

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Kyle Karsten

Hello everyone,


As we come to the end of the current 2025-2026 Board term on May 31st, this is my last President's Message for you. What an honor it has been to serve as your Chamber President for the last year. It has been my great pleasure getting to serve and getting to know so many of you and your businesses better over the last year. I will continue to serve on the Board in the year ahead and the new officers will be shared with you on June 1st, the start of our new fiscal year and once the Board reassembles and has their planning meeting. We look forward to the year ahead. In addition to our new Executive Board, we also have three new Board members joining including: Shane Bracken – J. J. Swartz Co, Angie Manns – Decatur Earthmover Credit Union, and Karalee Misner - The Solvr Group. We are so excited to welcome them to our Board and can't wait to see all of the amazing things they help the Board accomplish.

As we wrap up this year, I want to thank all of the members, businesses, organizations, and community members who have attended our programs and events over the past year, including our recent Annual Awards Banquet.

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National Small Business Week

May 3-9, 2026

 What could one \$20 bill really do?

More than you think.

When you spend locally, that money doesn't just disappear. It keeps moving. It supports people. It strengthens your community.

Small actions add up in a big way. And this is just the beginning.



UPCOMING

MAY 13th

Luncheon

12:00-1:00

Program

Networking & Connections

Exhibitor

AOD Hearing Center

Location

Mi Casa Mexican Cuisine

Member cost \$15
RSVP by noon Tues., May 12th

MAY 1st

Golf Outing Sponsorships & Teams Signup Starts

MAY 18th

Mix & Mingle

Stix on 36

6-8 p.m.

MAY 20th

Independence Day 50/50 Raffle Begins

JUNE 10th

Luncheon

Antioch Christian Church



2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Kyle Karsten
President
Macon Resources Inc.



Jimmy Rade
Vice President
Mossy Oak Properties



Kayla Marsh
Treasurer
Hickory Point Bank & Trust



Laura Cullison
Secretary
Evergreen Senior Living



Ashley Batchelder
Mt. Zion District Library



Trisha Beck
Beck Realtors, Inc.



Brian Beube
Heartland Bank and Trust



Ashley Hawkins
Prairie State Bank & Trust



Crystal Hernandez
HDZ Roofing Co.



Linda Harper
Executive Director
Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce



Shelly Coslow
Outgoing Officer Advisor
Decatur Earthmover Credit
Union



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It really was a lot of fun helping to plan this year's Awards Banquet. Thank you to those who sponsored, planned, volunteered, donated, and attended to help make it such a great evening. I want to personally thank Linda Harper, our Chamber Executive Director, for all the work she put in to make this event so amazing this year. AND...Congratulations again to all of the nominees in each category and to the scholarship and award recipients:

2026 Business Milestones:

HDZ Roofing – 5 years
El Corral Mexican Restaurant – 20 years
Creative Media Services – 25 years
Network Solutions Unlimited – 25 years
Brinkoetter Realtors – 60 years
Decatur Earthmover Credit Union – 70 years
J.J. Swartz Co. – 105 years
Macon County Farm Bureau – 110 years
Millikin University – 125 years

2026 Scholarship Recipients:

Eleanor Short - \$1,000
Abbey Kupish - \$1,000
Carter Vance - \$1,000

2025 NExT Award Recipients:

Ashley Batchelder – Mt. Zion District Library
Andrew Dilbeck – HSHS St. Mary's Hospital
Brandon Kraus - Lockhart's Barber College
Shyler Kraus – Decatur Family YMCA
Gabby Nash – Bevo's
Lelah Ray – The Salvation Army Decatur
Wade Ripple – Three Link Media
Kate Williston - Dansig Insurance Risk Advisors

2025 Chamber Awards:

2025 Volunteer of the Year Award – Mary McCumber – MTZ Realty Services
2025 New Business of the Year – Macon Resources Inc. (MRI)
2025 Non-Profit of the Year Award – Macon Resources Inc. (MRI)
2025 President's Award of Excellence – Chad Hatayama - ApexNetwork Physical Therapy
2025 Outstanding Business of the Year – Mi Casa Mexican Restaurant

I'm already looking forward to next year's Awards Banquet. I hope over the months ahead that you will notice the businesses and organizations in our Chamber that you could nominate for all these 2026 awards! It is our chamber members that submit these nominations each year.

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May 2026 Luncheon

We hope you'll join us for our May 13th Luncheon — and this month, we're mixing things up. Instead of a traditional speaker program, we're dedicating this luncheon entirely to YOU and the connections you can make. That means more time to visit, share ideas, and grow your business relationships in a relaxed setting.



Wednesday, May 13, 2026



Mi Casa Mexican Cuisine's in the Meeting Room
1045 N. IL Hwy. 121, Mt. Zion, IL 62549



11:30 a.m. – Registration



12:00 – 1:00 p.m. – Networking Luncheon

This month's Exhibitor is AOD Hearing Center, in recognition of May as Better Hearing Month. Be sure visit with them! Bring plenty of business cards and make the most of the open networking time. You're also welcome to place informational fliers on the luncheon tables before the event begins — just remember to collect any remaining fliers before you leave.

RSVP by Tuesday, May 12th:

- Email: mtzionchamber@gmail.com
- Online: <https://www.mtzionchamber.org/meetings>

Please include the names of all attendees from your business or organization so we can prepare the Attendee List. Payment can be made in advance at [Event Registration—Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce \(chamberorganizer.com\)](https://www.mtzionchamber.org/chamberorganizer.com), or you may be invoiced or pay at the door.

Ambassadors

Would you like to be more involved with MZCC and meet more members?

Our Ambassadors help the MZCC in a variety of ways with what fits their schedules donating an average of two hours a month by serving on a committee, volunteering, greeting luncheon attendees, working the luncheon or event registration table, setting up and tearing down luncheons and events, attending and assisting with ribbon cuttings, after hour events, sell tickets, etc.

For more information, visit [Chamber Ambassador Qualifications](#). Sign up to be an Ambassador with the Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce by emailing Linda Harper at mtzionchamber@gmail.com.



Mi Casa Mexican Cuisine 2025 Outstanding Business of the Year



Congratulations to Mi Casa Mexican Cuisine; the 2025 Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Business of the Year.

The Outstanding Business of the Year Award is awarded to the Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce business that has the most positive economic impact and/or support for the community. Synergy HomeCare has demonstrated both sustained and promising longevity within the community, while consistently providing valuable support and service to the Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce. Mi Casa Mexican Cuisine goes above and beyond as a business that serves the community beyond the cuisine they serve at their restaurant. They are amazing supporters of the community who never say no when they are asked to help in any way. Mi Casa Mexican Cuisine does an incredible job putting on events and being a part of events throughout the community.



MT. ZION
CHAMBER
of Commerce

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 – Capelli's Studio & Spa at 1339 IL-121 in Mt. Zion. Capelli's is a full-service salon and spa that specializes in customized hair color, precision cuts, luxury hair extensions, advanced skincare treatments, and head spa services designed to promote both beauty and wellness. Professional education, extension training, and access to high-quality beauty products is available for clients and industry professionals. Feel the Difference. Experience Capelli's. Call 217.233.4233 today.



2026 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

THANK YOU TO ALL SPONSORS, VOLUNTEERS,
ATTENDEES, & AUCTION DONATIONS

Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsors:



Bronze Sponsors:





2026 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

2025 Outstanding New Business & Non-Profit of the Year



Kyle Karsten, Leslie Pearce, and Priscilla Maxwell with MRI.

2025 President's Award of Excellence



Chad Hatayama owner of ApexNetwork Physical Therapy.

2025 Volunteer of the Year



Mary McCumber with MTZ Realty Services.



2026 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Milestone Awards



HDZ Roofing Co.—5



El Corral Mexican Restaurant—20



Creative Media Services—25



Network Solutions Unlimited—25



Brinkoetter Realtors—60



Decatur Earthmover Credit Union—70



J. J. Swartz Co.—105



Macon County Farm Bureau—110



Millikin University—125



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Looking to the future, we have so many wonderful things in store for next year:

- 3rd Annual Mt. Zion Chamber Golf Outing – August 24, 2026
- Annual Mt. Zion Community Prayer Breakfast – October 21, 2026
- Veteran's Day Breakfast – to be determined

...and so much more! We encourage you to attend these events, as well as the monthly luncheons and Chamber Mix & Mingle (after hours gatherings). They are all amazing opportunities to network your business with other Chamber members.

If you're interested in getting involved, please email our Chamber Executive Director, Linda Harper at mtzionchamber@gmail.com about becoming an Ambassador.

Thank you again for such a wonderful year. I hope next year is even better!

Respectfully,
Kyle Karsten, President
Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce

Unique Boutique Salon & Spa Ribbon Cutting April 29, 2026



Pictured left to right: Sheila Christie, Chad Hatayama, Luke Williams, Erica Alford, Kyle Karsten, Shelly Coslow, and Laura Cullison.



Welcome New Member



I-57 Roofing is located in Arcola, IL. They provide services in Central Illinois and St. Louis, MO. I-57's services include: roof repairs or replacements, new construction, storm damage restoration, commercial roofing, gutters, and siding. They have flexible financing options. Visit [Roofing Contractor in Arcola, IL | I-57 Roofing](#). Contact Daniel Birkey at daniel@i57roof.com or call (217) 727-6222.

Announcements



3rd Annual MZCC Golf Outing

Our Annual MZCC Golf Outing will be on Monday, August 24, 2026 at the South Side Country Club. Download the information, sign up for a sponsorship, and/or a foursome using the form on [Golf Outing | Mt Zion Chamber](#).

Member Spotlight



FREE Radio Ads paid by MZCC. A member benefit most do not know about our understand is our Member Spotlight. Read about it and apply for it at [Member Spotlight | Mt Zion Chamber](#). You could be the next business or organization to participate for free in our Member Spotlight program.

Luncheon Exhibitor



Sign up to be our luncheon exhibitor if you have not been the exhibitor for a year. We do not charge you an exhibitor fee. The exhibitor presents information about their business or organization for 10 minutes maximum, provides a prize drawing, and can share promotional material on the luncheon tables. Sign up is on a first-come, first-serve basis for the following months: June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, and November 11. Email Linda at mtzionchamber@gmail.com.

Ribbon Cutting



If you would like to have a Ribbon Cutting to celebrate your new membership in the Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce, a special milestone business anniversary (5, 10, 15...), new location or branch, expansion, new product, etc., email Linda at mtzionchamber@gmail.com with a few dates and times, and she will work with you to get your Ribbon Cutting scheduled. This is another member benefit; we do not charge a fee for it.

Sign up at [Golf Outing | Mt Zion Chamber](#)



South Side Country Club

11am Registration/Lunch

AUGUST 24, 2026

12pm Shotgun Start

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

- Title Sponsor- \$2500
Includes (2) Groups of 4 Golfers
 - Gold Sponsor- \$1000
Includes (1) Group of 4 Golfers
 - Silver Sponsor- \$400
 - Bronze Sponsor- \$250
 - Hole Sponsor- \$150
-
- Hole-In-One Sponsor - \$500
 - Lunch Sponsor - \$1200
Includes (1) Group of 4 Golfers
 - Practice Green Sponsor - \$250
 - Driving Range Sponsor - \$250

See Back for Descriptions

Sponsor Total \$ _____

Come tee off with us at the annual Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing, this event brings our local business community together! This year, we invite you to demonstrate your company's community spirit and commitment to growth by sponsoring this esteemed event or registering a foursome to compete on the greens.

This event is more than a leisurely day on the links; it's a vital investment in the initiatives that propel our business community forward. Engage with fellow business leaders, gain invaluable exposure, and help us drive positive change in our community.

Reserve your spot today and swing into action for a better business community! Visit our website for more information on how you can make the most impact.

GOLFERS

Please register me/us for _____ Golfers @ \$150 each. (\$600/Team) Golf Total \$ _____

Name	Email	Phone
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please make Checks Payable to: **Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 84, Mt. Zion, IL 62549.** If you would rather be invoiced, or would like to donate a gift certificate/basket/item, please provide the following:

Name / Business / Address / Email / Phone

I would like to donate a Gift Certificate, Basket, or Item from our business for prizes.

For more information visit: mtzionchamber.org, email Chad Hatayama at chatayama@apexnetworkpt.com or call/text 217-791-0660

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:



TITLE SPONSORSHIP: \$2,500

- Includes (2) Groups of 4 Golfers
- Large Signage at the Course
- Recognition along with social media mentions
- Email mentions/spotlighting your business
- Company is allowed to provide promotional items for each player

GOLD SPONSORSHIP: \$1,000

- Includes (1) Group of 4 Golfers
- Signage at the event in large print and recognitions on social media and email.
- Company flyer or promo item allowed to be placed in every cart
- First 5 gets naming sponsorship for the proximities "Men's Long Drive brought to you by your company name"

SILVER SPONSORSHIP: \$400

- Name listed on signage at the event
- Mentions on social media and email
- Promo items allowed to be placed in carts
- Company may place table/tent at a tee box (provide mini game/drink hole)

HOLE SPONSORSHIP: \$150

- Small yard sign at a hole

HOLE-IN-ONE SPONSORSHIP: \$500

- Signage at a hole-in-one hole
- Mentions on social media & email

BRONZE SPONSORSHIP: \$250

- Name listed on signage at the event
- Mentions on social media and email
- Promo items allowed to be placed in carts

LUNCH SPONSORSHIP: \$1200

- (1) Group of 4 Golfers
- Signage at the lunch area
- Mentions on social media & email

PRACTICE GREEN (1) & DRIVING RANGE (1) SPONSORSHIP: \$250 EA

- Signage at Practice Green or Driving Range
 - Mentions on social media & email

Please make Checks Payable to: **Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 84, Mt. Zion, IL 62549.**

For more information visit: mtzionchamber.org, email Chad Hatayama at chatayama@apexnetworkpt.com or call/text 217-791-0660



MT. ZION
CHAMBER
of Commerce

National Small Business Week

It's Not Just \$20,
IT'S SUPPORTING A DREAM.

WHEN YOU SHOP LOCAL,
you're not just spending.
You're believing.

You're helping more than
just a business,
you're helping a
Person.
Family.
Neighbor.
Your community.

*Support a dream.
Strengthen your community.*



Make Shopping Local your year long goal.