Family-Friendly Workplace Certification Program

The Lincoln-Family Workplace Certification program recognized nine additional area employers in its fourth application cycle. The program, which was launched a year ago in partnership with Lincoln Littles, highlights employers who prioritize the well-being of working parents and their families, positioning them to attract and retain a strong and inclusive workforce. Sixty (60) workplaces have now received the certification. All certified workplaces are listed on the program webpage.

CampusLNK

CampusLNK fall programming kicked off with 'Market Meetup at Mo Java' on September 18 at Mo Java Coffee in conjunction with the Uni Place Creative District's Makers Market. Forty students attended the event, the majority of whom were college juniors and seniors. Additionally, CampusLNK launched a discount passport designed to promote local businesses and encourage students to explore Lincoln amenities. So far, discounts to CampusLNK students have been offered by St Louise Gift & Thrift, Adventure Golf Center and Paint Yourself Silly.

StartupLNK

Applications are now open for LaunchLNK, with an expanded prize package of $43K per winner and new benefit partners joining the program. We worked with a local founder and developer to use their platform for the application process this year. Applications are due October 16.

- This fall, Abby Bartholomew, Director of Innovation & Entrepreneurship, kicked off the I-Corps fall cohort as part of the instructor team, helping 15 startups work through customer discovery.
- Abby also participated in an NMotion mentor swarm, meeting with each team to talk through recent successes and current challenges.
- Planning is underway for Startup Week, and we're serving as a committee member for the event, which is led by Open Range and takes place Nov. 16-21.
- Abby attended the Startup Champions Network Summit in Richmond, VA, which brings together leaders from startup communities across the country who are building and supporting local entrepreneurial ecosystems. The summit gives us a chance to learn what's working in other communities, benchmark Lincoln's programs against peer cities and bring back practical ideas that strengthen our support for local founders.