



Member - FYI

Upcoming PABA Events:

Thursday, June 9, 2011

Breakfast

Host: WPS

Plover Municipal Center

Registration: 7:15 am

Breakfast: 7:30 am

Program: 8:00 am

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Annual Dinner

The Sky Club

2202 Post Road, Plover

Registration: 5:30 pm

Appetizers/Cocktails: 6:00 pm

Dinner: 7:00 pm

Program to follow

Friday, June 24, 2011

Brat Fry

Host: Duraclean Specialists

2801 Post Road, Plover

Time: 11:30 am–1:00pm

Monday, July 25, 2011

Summer Family Picnic

Worzella Pines Park, Plover

Time: 5:00 pm–8:00 pm

Food, beverages, games, fun

WHAT'S NEW AROUND THE GREATER PLOVER AREA BUSINESS COMMUNITY....

May Mixer

The Stevens Point Area Convention & Visitors Bureau hosted a fantastic Mixer. Many tasty treats and beverages were served including cheese from Mullins, gumbo from Christian's Bistro, and snacks from Nü U Foods. It was a wonderful evening of socializing with old friends and an opportunity to met many new business attendees. The CVB is an economic and community development organization whose purpose is to expand the area's economy by hosting conventions, sporting events, group travelers, and leisure tourists. Travel expenditures exceeded \$137 million in Portage County last year.



 **Duraclean**
5th Annual
PABA BRAT FRY

See page 3 for details!



For more information about Soaps It Up! See page 4 of the newsletter.



PABA Board supports UWSP & Skyward at May meeting. See page 2 for details!

Summer Event

PABA will be hosting a family picnic this summer. The event is scheduled for Monday, July 25 from 5 pm–8 pm at Worzella Pines Park, Plover.

There will be lots of great picnic food, and don't forget those refreshing beverages, such as beer. Activities and games will be provided for the children, plus contests with great prizes to win. This is a fantastic networking opportunity. Mark your calendars.

If you are interested in being a sponsor for this event, please contact DeeAnn at (715) 345-5258.



Thank You, Lowe's

Lowe's, 230 Crossroads, Plover, was the host for PABA's May Board meeting. Being able to shop after the meeting made early morning seem much better. Visit Lowe's for all your home improvement needs and landscaping desires.

Arbor Day Celebration

On Tuesday, May 10, the Village of Plover hosted its Arbor Day event at the Little Plover River Park. The PABA Backers and several PABA members participated in this celebration. In honor of the occasion, the Village planted two white pines and one balsam fir tree in the park. Dan Mahoney, the Village Administrator, read a proclamation. Don Kissinger, a DNR representative, presented the Village with a Tree City USA banner, which was given to PABA, and gave a speech about the history of Arbor Day and the Tree City USA program.

Arbor Day was started in 1872 in Nebraska by Julius Sterling Morton with the planting of one million trees. The Tree City USA program began in 1976. Currently 180 municipalities in Wisconsin are Tree Cities. This is the 18th year the Village of Plover has received the Tree City USA recognition. In order to receive this acknowledgement, the municipality must have a tree ordinance, a community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance along with a proclamation.



Board of Director Happenings

At the May Board of Directors meeting, the Board voted to support UWSP and Skyward in two separate issues that impact not only these businesses but our community, as well. A copy of the letter and the resolution are attached for your review on pages 5, 6, and 7. The Board wishes to make you aware of these situations and encourages your support.

The Board supports the Wisconsin Idea Partnership. The purpose of this partnership is to provide leadership flexibilities to all UW institutions to manage more efficiently and remain one unified system of higher education that includes UW Madison.

With the second issue, The State of Wisconsin is working to incorporate a statewide Student Information System (SIS). The Department of Public Instruction is in charge of developing an RFI/RFP. The problem is that these documents are being written to preclude Skyward from being selected to provide SIS services to the State. The Board has decided to support Skyward and request that Skyward receive a fair opportunity in being considered as a provider of these services.

Ribbon Cutting

The Best Western Plover Hotel & Conference Center officially opened in May. A Ribbon Cutting event was held on May 17. The Backers participated in this event welcoming the new owners and staff to the Plover area. The hotel has been completely remodeled and offers beautiful rooms, including suites, with luxury bedding and large, flat screen tvs. The Best Western also has a wonderful banquet/conference room available to accommodate parties up to 225 people. A swimming pool and fitness center are part of the facility, as well.





Duraclean

5th Annual

PABA BRAT FRY

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

11:30 - 1:00

2801 POST ROAD Plover

Delicious Brats, Hot Dogs, Soda and Chips will be sold
with all proceeds going to

PABA'S

"Christmas Presents from the Heart" Campaign

**Stop by for a quick lunch , and business networking,
all while contributing to a great cause!**

Take lunch back to the office!!! Brats and hot dogs may be
pre-ordered and picked up at a pre-arranged time.
Contact Tammy @ Duraclean for your pre-order form and pricing.

(715) 341-4797

COME JOIN IN THE FUN!!



**Pat's CARSTAR AUTO BODY REPAIR EXPERTS JOIN MORE THAN 140
CARSTAR STORES AROUND U.S. AND CANADA TO WASH FOR A
WISH WITH LARGEST NORTH AMERICAN CAR WASH IN HISTORY**

**CARSTAR SOAPS IT UP! NATIONAL CAR WASH SET FOR
JUNE 11, 2011 at
Pat's CARSTAR in Plover, WI**

Close your eyes and wish upon your car! When you open, you will have a clean car and have helped Make-A-Wish kids in Wisconsin.

Wash for a Wish – is the third annual CARSTAR Soaps It Up! Car Wash at Pat's CARSTAR in Plover, WI, part of North America's largest car wash event. In 2009, CARSTAR set the Guinness World Record by washing more than 4,000 vehicles during an eight-hour period at all of the participating locations. For 2011, they we will be attempting to break our own record and set a new milestone.

Who: Pat's CARSTAR along with the Point-Rapids Red Panther Girl's Hockey Team

What: Washing for Wishes... All proceeds benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Red Panther Hockey Team.

Where: Pat's CARSTAR 3021 MacArthur Way Plover, WI 54467
Off of Post Road, directly behind the Central Wisconsin Credit Union.

When: Saturday, June 11th, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tickets are being sold now at Pat's CARSTAR and the day of the event.

For more information please visit www.CARSTAR.com or call Pat's CARSTAR at 715-343-0933.



RESOLUTION: SUPPORTING THE WISCONSIN IDEA PARTNERSHIP

WHEREAS, the Plover Area Business Association (PABA) recognizes the importance of higher education to our state's economy; and

WHEREAS, PABA believes it is desirable and long overdue to deregulate higher education in Wisconsin and that the legislature should provide the necessary management and operational flexibilities required to enable our institutions of higher education to reduce costs by pursuing innovations and cost-savings within a highly competitive marketplace; and

WHEREAS, PABA believes the Wisconsin Idea Partnership as advanced by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System is a solid foundation for action and that the series of changes to state law which it proposes are ready for immediate enactment; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Idea Partnership

- couples desired management and operational flexibilities within the existing governance structure that has so well served and advanced our state's educational and economic interest,
- preserves the strength of a unified state system of higher education while empowering all UW-System institutions by delegating to them managerial authority to adopt creative, innovative and cost-saving measures, and
- alters existing bidding and contract systems to enable local, responsive and campus-based approaches that benefit local businesses; and

WHEREAS, PABA believes a special study of the structure of UW governance represents a workable, practical, careful and thoughtful approach to these issues, removing structural considerations from the budget proposal and allowing the legislature to concentrate attention on providing managerial and operational flexibility to all UW-System institutions; and

WHEREAS, PABA believes that such flexibility is a crucial step in improving the efficiency of the UW-System while at the same time reinvigorating the economy by enabling local businesses to compete for opportunities to serve both local campuses and the entire university system;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Plover Area Business Association supports deregulation of the University of Wisconsin System as advanced in the Wisconsin Idea Partnership, and calls upon the legislature to enact it, while postponing for further consideration any other governance changes until more input can be received from the public, education and business leaders.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Plover Area Business Association, this 26th day of May, 2011.

Vern Nystrom, PABA Vice President



May 26, 2011

The Honorable Scott Walker
Governor, State of Wisconsin
State Capitol, Room 115 East
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker:

The Plover Area Business Association applauds your efforts to include \$15 million in the 2012-2013 budget to incorporate a Statewide Student Information System (SIS). Developing a Statewide SIS will provide longitudinal data to State policymakers, school district, parents, and citizens on the performance of the State's public education system and its students. Such a system will address your goals of grading and reforming failing schools, and recruiting, retaining, and rewarding great teachers. The Statewide SIS will also strengthen our school districts and enhance the education of all students throughout our great State!

To develop the SIS, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has been working to develop an RFI/RFP, which will be submitted to interested companies. An evaluation team would then review and evaluate all submittals and award a bid to the company it feels best meets the RFI/RFP requirements. As such, care must be taken to ensure that the DPI and evaluation Committee gives every company with the expertise and demonstrated ability to perform on a Statewide basis every opportunity to apply and be considered for the Statewide SIS initiative. To this end, the Plover Area Business Association is concerned that one of our local businesses, Skyward, may not have a fair opportunity to be considered as part of the RFI/RFP process. While the DPI has stated that Skyward will be given every opportunity to respond to the RFI/RFP, the overwhelming concern of Skyward and the Plover Area Business Association is that the RFI/RFP is being developed with specific criteria that, while not preventing Skyward from submitting an RFI/RFP, would preclude them from being selected to provide SIS services to the State.

Skyward should be given every opportunity to be considered for provision of a Statewide SIS for the following reasons:

Skyward is the leader of school administration software in Wisconsin. Over 80% (353) of the school Districts in Wisconsin use either Skyward's Student software or their Finance software.

Skyward is expanding their presence throughout the United States and the world. For example, Skyward currently provides Student, Finance, and Human Resources Administrative software to 1,466 school districts throughout the United States, as well as to 10 international customers.

Skyward has been hired by Washington State to provide a statewide financial management, student management, payroll and human resources program. This program is more complex than that being considered by Wisconsin, and Skyward has been working with them for 10 years now.

7100 Post Road, P. O. Box 213 • Plover, Wisconsin 54467

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The State of Texas, where Skyward currently has two Branch Offices, has urged Skyward to move their Corporate office to Texas. To this point, Skyward has informed Texas that they do not intend to move their offices to Texas.

Skyward currently employs 339 full time employees, of which 261 are Wisconsin employees (257 are full time) and have more than 30 years of business experience in Wisconsin (1980 - 2011).

Skyward has a business retention rate of over 98%, which demonstrates a tremendous ability to provide professional software and software services!

Skyward anticipates hiring 40 new employees in 2011 (17 have already been hired) and plans on reaching 1,000 employees by 2021. The 2011 average wage and benefits for these employees (non-management) is \$89,000. Many of these employees are University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Mid-State Technical College graduates. The economic benefit of Skyward to Portage County is extremely important, especially given Skyward's desire and drive to create new jobs, which we also understand is one of your priorities.

Skyward has stated its only desire is that the State of Wisconsin gives it a legitimate opportunity to be considered for providing a Statewide SIS. The Plover Area Business Association strongly agrees that Skyward should be given a legitimate opportunity to vie for a Statewide SIS! On behalf of the Plover Area Business Association's Board of Directors and its membership, I ask that you ensure that Skyward is given such an opportunity, based on its experience as an industry leader, its demonstrated ability to provide statewide information systems (including systems more complex than currently being considered by the State of Wisconsin), and its aggressive growth plans that will benefit Portage County and the State of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Vern Nystrom
Vice President

cc:

Sen. Alberta Darling
Room 317 East
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Sen. Julie Lassa
Room 7 South
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Rep. Scott Krug
Room 316 North
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
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Rep. Robin Vos
Room 309 East
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Rep. Louis Molepske, Jr.
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Rep. Amy Sue Vruwink
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DOA Secretary Mike
Huebsch
P.O. Box 7864
Madison, WI 53707

Rep. Jerry Petrowski
Room 11 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

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