

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Kyle Karsten

Happy New Year! Hope you had a nice Christmas and a Happy New Year.

2025 was such a great year for the Chamber. Going forward, let's keep that same energy for 2026! As a business owner, January is the perfect time to not only reflect over the past year but make plans for the new year. Figure out what's working and what needs to be changed moving forward. Maybe it's time to restructure or add something new – the possibilities are endless!

As a Chamber member, look over those goals and ask how we can help you make your business the best it can be. Maybe it's time to host a Business After Hours, think about a Ribbon Cutting, or see how you can get more involved in the Chamber and the community as a whole. Take time to volunteer at an event, decorate a booth at the Business Expo, think about being an Exhibitor or a Host at a luncheon, or even just take extra time to network with other businesses and organizations. If there are any other resources you need to take your business to the next level, reach out to us and let us help – that's what we're here for! Our goal for 2026 is to continue to grow the Chamber to help make Mt. Zion the great community that we all know

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Non-Profit Appreciation Banquet



The Non-Profit Appreciation Banquet will be on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at the Mt. Zion Convention Center at 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Natalie Beck, CEO of the Heart of Illinois Community Foundation, will be our keynote speaker. This will be an evening to celebrate our non-profits who uplift our communities every day.

Come celebrate our non-profit organizations who do amazing work daily for the betterment of our communities. Please email mtzionchamber@gmail.com by January 12, 2026 if you wish to be a sponsor and/or January 20, 2026 if you wish to purchase tickets or tables. Tickets are \$40 each or a Table of 8 for \$300 for MZCC members. Sponsorship levels are on [page 7](#).

UPCOMING

JANUARY 14th

Luncheon

12:00-1:00

Topic

2026 Business Tax Tips

Location

Antioch Christian Church

Caterer

LaGondolla Spaghetti House

Luncheon Host

Synergy HomeCare

Member cost \$15

RSVP by Tuesday, Jan. 13th

JANUARY 12TH

Non-Profit

Appreciation Banquet

Sponsorships Due

JANUARY 27TH

Non-Profit

Appreciation Banquet

Mt. Zion Convention Center

5:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 11TH

Luncheon

Antioch Christian Church

12-1 p.m.



2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Kyle Karsten
President
Macon Resources Inc.



Jimmy Rade
Vice President
Mossy Oak Properties



Kayla Marsh
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Hickory Point Bank & Trust



Laura Cullison
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Linda Harper
Executive Director
Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce



Shelly Coslow
Outgoing Officer Advisor
Decatur Earthmover Credit
Union



January 2026 Luncheon

HOSTED BY



Our luncheon on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, will be at Antioch Christian Church at 5409 E. US Route 36, Decatur, IL 62521. Registration starts at 11:30 a.m.; the buffet, catered by LaGondolla Spaghetti House, starts at 11:45 a.m. The luncheon program begins at 12 noon and ends at 1 p.m. The luncheon cost is \$15.

Steve Grohne with MCK CPAs & Advisors will be our speaker. His presentation is 2026 Business Tax Tips. The tax code has changed in 2026—don't leave money on the table. Early preparation and documentation are key to lowering taxable income.

Enjoy our speaker and a great lunch. Bring your business cards and network. If you have any information fliers you want to put on the luncheon tables before the luncheon begins, then be sure to pick up any remaining fliers at the end of the luncheon.

Please send your RSVP to mtzionchamber@gmail.com by Tuesday, January 13th or submit your reservation on our website at <https://www.mtzionchamber.org/meetings>. Be sure to send me your RSVP information with all the names of those attending from your business or organization for the Attendee List. You can pay in advance at [Event Registration - Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce \(chamberorganizer.com\)](#); or optionally, you can still be invoiced or pay at the door.

2025 Christmas Decoration Contest Winners

Best Indoor Display



VitalSkin Dermatology

Best Traditional Display



ApexNetwork Physical Therapy

Most Creative Display



Mt. Zion District Library



Member
Spotlight



The Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce loves its member businesses and wants you to learn more about them by bringing you this month's Member Spotlight – Overlook Security Services. When your business needs security cameras, reliable networking, or system upgrades, it can be hard to know who to call. Overlook Security Services is a locally owned company serving Mount Zion and Central Illinois, providing professional security camera installation, network solutions, and more. No matter the project, they've got you covered. Learn more at [OverlookSecurityServices.net](https://www.OverlookSecurityServices.net).



President's Message continued from page 1:

it is, and we can't do that without you all. So let's work together to make this the best year ever!

January is also the month to be watching for upcoming EVENTS, SPONSORSHIPS coming over the next few months, & NOMINATIONS. Want to sponsor and attend the January 27th Non-Profit Appreciation Banquet? How about the Expo & Taste coming up in March? And we hope that the April Awards Banquet is already on your calendar – look for details on all these events.

Send us your nominations. Who might be your choice for Business of the Year or one of the other awards that we will give out in April. And how about Board Members for the coming year? Submit your nominations to one of the officers on this year's Board. We are deciding who to put on the ballot this month for the election at the March luncheon.

Hope to hear from you soon and see you at one of the upcoming scheduled events this month.

Kyle Karsten, MZCC President &
MRI Director of Development

Welcome New Member



The Carriages of Decatur located at 2650 N. Monroe St., in Decatur is a senior living community offering assisted living and memory care in a warm, homelike environment. Residents receive individualized support—from daily living assistance to specialized memory care—provided by a compassionate team available around the clock. Visit <https://carriageslife.com>. Call Robin Luna at 217.542.5652 for more information.

Announcements



2025 New Members

Bevo's
Clean Cut Painting & Handyman
J. J. Swartz Co.
JDM Custom Construction LLC
Lockhart's Barber College
Macon Resources Inc.
Mt. Zion Chiropractic Clinic
Mt. Zion Community Eye Care
Onward Injury Law

PawPrint Ministries
Plume
Pokeshop Collectables
Proven Medical and Executive Coaching
Sherwin-Williams
Tanglewood Village
The Carriages of Decatur
WCIA



Announcements cont'd



2026 Membership Dues

The 2026 membership dues for January 1, 2026-December 31, 2026 are due January 15, 2026. Dues are \$175 per year. Your emailed QuickBooks invoice started the end of December 2025 and will continue through the beginning of January 2026. Our online QuickBooks invoice can be paid with credit or debit card by clicking on the Review and pay link. Checks are made payable to: Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce. If you joined the Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce during 2025, your 2026 membership dues will be prorated and will be less than \$175 and will be due the month you joined; then your 2027 dues will be \$175 and will be due in January from then on. The new members who joined in 2025 are on [page 5](#). Thank you for joining.



2026 Expo & Taste Sponsorships & Booths

The upcoming Expo is just around the corner on March 21, 2026, and we want YOU to be a part of this fantastic event! Whether you're looking to showcase your products, services, or innovative ideas, a booth at the Expo is the perfect platform to connect with a broader audience, network with industry professionals, and make lasting impressions.

Why should you sign up for a booth?

- **Visibility:** Gain exposure to a diverse and enthusiastic crowd.
- **Networking:** Meet potential clients, partners, and industry leaders.
- **Growth:** Present your offerings to a larger audience and expand your reach.
- **Innovation:** Highlight your unique solutions and stand out from the competition.

See [page 8](#) for sponsorship and booth information.

2026 Save-the-Dates

Non-Profit Appreciation Banquet —January 27, 2026
Mt. Zion Expo & Taste—March 21, 2026
Awards Banquet—April 23, 2026
Independence Day 50/50 Raffle—July 3, 2026
Golf Outing—August 24, 2026
Teacher Appreciation—September 9, 2026
Mt. Zion Community Prayer Breakfast—October 21, 2026
Veterans Day Breakfast—November 11, 2026
Shop Local Contest Ends—December 7, 2026
Christmas Decoration Contest Ends—December 7, 2026

See pages [10 & 11](#) for Sponsorships at a Glance opportunities.



MT. ZION CHAMBER of Commerce

Sponsorships due January 12, 2026

Non-Profit Appreciation Banquet

Mt. Zion Convention Center
Tuesday, January 27, 2026
Time: 5:30-8:30 p.m.



Keynote Speaker:
Natalie Beck, CEO
Heart of Illinois Community Foundation

This MZCC banquet honors the incredible non-profit organizations that serve our community with compassion, dedication, and vision. There will be a drawing on participating non-profit members to win 10% of the profit from this banquet.

Gold Sponsor \$500

One Table of 8, recognition at the banquet, in/on program, newsletter, Facebook page, our website, and your ad eblasted to the membership

Silver Sponsor \$250

Receive recognition at the event, in the program and newsletter, on website and Facebook page

Bronze Spronsor \$100

Receive recognition at the event and in newsletter

P.O. Box 84, Mt. Zion, IL 62549



Get in Touch

 217-864-2526

mtzionilchamber@gmail.com

 www.mtzionchamber.org





*Expo
Taste*

**Mt. Zion Convention Center
March 21, 2026**

Gold or Silver Sponsorship Packages Due March 6, 2026
Early Bird Sponsorships & Booths Payment Due February 27, 2026

	Gold Sponsorship \$650	Silver Sponsorship \$400	Booth Space \$250/Early \$200 Non Member: \$425/Early \$375
Booth space	Two 8x8 booths Electricity included	8/8 booth Electricity available \$25	8/8 booth Electricity available \$25
Sponsor Promotion	Designated as Gold Sponsor at Event	Designated as Silver Sponsor at Event	
Sponsor publicity	Sponsor name announced at Event	Sponsor name announced at Event	
Sponsor Inclusion	Sponsor name and logo on all Expo communications.	Sponsor name and logo on Expo communications.	
Sponsor inclusion in Pre-Expo event advertisement	Sponsor logo on Expo flyer & newspaper ad. Sponsor logo on all Expo email and social media messages. Email blast your ad & on Chamber Facebook page.	Sponsor name on Expo flyer Email blast your ad	
Early Bird Pricing If registered and paid before Feb. 27, 2026	\$600	\$350	\$200 member \$375 non member

Business Name & Contact Name: _____

Gold: _____ **Silver:** _____ **How Many Booths:** _____ **Electricity:** _____

Email: mtzionilchamber@gmail.com

Mail Payment to: P.O. 84, Mt. Zion, IL 62549

MZCC Bell Ringing for The Salvation Army

December 8, 2025



Sheila Christie, McAtee Financial Centre; Shelly Coslow, Decatur Earthmover Credit Union; Ashley Hawkins, Prairie State Bank & Trust with friend.



Athena Moyer, Heartland Bank and Trust ; Peggy Renfro, Tanglewood Village; Laura Cullison, Evergreen Senior Living.



Kyle Karsten, Macoun Resources Inc.; Trent Horn and Mary McCumber, MTZ Realty Services; Tani-ka Stewart, Synergy HomeCare.

2026 Mt. Zion Chamber Sponsorships at a Glance

	Event & Date	Gold Sponsor	Silver Sponsor	Bronze Sponsor
A	Non-Profit Appreciation January 27, 2026	\$500 Receive recognition at the event, in/on program, newsletter, Facebook page, our website, and your ad eblasted to the membership	\$250 Receive recognition at the event, in the program and newsletter, on website	\$100 Receive recognition at the event and in newsletter
B	Expo & Taste March 21, 2026	\$650 Two 8 x 8 booths electricity included Designated Gold Sponsor sat event, logo in/on: flyer, newspaper ads, MZCC newsletter, emails and social media messages, and your ad eblasted to membership and on Facebook page	\$400 One 8 x 8 booth electricity \$25 extra Designated Silver Sponsor sat event, logo in: flyer, and your ad eblasted to membership	Booth for \$250 to members
C	Awards Banquet April 23, 2026	\$1,000 One table for eight with table sign, logo on ticket, program, emails, newsletter, website, & social media, post your ad on our Facebook page & eblast ad, large logo at event	\$500 Four tickets, logo in program, emails, newsletter, website, social media, logo at event, post your ad on our Facebook page	\$250 Company name in program, logo in program, emails, newsletter, website, social media, logo at event, company name recognized at event
D	Golf Outing* August 24, 2026	\$1,000 One team of 4 golfers, large signage, co. flyer or promo item allowed in cart, 1st five get naming sponsorship for proximities	\$400 Name on signage, email & social media mentions, promo item allowed in cart, co. table/tent allowed w/mini game/drink hole	\$250 Name on signage, email & social media mentions, promo item allowed in cart
E	Mt. Zion Teacher & Staff Appreciation September 9, 2026	\$500 Receive recognition on gift bags, in newsletter, and on Facebook page	\$250 Receive recognition in newsletter and on Facebook page	\$100 Receive recognition in newsletter
F	Prayer Breakfast October 21, 2026	\$2,000* Two tables of 6 Sponsor name announced at event, program greeting, receive recognition at the event, in radio ad, logo in the program, in newsletter, on Facebook page, on our website, and your ad eblasted to the membership and on Facebook	\$1,000 One table of 6 Sponsor name announced at event, on flyers, and in the program, and your ad eblasted to the membership	\$500 4 tickets Sponsor name announced at event, in newsletter and program, and free ad in newsletter
G	Veterans Day Breakfast November 11, 2026 \$200 Breakfast Sponsor \$50 Table Sponsor			
H	Shop Local Contest Ends December 7, 2026	\$300 Logo on promotional materials, in newsletter, and on Facebook page	\$150 Logo on promotional materials and logo in newsletter	\$100 Logo on promotional materials
I	Christmas Decoration Contest** Ends December 7, 2026 \$100 Sponsor			

*More sponsorships available.

**Logo on all promos.

Updated: 11/02/2025



2026 Mt. Zion Chamber Sponsorships at a Glance Order Form

Sponsorship Packages (choose one):

- ☐ **Gold Sponsorship Package (A-E)**
- Price: \$3,650
 - Discount: -\$200
 - Total Package Cost: \$3,450
 - Note: Prayer Breakfast not included.
- ☐ **Silver Sponsorship Package (A-F)**
- Price: \$2,800
 - Discount: -\$150
 - Total Package Cost: \$2,650
- ☐ **Bronze Sponsorship Package (A-F)**
- Price: \$1,450
 - Discount: -\$100
 - Total Package Cost: \$1,350
 - Note: Includes an Expo booth.

Additional Options

- ☐ **Expo Booth \$250**
- ☐ **Christmas Decoration \$100**
- ☐ **Veterans Day Breakfast:**
- ☐ \$200 Veterans Day Breakfast Sponsor
 - ☐ Table Sponsor: \$50/table. Quantity: _____
- ☐ **Shop Local Contest:**
- ☐ \$300
 - ☐ \$150
 - ☐ \$100

TOTAL: _____

Business or Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____ **Phone:** _____

Due by 02/27/2026 to mtzionilchamber@gmail.com or Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 84, Mt. Zion, IL 62549

Updated: 11/02/2025

Open to the Public



Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce
presents



Spotlight on New York City

June 4, 2026 – June 8, 2026



**Book Now
& Save
\$50
Per Person**

Highlights . . .

Rockefeller Center ● Greenwich Village ● Central Park

Times Square ● Statue of Liberty ● Ellis Island ● 9/11

Museum and Memorial ● Two Broadway Shows ● Shopping

Call 217-864-2526 or email mtzionilchamber@gmail.com
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1344893>

Book Now: Double \$3,398 pp

Make deposit by December 4, 2025; call for rates after December 4, 2025.

The Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce is pleased to present their Spotlight on New York City trip by Collette from June 4 -8, 2026. It is a trip to America's most exciting metropolis for a getaway filled with shopping, sightseeing and endless entertainment. Anyone can make reservations; you do not have to be from Mt. Zion and do not have to be a Mt. Zion Chamber member.

The trip includes transportation from Mt. Zion to O'Hare International Airport, round-trip airfare, air taxes, and fees/surcharges, hotel transfers, and 4 nights at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel, New York, New York.

You will have a guided tour of the "Big Apple." Find yourself in Central Park, on Fifth Avenue, in Greenwich Village and Chinatown. See St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rockefeller Center and many other time-honored landmarks. Maybe you are up for a shopping spree at some of the world's most legendary department stores, including Macy's, Bloomingdale's and Saks Fifth Avenue. Later, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. Then, take your seat at a Broadway show!

You will board a ferry for a cruise of New York Harbor. Take in the incredible views of the towering Statue of Liberty. Dock and get up-close to "Lady Liberty." She has welcomed immigrants and visitors to New York Harbor since 1886. Created as a token of friendship between the U.S. and France, the Statue of Liberty has become a global symbol of freedom. Then it's on to Ellis Island. Step back in time on a self-guided tour of the museum. Come to know the personal stories of the immigration boom of 1892-1924 when 12 million people passed through this station on their journey to America.

You will drive through the Wall Street district on your way downtown, reflect at the 9/11 Memorial and take a self-guided tour at the 9/11 Museum - two poignant tributes to the lives lost. This afternoon, the curtains rise for your second Broadway show. You'll choose from a selection of Broadway's biggest hits.

More information and reservations for the Spotlight on New York City trip are made with our local travel agent Linda Roberts with Best Trips Ever. Call Linda Roberts for rates. You can book this trip by calling Linda Roberts at 217-864-4666 or 217-855-1877 or email her at lindarobertsbest@comcast.net. Visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1344893> to get extra information, and optionally you can also make your reservation on this website.



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

Cheers to new growth, new opportunities,
and new achievements. Happy 2026!

