



20  
23

# ENGAGEMENT GUIDE



**a**berdeen  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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about us

The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce has been an established voluntary non-profit membership organization since 1884. Today, we are 600 members strong with over 2,000 volunteers that help facilitate and participate in the Chamber's activities and events.

As a non-profit, 501c6 corporation, the Chamber supports and speaks for those engaged in business, industry, agriculture, transportation, education, healthcare and private sector enterprises. In a nutshell, we seek to make commerce happen through business expansion and attraction, as well as the advocacy efforts that help improve business in our area.

Our vision is to bring businesses and individuals together to build consensus on business issues and community goals. Our mission is to serve as the leading business advocate for the economic health and vitality of our membership, our community, and the greater Aberdeen area. We pursue this vision and mission by:

- Serving the region as the central networking organization from which ideas, resources and assets can be drawn;
- Unifying and advancing membership, community and regional interests;
- Cultivating future and advancing opportunities in the State;
- Educating businesses and individuals on workforce readiness and development issues; and
- Promoting and encouraging growth of the membership, community, and area.





## ad hoc committees & task forces

The following ad hoc committees or task forces meet as needed based on staff and board discretion.

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### EDGE

Explore. Discover. Gather. Engage. The mission of the committee is to assist Chamber staff with the development of local educational and networking activities and events targeted at young professionals and start-up entrepreneurs; implementation of social media ideas and concepts for the Chamber and community; and coordinating efforts with other area organizations working towards common mission. EDGE events are scheduled throughout the year.

### woman of spirit

This team is made up of previous Woman of Spirit (Athena) winners who now select the Woman of Spirit winner in Aberdeen. The Woman of Spirit Award recognizes an individual for business or professional accomplishments, for community service, and especially for mentoring others and providing a role model to encourage women to achieve their full leadership potential. The Woman of Spirit Award is presented at the Community Champions luncheon held in February of each year.

The mission of the Agribusiness Committee is to promote agriculture as a major segment of the local economy, to address and educate the membership on issues important to agriculture, to unite and network groups through ag-related programs and events, and to recognize outstanding achievements in agriculture. The committee meets the third Thursday of each month at noon.

**2023 committee chair:** Krysti Mikkonen, *Rural Gold*

**2023 meeting & event dates:**

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Friday	1/19/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Thursday	2/16/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Thursday	3/16/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Tuesday	3/21/2023	10:00 AM	TBD	National Ag Day
Thursday	4/20/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Tuesday	4/25/2023	8:00 AM	Brown County Fairgrounds	4th Grade Ag Fair
Thursday	5/18/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Thursday	6/15/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Thursday	7/27/2023	5:30 PM	Engels Event Company	Ag Appreciation Event
Thursday	7/20/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Thursday	8/17/2023	12:00 PM	Brown County Fairgrounds	Regular Meeting
Friday	9/8/2023	5:30 PM	Centennial Village	Field to Fork
Thursday & Friday	September	10:00 AM	NSU Student Center	Ag 605
Thursday	9/21/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Thursday	10/19/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Thursday	11/16/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Thursday	12/7/2023	9:30 AM	Ramkota	All-Committee Retreat





The mission of the Ambassador Committee is to promote a positive community image and serve as goodwill ambassadors at Chamber and community functions such as ribbon cuttings, new business openings, ground breakings, business relocations, and other networking events. The committee meets the second Tuesday of every month at noon. The Ambassadors also host the Community Champions Awards Luncheon. and attend ribbon cuttings and ground breakings throughout the year at various times.

**2023 committee chair:** Devin Reints, *Dakota Broadcasting*

**2023 meeting & event dates:**

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Tuesday	1/10/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	2/14/2023	11:00 AM	Engels Event Co	Community Champions Luncheon
Thursday	3/14/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	4/11/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	5/9/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	6/13/2022	12:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	7/11/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	8/8/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	9/12/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	10/10/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	11/14/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting and Visits
Tuesday	12/7/2023	9:30 AM	Ramkota	All-Committee Retreat



# board of directors

The Board of Directors represent the business and professional leadership in the community. The board consists of 16 voting members that are each eligible to serve two three-year terms. In addition, the CVB Board President-Elect and a Board Member of the Aberdeen Development Corporation and Aberdeen Downtown Association serve one-year terms. Serving as non-voting members are representatives from the Aberdeen Downtown Association, the Aberdeen Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Aberdeen Development Corporation. Board members are elected through an application and interview process.

## officers:

**president:** Katie Washnok, *Blackout Industries*

**vice president:** Cam Schock, *Climate Control*

**treasurer:** Zach Flakus, *NSU Foundation*

**secretary:** Kila LeGrand, *Sanford Health*

**Past president:** Kellie Kolb, *SD Manufacturing and Technology Solutions*

Jarrett Rix, *Rix & Company*

David Novstrup, *Wylie Thunder Road/Allevity*

Mike Sommers, *Double D Body Shop, ADC Board*

Brodie Mueller, *The Market on the Plaza*

Dawn Thorstenson, *Aberdeen Parks & Recreation, CVB Board*

Zach Flakus, *Northern State University Foundation*

Mike Quast, *Aberdeen Family YMCA*

Tom Cogley, *Cogley Law Office*

Courtney Rott, *Riddle's Jewelry*

Alexandra Grieben, *Dacotah Bank*

Tanner White, *Avera*

Marcus Garstecki, *Northern State University*

Jane Kuhn, *Agtegra*

Daryl Thoennes, *3M Company*

Spencer Sommers, *Co-op Architecture, ADA Board*

Casey Weismantel, *Aberdeen Area Convention and Visitors Bureau*

Mike Bockorny, *Aberdeen Development Corporation*

Alexa Sheldon, *Aberdeen Downtown Association*

## 2023 meeting & event dates

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Wednesday	1/18/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	2/15/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	3/15/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	4/19/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	5/17/2023	11:30 AM	Chamber	Planning Retreat
Wednesday	6/21/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	7/19/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	9/20/2023	11:30 AM	Chamber	Planning Retreat
Wednesday	10/18/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	11/15/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	12/20/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Breakfast & Meeting



The mission of the Diplomat Committee is to strengthen membership engagement and retention by visiting current members and facilitating communication to and from members, helping to identify member concerns, and garnering support for the Chamber. (Committee selection is done on a nomination basis). The committee also facilitates the annual ABBY Awards program and raises scholarship funds for the Leadership Aberdeen program. The Diplomats meet the second Thursday of every month at 3:00 pm at the Chamber before departing to visit with Chamber members at their businesses.

**2023 committee chair:** Victoria Lusk, *Avera St. Luke's Hospital*

**2023 meeting & event dates:**

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Thursday	1/12/2023	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and BAH
Thursday	2/9/2023	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and BAH
Thursday	3/9/2023	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and BAH
Thursday	4/13/2023	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and BAH
Thursday	5/11/2023	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and BAH
Thursday	6/8/2023	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and BAH
Thursday	7/13/2023	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and BAH
Thursday	8/10/2023	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and BAH
Thursday	9/21/2023	6:00 PM	Dakota Event Center	ABBY Awards
Thursday	10/12/2023	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and BAH
Thursday	11/9/2023	3:00 PM	Chamber	Meeting, Visits and BAHs
Thursday	12/7/2023	9:30 AM	Ramkota	All-Committee Retreat
Thursday	12/14/2023	4:30 PM	Dakota Event Center	Christmas with the Chamber



The purpose of the Enhance Aberdeen Committee is to coordinate projects that serve to beautify the community and enhance our quality of life; educate the public on related issues which affect them such as regulations, codes, and new efforts; and to recognize and promote business and community development projects. The committee meets the 4th Friday of every even-numbered month at 8:30 am.

**2023 committee chair:** Angie Cleberg, *United Way of Northeastern SD*

**20223 meeting dates:**

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Friday	2/24/2023	8:30 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	4/28/2023	8:30 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	6/23/2023	8:30 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	8/25/2023	8:30 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	10/27/2023	8:30 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	12/7/2023	9:30 AM	Ramkota	All-Committee Retreat



The Executive Board consists of the Chair of the Board, Chair-Elect, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Past Chair. It exercises the power of the board between those times when board meeting are held and makes recommendations to the full Board of Directors. The Executive Committee also serves as the Finance Committee of the Chamber and monitors the overall financial health of the organization by reviewing annual reports of an outside auditor. Executive Board Members are elected from the Board of Directors.

**president:** Katie Washnok, *Blackout Industries*

**vice president:** Cam Schock, *Climate Control*

**treasurer:** Zach Flakus, *NSU Foundation*

**secretary:** Kila LeGrand, *Sanford Health*

**Past president:** Kellie Kolb, *SD Manufacturing and Technology Solutions*

## 2023 meeting & event dates:

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Friday	1/11/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	2/10/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	3/10/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	4/14/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	5/12/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	6/9/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	7/14/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	8/11/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	9/15/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	10/13/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	11/10/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Friday	12/15/2023	8:00 AM	Chamber	Regular Meeting



# health & wellness

The mission of the Health & Wellness Committee is to implement business-healthcare partnerships and programs to promote workplace wellness and inspire healthy lifestyle choices through education and initiatives. The committee has created Hub City Healthy Eats and hosts an annual Self Care Wellness Fair. This committee meets the first Wednesday of every month at 8:30 a.m.

**2023 committee chair:** Jordan Mounga

**2023 meeting dates:**

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Wednesday	1/4/2023	8:30 AM	Chamber or TBD	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	2/1/2023	8:30 AM	Chamber or TBD	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	3/1/2023	8:30 AM	Chamber or TBD	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	4/5/2023	8:30 AM	Chamber or TBD	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	5/10/2023	8:30 AM	Chamber or TBD	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	6/7/2023	8:30 AM	Chamber or TBD	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	6/28/2023	11:00 AM	KO Lee Library	Self Care Wellness Fair
Wednesday	7/5/2023	8:30 AM	Chamber or TBD	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	8/2/2023	8:30 AM	Chamber or TBD	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	9/6/2023	8:30 AM	Chamber or TBD	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	10/4/2023	8:30 AM	Chamber or TBD	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	11/1/2023	8:30 AM	Chamber or TBD	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	12/7/2023	9:30 AM	Ramkota	All-Committee Retreat



# military & veterans

The mission of the Military & Veterans committee is to promote a positive working relationship among the community, employers and area military and veterans' groups while heightening awareness of the military and veteran presence in the community. The group meets at the National Guard Armory on a quarterly basis at 12:00 pm on the following Tuesdays:

## 2023 meeting dates:

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Tuesday	1/3/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Tuesday	3/7/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Tuesday	5/2/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Tuesday	7/18/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Tuesday	9/5/2023	12:00 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Tuesday	12/7/2023	9:30 AM	Ramkota	All-Committee Retreat





The Transportation Committee is the Chamber's primary business voice on transportation issues of importance locally, regionally, and nationally. The committee meets to gather information from transportation experts in all areas of transportation including ground, rail, and air; analyze the information presented and determine how the Aberdeen Chamber can have an impact; and to share pertinent information with business people in the community. The committee meets quarterly at 3:30 pm on the Tuesdays below.

**2023 committee chair:** Jarrett Rix, *Rix & Company*

## 2023 Meeting Dates:

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Tuesday	2/28/2023	3:30 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Tuesday	5/30/2023	3:30 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Tuesday	8/29/2023	3:30 PM	Chamber	Regular Meeting
Tuesday	12/7/2023	9:30 AM	Ramkota	All-Committee Retreat



# workforce & education

The mission of the Workforce & Education Committee is to facilitate, and support activities related to business-education partnerships, youth engagement and workforce recruitment and retention. The committee also addresses education needs amongst the business community. The Workforce & Education committee meets the third Thursday of every month at 8:00 am and also facilitates the career expo, new faculty luncheon and manufacturing month.

**2023 committee chair:** Taylor Hanson, *Aberdeen Development Corporation*

**2023 meeting & event dates:**

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Thursday	1/19/2023	8:00 AM	ADC Board Room	Regular Meeting
Thursday	2/16/2023	8:00 AM	ADC Board Room	Regular Meeting
Thursday	3/16/2023	8:00 AM	ADC Board Room	Regular Meeting
Thursday	4/20/2023	8:00 AM	ADC Board Room	Regular Meeting
Thursday	5/18/2023	8:00 AM	ADC Board Room	Regular Meeting
Thursday	6/15/2023	8:00 AM	ADC Board Room	Regular Meeting
Thursday	7/20/2023	8:00 AM	ADC Board Room	Regular Meeting
Thursday	8/24/2023	8:00 AM	ADC Board Room	Regular Meeting
Thursday	9/21/2023	8:00 AM	ADC Board Room	Regular Meeting
Thursday	10/19/2023	8:00 AM	ADC Board Room	Regular Meeting
Thursday	11/16/2023	8:00 AM	ADC Board Room	Regular Meeting
Thursday	12/7/2023	9:30 AM	TBD	All-Committee Retreat





# business after hours!

Mixers are held the second Thursday of the month from 5:15 to 7:00 pm. The event is held to encourage networking among business leaders in the community. Chamber members have the opportunity to host or sponsor the event to promote their business to approximately 125-150 people each month. The Chamber also holds a monthly membership drawing, where active members can win if they are present.

DATE	HOST	LOCATION
Thursday, January 12, 2023	Automaxx	AutoMaxx
Thursday, February 9, 2023	Dacotah Back	Dacotah Bank—Downtown
Thursday, March 9, 2023	Plains Commerce Bank	Yelduz Shrine—Non-Profit Month
Thursday, April 13, 2023	Horizon Healthcare	Horizon Healthcare
Thursday, May 11, 2023	Farm Credit Services of America	Farm Credit Services of America
Thursday, June 8, 2023	Richmond Lake/SD Game, Fish & Parks	Richmond Lake Youth Camp
Thursday, July 13, 2023	TBD	TBD
Thursday, August 10, 2023	Pierson Ford	Pierson Ford
Thursday, September 7, 2023	Schwan Financial	Schwan Financial
Thursday, October 12, 2023	Manufacturing Month	Civic Arena
Thursday, November 9, 2023	Conklin Clinic	Conklin Clinic
Thursday, December 14, 2023	MIDCO	Dakota Event Center

## new employee welcomes

New Employee Welcomes are held from 4:15 to 5:15 pm right before our monthly Business After Hours mixers. These events are an opportunity for new employees in the Aberdeen area to learn about the community, Chamber and to meet individuals in a smaller group setting before heading into Business After Hours. Participants receive Aberdeen “swag” and are able to ask questions they may have about getting involved in the community. They are free to attend and are part of the Chamber’s workforce retention efforts.

## community affairs luncheon

These luncheons are held to provide education to community members on topics of importance to our businesses, community and state.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	SPEAKER
Thursday, January 5, 2023	12:00 pm	Kesslers Champions Club	Pre-Legislative Luncheon
Thursday, March 2, 2023	12:00 pm	Ramkota	TBD
Thursday, September 7, 2023	12:00 pm	Ramkota	TBD
Thursday, November 2, 2023	12:00 pm	Ramkota	David Owen - Legislative Preview





**gift card program:** The Chamber Gift Card is a prepaid, private label VISA card that operates on a closed loop system. This means that participating merchants must be active members in good standing with the Chamber to accept the card. Aberdeen gift cards are available for purchase at the Chamber office, by businesses and citizens at no charge, thanks in part to our local partner, Dakota Broadcasting. Participating merchants process the gift card as they would any credit or bankcard on their store's register. The program circulates over \$150,000 annually.

**CART:** The Chamber hosts the "Community Action Resource Team" meetings every Thursday morning from 8:30 am—10:00 am in the Chamber Conference Room. Come join for great community discussion.

**chamber for good:** We take our role of being a community building organization very seriously and with the launch of Chamber for Good we have taken it to an even higher level of community engagement. The Chamber for Good website shines a bright light on the great charities and causes that labor away on behalf our fellow community members. All 501c3 organizations that are based in (or have extensive activities within) our community are eligible to have a profile on Chamber for Good and will have the ability to post financial, volunteer and item needs. Additionally, residents will now have a central location where they can browse the needs of local charities. Residents can offer their time or treasures. Chamber for Good makes it easy to GIVE LOCAL and build up those causes that make such an impact in our own community.

**relocation packets:** The Chamber distributes relocation packets requested by individuals, universities, and businesses. These packets showcase Chamber members and their services, as well as promoting the wonderful attributes of our community and region. There is no charge for these packets.

**progress magazine:** The Chamber publishes six magazines each year. They are mailed to all members and inserted into the Aberdeen American News. They are also distributed to clinics, waiting rooms, hotels, NSU, PC, etc.

**city marketing:** The Chamber receives funding from the City of Aberdeen to advertise and promote the Aberdeen community. One hundred percent of funds received are spent on promotion and the Chamber pays all costs of administration of funds including staff time to coordinate the advertising and to handle accounts payable and receivable. We do so because we believe that a successful community will lead to successful businesses and future economic development. Proposals are made to the city in July.

**sharing the spirit:** The Chamber facilitates the purchase and upkeep of Christmas decorations, lights poles, and banners that are displayed around the City of Aberdeen. Funds are allocated from the City's promotion fund.

**edge events:** These quarterly events are targeted to early career professionals in the Aberdeen, SD area age 21-40. The mission of these events are for individuals to Explore the Aberdeen Community . Discover the unique places and events we have in the Aberdeen Area. Gather and connect them to other early career professionals in the Aberdeen Area. Engage through continued community involvement. This is a great retention tool for employers.

**the right move:** This resource was created for local business owners and managers who are actively recruiting workforce from outside The Hub City. It's a landing page where potential new Aberdeen residents can get a quick glance at what we have to offer including things to do, new resident testimonials, community profile and more. Also included is a downloadable PDF, *10 Things to Love About Aberdeen!*

**top 4 under 40 program:** The Top 4 under 40 is a program to recognize the efforts of young leaders in our community and region. Nominee Qualifications: Between the ages of 21- 39; Aberdeen and/or Brown County resident; Exemplifies the qualities of a true leader and "Aberdonian"; Someone who is enroute or has already truly impacted our community for the better through their career and profession, community and civic involvement, personal or philanthropic efforts, etc.; and Makes our community a better place because they're in it. The Top 4 under 40 are publicly recognized at the ABBY Awards with an award presentation as well as through the Chamber's PROGRESS Magazine, social media, website, etc. Each recipient will receive a \$250 cash prize.

## Mental Wellness in the Workplace

**January 10th and February 7th, 2023.** The Health & Wellness Committee and the Workforce & Education Committee are teaming up to host these webinars. They will be in person at the Chamber or via Zoom from 8:30 am - 9:30 am.

## Leadership Aberdeen

**January 12, 2023 - March 28, 2023.**

Leadership Aberdeen is a comprehensive leadership training program that provides participants with the opportunity to sharpen their skills, share their experiences, and make life-long connections with fellow participants. Participants follow the Positive Leadership curriculum, while also touring a number of local businesses. This gives them a well-rounded experience that not only sharpens their leadership skills, but broadens their knowledge about the businesses, opportunities and challenges of our region.



## Legislative Cracker Barrels

The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce Community Committee hosts the legislative cracker barrel sessions in the Kessler's Champions Club at Northern State University. They run from 10 am to noon on the following Saturday mornings: **January 28th, February 4th, February 11th and March 4th.** The sessions are open to the public and offer an excellent opportunity for legislators from Brown and surrounding counties and their constituents to publicly discuss issues of importance. The sessions are streamed live by Dakota Broadcasting.

## 1st quarter events



## Community Champions Luncheon

The event will be held on **Tuesday, February 14, 2023.** The Community Champions Awards Luncheon recognizes volunteer leaders within Aberdeen and the region. The following awards are presented on behalf of the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce: The Woman of Spirit Award; The George Award; The STAR Award; The ViTality Award; The Aberdeen Area Family Business of the Year Award; The Entrepreneur of the Year Award, and several Military/Veteran Awards.



## Aberdeen Day at the Legislature

**Thursday, February 24, 2023.** This annual trip to the State Capitol offers community leaders the opportunity to see our legislative process in action. Displays are set up in the Capitol Rotunda and refreshments are served. The Chamber arranges a session with the Governor and several different state agencies as well as attending scheduled Business Day events with the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

## National Ag Day

**Tuesday, March 21, 2023.** Working alongside a national effort created by the Agriculture Council of America, the Ag Committee helps promote locally the importance of agriculture in our daily lives. Committee members will have several events and awareness activities lined up around town not only on National Ag Day but also the entire week from March 20-24.



## 4th Grade Ag Fair

**Tuesday, April 25, 2023.** The Ag Committee holds an Ag Fair each year for fourth grade students. Typically there are 13 schools represented with 500+ students and 50+ adults. The committee is proud to partner with the Groton FFA Chapter on this event. The fair's purpose is to teach fourth grade students about the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. Students attend and experience several areas of agriculture including: sheep, goats, swine, farm safety, beef cattle, horses, dairy and crops.



## Free Spring Residential Cleanup

The Enhance Aberdeen Committee works with the Brown County Landfill to organize and promote the annual residential cleanup. Residents can drop trash off at the landfill and various locations in the city. The event is typically held at the end of April each year.

## Leadercast

The Chamber will host Leadercast on **Wednesday, May 3, 2023**. Leadercast Live is the largest one-day leadership event in the world. Broadcast live each year from Atlanta to 100,000+ people in hundreds of locations around the world, Leadercast Live brings together many of the world's most recognized and respected global leaders to create a leadership experience unlike any other.

# 2nd quarter events



## Aberdeen Chamber Golf Scramble

**Monday, June 5, 2023.** The annual Chamber Golf Tournament is a four-person, best ball tournament held the first Monday in June at Moccasin Creek Country Club. The tournament kicks off at 11:30 am with a shotgun start and wraps up with drinks and hors d'oeuvres served in the club house. Prizes are awarded for the first three places in three flights with a maximum of 36 total teams competing.



## Self-Care Wellness Fair

In its second year, the Chamber's Health & Wellness Committee will be hosting the Self-Care Wellness Fair on **Wednesday, June 28, 2023** at the KO Lee Aberdeen Public Library. This event features several speakers as well as information tables. It is free and open to everyone.

## Ag Appreciation Event

New for 2023! The Chamber's Ag Committee held an Ag Appreciation Banquet for many years. As times and interests have changed, the committee took a look at the banquet and decided to revamp it into an updated event that focuses on the appreciation of our ag producers. Plans are being made for **July 27 2023** at Engels Event Company. The free downtown summer concert will be included as the evening's entertainment.



## New Faculty Luncheon

**Monday, August 14, 2023** at the Dakota Event Center. The Chamber hosts this luncheon to welcome new faculty at all Aberdeen K-12 and higher education institutions. Businesses have the opportunity to sponsor. Typically, there are about 120 attendees, including 60 new teachers.



## Brown County Fair Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, August 20, 2023.** The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce holds a pancake breakfast the last Sunday of the Brown County Fair from 8:00 am to 11:00 am at the Club House at the Fairgrounds. The menu is milk, juice, coffee, pancakes and sausage. Each year we serve close to 600 adults and children were served.



## COLLEGEpalooza

**August 2023.** This event, started in 2016 is a partnership between the Chamber, Aberdeen Downtown Association, NSU, and Presentation College. The fair is held to welcome college students to our community and showcase everything we have to offer them from jobs to recreation.

## 3rd quarter events



## Field to Fork: A Farm to Table Connection

**September 8, 2023** at Centennial Village (Brown County Fairgrounds). The Chamber's Ag Committee created this event to help educate consumers about the food on their tables. Local producers will dine with attendees and share with them the stories of the food and drink they produce and how it got to the table.



## ABBY Awards

**Thursday, September 21, 2023** at the Dakota Event Center. Over 300 people attend this annual award gala hosted by the Chamber Diplomats. Ten different awards are presented to businesses and organizations in the region. We also unveil the Top 4 under 40 Recipients.



## Youth Career Expo

The Youth Career Expo will be held **Thursday, September 28, 2023** at Northern State University. This event provides businesses with the opportunity to market career opportunities within their company and industry to a large group of eager, young high school students. The expo is held in conjunction with post-high planning from 8:00 - 11:00 am. Businesses are organized within 16 career clusters.

## 4th quarter events



### Manufacturing Month

**October 2023.** The Chamber's Workforce & Education Committee promotes our local manufacturers during Manufacturing Month. The day includes a showcase for ATEC students and the community. Both events specifically showcase goods manufactured in Aberdeen and the surrounding region.



### Christmas Virtual Auction

**December 11-14, 2023.** The Chamber will host a virtual auction this week that showcases items donated by Chamber members and featuring locally-made products. This is an annual fundraiser for the Chamber.

### Christmas with The Chamber

**Thursday, December 14, 2023.** This event is held in conjunction with the December Business After Hours Mixer. The Chamber wraps up the virtual auction, as well as hosts the wine and liquor pull. The holiday atmosphere features great food, drinks and entertainment!

