

MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER



If you're like me, you may be wrinkling your nose at the thought of people making millions of dollars on one movie giving *you* business advice. But there's a new generation of Hollywood stars that aren't content with just time on screen. They're building empires, too. And while name recognition is easier for them and start-up capital only requires dipping into their millions, they still have the same struggles to find a valuable product or service to bring to market. They didn't go to Harvard but they're learning every day just like you are and here's what they have to say:

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President's Message

Jay Woodrum

Hello everyone. Well, this is my last president's message for you. The chamber's fiscal year starts over June 1st, and you will have a new President of the board. I am honored to have served you this past year. It has been a great pleasure providing for our business community and getting to know all of you even better than before.

This past year has been successful with 171 total members, 13 of which are new members to our chamber. We are continuing to bring you great events like The Prayer Breakfast, EXPO & Taste, Annual Awards Banquet, monthly Luncheons, and more. We have been working to reinvent some of these events to make them more beneficial and enjoyable for you and your business.

Speaking of the Annual Awards Banquet, what a great event that was! Thank you to everyone who attended and all our sponsors of the evening. Congratulations to all our winners and nominees who were recognized throughout the event, you each have accomplished amazing work this past year. This year we were able to award three \$1,000 scholarships to area high school students to assist with their collegiate dreams. We also had 10 recipients of the first ever NExT Award. NExT stands for New Exceptional Trailblazers, and this award was designed to recognize the young professionals who are

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 10th LUNCHEON

12:00-1:00 Luncheon
Mt. Zion Fletcher Park
Recreation Center

PROGRAM

Matt Spain
"New Illinois Laws Affecting
Businesses"

Member cost \$15
RSVP by Tuesday, May 9th

MAY 9th BUSINESS AFTER HOURS & TRADE SHOW

Mt. Zion IL CEO & MZCC
5-8 p.m. at the
Mt. Zion Convention Center

MAY 10th LUNCHEON

"Employee Coaching/
Training"
Tess Fyalka

MAY 18th RIBBON CUTTING

New York Restaurant
11:30 a.m.



May Luncheon



The May 10, 2023 luncheon will be at the Mt. Zion Fletcher Park Recreation Center. Matt Spain, is a partner with the law firm of Bolen, Robinson & Ellis, LLP, will present "New Illinois Laws Affecting Businesses".

As an employer in the state of Illinois, you are responsible for knowing and adhering to all new employment laws. Every year, many new laws get passed and this year is no different. In fact, Illinois had over 180 new laws that went into effect starting January 1, 2023. While employers do not need to know every law on that list, they do need to take note of a few that affect their employees' rights. Employers will need to modify existing policies to accommodate these new laws, like:

One Day Rest In Seven (ODRIS) Act
Bereavement Leave
Illinois Human Rights Act Amendment

The cost of our luncheon on May 10th is \$15. The luncheon starts at 12 noon; registration is from 11:30 - 12 noon.

Please send your RSVP to mtzionchamber@gmail.com by Tuesday, May 9th to submit your reservation at <https://www.mtzionchamber.org/events/meetings/>. If you are paying in advance on the website, be sure to send me your RSVP information with all the names of those attending from your business or organization. Optionally, you can still be invoiced or pay at the door.

2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President - Jay Woodrum
Peerless Cleaners & Restoration



Vice President - Allie Braden
Traditions Health



Treasurer - Danielle Diskay
Decatur Family YMCA



Secretary - Ashley Batchelder Mt.
Zion District Library



Zach Anderson - Bolen, Robinson
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Tom Courson - Field Level
Agriculture, Inc.



Shelly Costlow - Decatur
Earthmover Credit Union



Laura Jones - Outgoing Officer
Advisor, Vieweg Real Estate



Linda Harper - Administrator Mt.
Zion Chamber of Commerce



Jodi Lockwood - Vieweg Real
Estate



Dan McWeely - Dimond Bros.
Insurance, LLC



Kim Rhodes - Physicians Choice
Wellness



Decatur Earthmover Credit Union 2022 Outstanding Business of the Year



Congratulations to the Decatur Earthmover Credit Union; the 2022 Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Business of the Year.

They have proven themselves to be outstanding through their years of commitment to their customers and community for over 65 years. Their business began in 1956 as part of Caterpillar. To provide Caterpillar employees with financial services that were not available at the time, in 1980 they left Caterpillar to become their own entity, expanding their offerings to everyone in the community. Today, they have 5 locations serving over twenty thousand members in Central Illinois. They are committed to investing in the community through financial education, supporting community events, and regular giving to our area's nonprofit organizations. They have also been a long-standing member of our chamber and are always willing to lend a hand when needed.



Awards cont'd

2022 Volunteer of the Year Award goes to Kayla Marsh with Hickory Point Bank & Trust.



2022 President's Award of Excellence was given to Steve and Cindy Lewis with Lewis Property Development and Rentals.



2022 Non-Profit of the Year Award went to the Mt. Zion District Library.



2022 New-Business of the Year Award went to The Party Shop.



2022 NExT Awards (New Exceptional Trailblazers) went to:

Stephanie Strick, Mt. Zion District Library
Raven Schultz, Decatur Earthmover Credit Union
Lance Mueller, George A Mueller Beer Co.
Judah Renfro, Decatur Earthmover Credit Union
Evan Hall, Mike Hall Auction Co.
Emily Phillips, Neuhoff Media
Elizabeth Sullard, Synergy HomeCare
Courtney Anderson, BRE Law
Ashley Nail, Decatur Earthmover Credit Union
Abigail Svoboda, Busey Bank

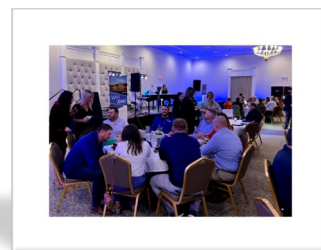
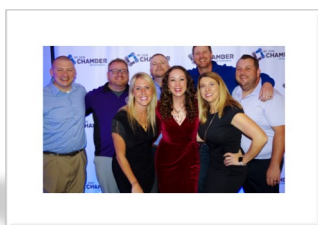
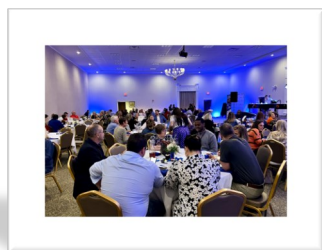
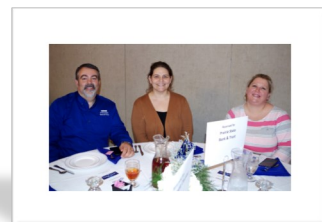
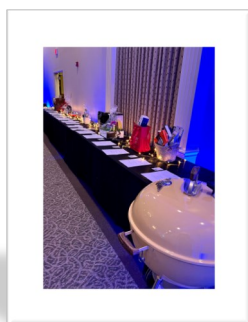
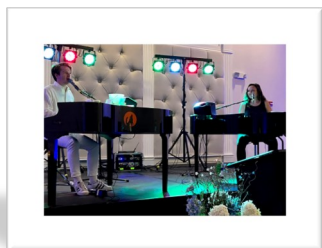


Awards cont'd



2023 College Scholarships went to Senaa Debela (St. Teresa High School), Katie Schnippel and Ella Sommer (Mt. Zion High School).

Banquet Pictures





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—New York Restaurant. This is a Decatur gem! Enjoy their awesome menu selections for dinner Tuesday-Saturday 4:30-9. Open to everyone. Karaoke on Friday nights. Kids eat for only \$3.99 with an adult entree on Tuesday and Wednesday Family Nights. Facility available to rent. The New York Restaurant is located next to the Chevrolet Museum at 3645 E. Rt. 36 in Decatur or call 217-330-7420.



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stepping up to the plate throughout our businesses.

Other awards that were presented throughout the evening were: Volunteer of the Year Award - Kayla Marsh with Hickory Point Bank; Non-Profit of the Year Award - Mt. Zion District Library; New Business of the Year Award - The Party Shop; and the President's Award of Excellence - Steve and Cindy Lewis with Lewis Property Development and Rentals. This year's Outstanding Business of the Year award went to one of our members who is always pushing themselves and the community forward. I had the honor to present this year's Outstanding Business of the Year Award to Decatur Earthmover Credit Union.

As I mentioned earlier, we are at the end of our fiscal year and that means there are some upcoming changes to our board of directors. We are adding some new faces to board for the upcoming year that include: Doug Palmer with Synergy HomeCare, Chat Hatayama with ApexNetwork Physical Therapy, and Kayla Marsh with Hickory Point Bank. Along with these new board members we have our new officers of the board, they are: Ashley Batchelder, Secretary; Kayla Marsh, Treasurer; Kim Rhodes, Vice-President; and Shelly Coslow, as your new President of the Board.

On behalf of myself and this year's board of directors, thank you our members for your continued support, and we look forward to continuing our hard work to provide you the best chamber experience we can. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jay Woodrum

Welcome Our New Members



The New York Restaurant located at 3645 E. US 36, Decatur, is owned by Silvia Alvarez. They are open for dinner from 4:30-9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. They have a Karaoke on Friday nights and a DJ or band on Saturday nights. The New York Restaurant can be rented for fundraisers, meetings, or banquets. Call in orders or Doordash is available. Call 217-330-7420 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/NewYorkRestaurantDecaturll>.



Our new members with The Solvr Group are Karalee Misner and Chris Phillips. They have created numerous solutions in marketing, human resources, operations, project management, and strategic development. Every company has something it would like to do better. Something that it would like to improve. Visit <https://www.solvrgroup.com> for more information. Call them at 217-791-2822.



Three Link Media is a marketing agency owned by Jay Woodrum. It is dedicated to helping your business gain the attention of your ideal customers through creative content and strategy. From graphic design and branding to website design and video production, let him help you take your brand to the next level! Visit his website at threelinkmedia.com or contact Jay at (217)413-1377.



**Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce
Business After Hours &
Mt. Zion IL CEO Trade Show**
Tuesday, May 9, 2023 from 5-8 p.m.

- Visit the Mt. Zion IL CEO booths
- Mix, mingle, and enjoy refreshments
- Network & share your business cards

MT. ZION IL **CEO**[®]
TRADE SHOW

May 9th 5-8pm
Mt. Zion Convention Center

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Auction Sponsor: Mike Hall Auction Co.
Awards Sponsor: Maverik Marketing
Decorations Sponsor: The Party Shop



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Change Isn't Bad, It's Necessary for Continued Success – Jessica Alba

Jessica Alba, actress and Founder/Creative Director of the Honest Company, wanted to create a business based around healthier, ethically-sourced products for babies and homes. One of the things she talks about is the need for reevaluating success periodically. (Former Blockbuster execs would certainly agree.) Even a successful business requires review. She said, "No matter how much success a business has, the model constantly needs to be evaluated to protect that success. Even the most successful businesses are fragile and vulnerable. It's not enough to rely on having a great product that people love. The supply chain and operations need to be in place to support the business growth."

"Build Bonfires" – Matthew McConaughey

Matthew McConaughey's Instagram profile describes him as "Husband. Father. Actor. Minister of Culture. Professor. Creative Director. AustinFC. JKLivin. ...Pickle Expert." On a recent podcast, he told a story about how he was involved in many different business undertakings. He had about eight projects going at once—a movie production company, a music production company, his acting, and a few more side projects. Each was generating a nice little income. He referred to them as "campfires." Following his gut, he decided to step back from all of them, but three. He concentrated his energy on the three he was most passionately invested in. Those three went from campfires to "bonfires."

What we can learn from this: pick 1-3 things to focus your efforts on. Go into each quarter with goals for as many as three things, but no more. If you try to do more, you'll spread yourself thin. You won't have the time to dedicate to them, so they'll stay small. When you give a few ideas your undivided attention, they'll catch fire and take off. Plus, you'll have a more solid brand. People will understand what you do because you're an expert at those few things.

What we can learn from this: success is temporary, like Andy Warhol's quote about "fifteen minutes of fame." Your business audience will always be asking what you've done for them lately. To exist as the same entity for years means you will get typecast just like an actor does. That's fine and can be lucrative until your audience decides they want something else and since you haven't embraced change, you won't be it.

Trust Your Instincts - Robert De Niro

Robert De Niro is one of Hollywood's iconic names but he's also the co-founder behind the lifestyle brand Nobu Hospitality, owner of hotels in Spain and London, as well as Nobu Residences luxury condominiums. De Niro believes in surrounding yourself with smart advisors but that's not all. He says, "Listen to as many people as you can and get their input, but then finally you have to make your own decision about what you're going to do."

What we can learn from this: making up your mind is critical to success, after all, it's your business. But the first half of what he says is important too. "Listen." Soak up what you can from others. Be a lifelong learner. Build your references from other people's experiences and then take that information and use it to derive your answers for your business.

[Christina Metcalf](#) is a writer/ghostwriter who believes in the power of story.

**Karaoke
Fridays**



**DJ
Saturdays**

Dinner ONLY
Tuesday-Saturday 4:30-9

*Tuesday and Wednesday
Family nights
Kids eat for only \$3.99
And they get a FREE SLUSHY !!
With an adult Entree

*Friday
KARAOKE NIGHTS
Starting at 9:00 p.m.

*Saturday
DJ Night
Latino Night
Hip Hop, R&B, Old School
Country Nights
Disco Night



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Join Us for
"ACAPALOOZA 2023!"

Celebrating 26 years of a cappella harmony at MTZHS

Date: Friday, May 12, 2023

Location: Mt. Zion High School

305 S. Henderson St. Mt. Zion, IL 62549

Time: Show starts at 7pm, Doors open at 6:30pm

Ticket price - \$15 adults, \$5 students (All seats general admission, No reserve seating)

Tickets go on sale March 31 - Scan QR code below or available at the door.

Featuring: Mt. Zion Student Acappella Quartets and Ensembles, including:



And Special Guests:



Scan code below to order tickets:



or the website at

<https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/72299>



For more information,
contact Rich Hansen at
hansenr@mtzschoos.org

This program is sponsored by the
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Jim Cleveland
217-433-1144
Team Leader



Taylor Corrie
Licensed Partner
217-519-0393



Andrea Cramer
Licensed Partner
217-520-1306



Cassandra Anderson
Licensed Partner
217-254-9942



Amber Burdine
Licensed Partner
217-791-3322



JimCleveland@Remax.net



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ACTIVE LISTINGS

Address	Details	Price	MLS #
270 E Mueller Ct	LAND/LOT Gated subdivision/.65 acres	Upper \$20's	6223435
1035 E Whitmer St	2 bdr/1 bth/brick bungalow/fireplace/full basement/shed	Upper \$40's	6226839
615 W Harper Ave	REDUCED PRICE! 2 bdr/1 bth/RANCH/1 car detached garage/near park	Upper \$50's	6226336
2930 Wasson Way	3 bdr/1.5 bth/fireplace/near Lake Decatur/fenced yard	Lower \$80's	6226401
700 & 726 E Cerro Gordo	COMMERCIAL LISTING -2 bdr/7 bth/22920 sq ft/3 floors/freight elevator	Upper \$190's	6225030
245 E Prairie St (Argenta)	NEW LISTING! 3 bdr/2 bth/over 2000 sq ft/.26 acres/gorgeous A-frame	Upper \$190's	6226630

Active/Under Contract Listings

2960 Wasson Way	UNDER CONTRACT IN 43 DAYS!!	Middle \$80's	6226419
462 W William St	UNDER CONTRACT IN 99 DAYS!!	Lower \$120's	6225720
820 S McKinney Ln	3 bdr/3 bth/indoor - inground pool/hot tub/.95 acres	\$169k	6223224
6362 Autumn Ridge Ct	UNDER CONTRACT IN 30 DAYS!!	Upper \$370's	6226181

Pending Listings

1840 Buckhead Lane (LOT)	LOT	\$39K	6222659
1564 W Hunt St	UNDER CONTRACT IN 3 DAYS!!	\$59K	6226842
157 W Andrews (Macon,IL)	UNDER CONTRACT IN 58 DAYS!!	Upper \$60's	6225891
131 Isabella Dr	3 bdr/1 bth RANCH South Shores/1.5 car garage/new HVAC	Upper \$80's	6225242
77 Colorado Dr	UNDER CONTRACT IN 0 DAYS!!	\$89K	6226875
731 W Main St	UNDER CONTRACT IN 6 DAYS!!	Upper \$90's	6226589
2472 S Baronette Ct	UNDER CONTRACT IN 0 DAYS!!	\$159K	6226745
701 W Prairie Ave	UNDER CONTRACT IN 6 DAYS!!	Upper \$150's	6226577
4616 Lawson Dr	UNDER CONTRACT IN 1 DAY!!	\$198K	6226607
10906 Hibbard Rd (Macon,IL)	UNDER CONTRACT IN 96 DAYS!!	Upper \$290's	6225301



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