



**HAM LAKE AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

“We Mean Business”

2010 Executive Board

President

Dan Butler
Butler & Associates Insurance

Vice President

Ellen Christopherson
Sjoberg & Associates

Secretary/Treasurer

Nancy Braastad
1st Regents Bank

Board of Directors

Amy Gibson
High Tec Truck and Auto Repair

Karen Moehring
Village Bank

Tim Holtz
Holtz Landscape & Irrigation

Don Wilson
Don Hansen VFW Post

May 3, 2010

Dear Ham Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Member,

Your membership is strongly valued in our community and we want to update you regarding the serious incident that occurred within the gambling operation of the Ham Lake Area Chamber. In March of 2008 the Chamber of Commerce was notified by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division that the Chamber was a victim of an internal theft that began in 2006 of \$61,169. The theft involved gambling funds only, no membership dollars were affected.

The theft had taken place by the gambling manager at the time, Naomi Buie. She was formally charged with a felony level offense and pled guilty. Sentencing was April 28, 2010 and Ms. Buie was ordered to spend 45 days in jail and pay restitution. The repayment schedule will be set by the Corrections Division of Anoka County. For the Chamber, the Compliance Review Board did impose a \$2,000 fine, a 30 day gambling suspension, and ordered the organization to replace the stolen funds from non-gambling sources. The fine and suspension has been completed and the deadline for replacing the stolen \$61,169 is May 11, 2011. The Chamber is currently in the process of raising these funds. Your support in achieving the fund-raising goal is appreciated. Once the Chamber has reached that goal, those funds will be donated back into the community.

As a result of this incident, several monitoring and auditing changes have been fully implemented. Thank you to all of our members for their support. Kim Hanson, current Gambling Manager, has worked professionally and tirelessly to serve after this difficult situation. Members are always welcome to attend our Board of Directors meetings, see the website www.hamlakeecc.org for information on the time and place. We are moving forward into the future with our vision of a unified and consistent voice for businesses, resources for information, and enhancing opportunities for economic growth. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel J. Butler, President