

March 2026

Winona ORC Connection



Winona ORC
Industries

Established 1973

1053 East Mark St.

507.452.1855

www.winonaorc.org

Facebook WinonaorcIndustries

“Inclusion is not bringing people into what already exists: it is making a new space, a better space for everyone.”
~George Dei

Educate ★ Empower ★ Employ

Please join us in celebrating and supporting
Winona ORC in 2026!

2026 Winona ORC Banquet celebrating
2025 accomplishments



**Brittany F. celebrating with Lynn M. at last year's banquet for
Lynn's 50 year milestone with Winona ORC**

Join us to celebrate our employees milestones on

Friday, April 17, 2026

Visions Event Center

22852 Co Hwy 17 Winona, MN

Starting at 5pm

Each year we celebrate the milestones of our amazing employees. Please consider joining us to celebrate 2025 accomplishments. **An invitation is included in this newsletter for more details and how to make your reservation.** This year is a formal theme (whatever that means to you). This attire is not required, and we don't want the theme to keep you from coming. We hope to see you there!

Sneak peek of some employees getting honored at our banquet!



Joan Moor

For 45 years, Joan Moor has embodied the mission of Winona ORC by demonstrating how meaningful employment builds confidence, independence, and lasting community connection. A dedicated employee for 35 years at the same Kwik Trip location, Joan approaches every shift with enthusiasm, reliability, and a remarkable work ethic. Working four mornings each week, she takes pride in putting groceries away, cleaning windows, organizing condiments, and warmly greeting customers, many of whom she now knows by name. Joan's contagious positivity, genuine smile, and love for her job make her a valued colleague and a shining example of inclusive employment success. From her early years working in a variety of community roles to finding her long-term home at Kwik Trip, Joan has shown consistency, dedication, and joy in her work, and she plans to keep going strong. Some of her colleagues shared, ***"Joan is an asset to our store. She loves being a part of our store and it shows. She literally has a fan club in our neighborhood. We appreciate her so much."*** ***"Joan greets all coworkers and guests. She's an amazing part of our store and a rock star in our neighborhood community."*** Her journey reflects the power of strong partnerships and supportive opportunities, and we celebrate Joan not only for her extraordinary milestone, but for the kindness, commitment, and inspiration she brings to everyone she meets.



Sneak peek of some employees getting honored at our banquet!

Troy Fegre

Troy Fegre's 35 years of service reflect the heart of meaningful employment and lifelong growth championed by Winona ORC. Troy first connected with Winona ORC as a teenager through a career exploration class, launching a work journey that began at Watkins and Shopko and ultimately led him to a position where he truly thrives. For the past 26 years, Troy has been a valued member of campus dining services at Winona State University, working with Chartwells Higher Education Dining Services. Troy proudly works 40 hours each week and often shares, ***"I would not want to work any other place even if they offered me a huge raise, I love working for Chartwells on the Winona State campus."*** His daily responsibilities range from cleaning and preparing fruit to handling physically demanding tasks such as reloading milk machines with 50-pound bags. Even when faced with less desirable duties, Troy's willingness to step up demonstrates his strong work ethic and dependable spirit. Known as a true people person, Troy values the relationships he has built with students and colleagues, finding joy in greeting familiar faces while also embracing campus life through football and basketball games. His impact on the dining community is evident, as many people naturally stop to connect with him throughout the day, proof of the positivity and belonging he creates wherever he goes.

Beyond his employment success, Troy's entrepreneurial spirit shines through his DJ business, which grew from a simple passion for music into a meaningful community connection. As Suzanne Horstman Executive Director, HCO shared, ***"Music gave Troy his voice, and he used it to bring people together,"*** capturing the confidence and joy that have defined his journey. From early basement gatherings to community events and weddings, Troy's perseverance and creativity highlight his courage to pursue new opportunities while building friendships and a sense of belonging. Today, we celebrate Troy not only for his remarkable milestone but also for the enthusiasm, resilience, and positivity he brings to both the campus dining community and the broader community. His story is a powerful example of how supportive partnerships, meaningful work, and personal passions can create a life filled with purpose and connection.





You are invited to the
Winona ORC Banquet Award Night
Celebrating 2025 Achievements!

Location & Date

**Signatures Visions
 Event Center
 Friday, April 17, 2026**

Event Schedule

- Doors Open- 4:45 p.m.
- Welcome- 5:15 p.m.
- Dinner- 5:30 p.m. Presentation to follow
- Dance with DJ Troy Fegre- after presentation until 8:00 pm

Dinner Menu Choices

- Roasted Pork Loin – slow roasted pork loin with whole grain mustard beurre blanc, roasted garlic potato purée, and green beans
- Fettuccini Alfredo – Fettuccini with Alfredo sauce, parmesan, and steamed broccoli (vegetarian- no chicken)

Cost and RSVP Info.

**Clients & Staff: FREE
 Guests: \$30.00 per person**

Payment Options:

Cash, Check, or Credit Card

*****please note there are additional fees paying by credit card.*****

RSVP Info.

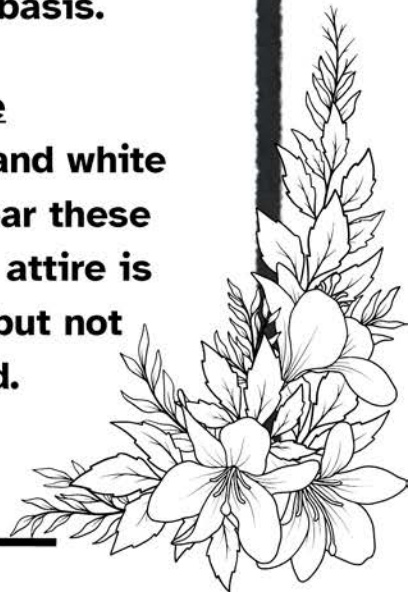
**Call: 507.452.1855
 RSVP by April 2, 2026**

Transportation Option

If a client needs transportation to and from the banquet, please let Missy know when you RSVP. This will be available on a first come first served basis.

Theme

**Formal- black and white
 No need to wear these colors- formal attire is encouraged but not required.**



Ron Wenzel 53 years Winona ORC Board Member



**Ron Wenzel celebrating 50 years
serving as WORC board member**

**Thankful for the passion and humor
that Ron shared with our mission.**

We remember and honor Ron Wenzel (April 19, 1944- February 12, 2026) with deep gratitude for the remarkable legacy he leaves behind. A lifelong member of the Winona community, Ron was an entrepreneur and visionary who helped found Riverside Electronics, earning respect as a mentor, problem-solver, and leader who believed every person played an essential role in success. His professional accomplishments were matched by his generous spirit and playful sense of humor, which brought laughter and warmth to those around him.

As a founding board member of Winona ORC, Ron faithfully served for an extraordinary 53 years, demonstrating unwavering dedication to expanding opportunities for individuals with disabilities. This longevity reflects not only commitment but a deep belief in the mission and the people we serve. His surviving son shared that Ron felt a strong responsibility to continue supporting our organization, a testament to his steadfast devotion to community impact.

Ron will be remembered by those at Winona ORC as an advocate, supporter, and leader whose guidance helped shape decades of growth and meaningful employment opportunities. His playful humor, business insight, and enduring service created a legacy that will continue to influence lives for years to come. We extend heartfelt sympathy to Ron's family while celebrating a life defined by service, and a genuine desire to make his community stronger. In honor of Ron's lifelong dedication, memorial gifts may be directed to Winona ORC to continue the work he so deeply valued.



Tim Simmons 18 years with Winona ORC

4-5-70- 1-20-26

We honor the life and legacy of Tim Simmons, whose strength, faith, and enduring positivity left a lasting impact on everyone who knew him. Tim began his professional career as a talented composite materials engineer, a reflection of his remarkable intellect and curiosity.

The return of a brain tumor altered his career path, Tim demonstrated extraordinary resilience by embracing new opportunities for meaningful work. For nearly 20 years, he was a valued employee at Winona ORC, where he contributed through piece work at Watlow and later supported operations

by creating Watkins displays, shredding materials, and crafting buttons for WinCraft. His supervisor Tom shared, ***“Tim was a man of amazing intellect, humor, and positivity. I never met anyone that would have a bad thing to say about Tim,”*** remembering especially the easy humor and shared jokes that brightened the workplace.

Tim’s colleagues recall his dedication, kindness, and the uplifting spirit he brought each day. Despite significant health challenges, his sense of humor and hopeful outlook never wavered, serving as a quiet but powerful example of perseverance and grace. At the center of Tim’s life was his deep faith in Jesus Christ, anchored in his cherished life verse from the Bible, Romans 8:28, which reflects trust in God’s purpose through all circumstances. He was also profoundly devoted to his family, sharing 30 years of marriage with his beloved wife and embracing with pride his role as a father to two sons. Tim will be remembered not only for his work and contributions, but for the warmth, faith, humor, and steadfast love that defined his life and touched the hearts of so many.

Tim worked in our production area



Tim helping with golf tournament drawing



Last year’s banquet with family and friends

Starlight Stroll 2025

180+ participants

Families* Runners* Walkers*

All Abilities

A growing community tradition
supporting Winona ORC

Winner- Jordan & Jeffery Bergeman



Youth Winner
Samuel Bergeman



"Jeffrey's love of endurance events
has inspired me" - Jordan B.



The Starlight Stroll continues to grow as a signature community event that combines fitness, fun, and inclusion. Held after dusk each November, the glow-themed race welcomes runners, walkers, families, and supporters of all abilities for an evening that celebrates connection while supporting meaningful local impact. Last year's event drew 185 participants and featured strong regional representation, with families and athletes traveling from surrounding communities to take part. Top finishers included standout youth, collegiate, and adult runners, reflecting the event's broad appeal and welcoming atmosphere.

Beyond competition, the Starlight Stroll stands out for its festive nighttime experience. Participants embrace glow gear, creative outfits, and cheering spectators, transforming the course into a celebration that encourages participation at every pace and ability level.

Community partnerships also played an important role in expanding engagement and helping introduce new participants to the event. Many thanks to Fastenal for providing a coupon code for their employees. Collaborations highlight the Starlight Stroll's potential to serve as both a wellness opportunity and a unifying community tradition.

As momentum continues to build, organizers are focused on growing regional awareness and participation, ensuring the Starlight Stroll remains a memorable experience that brings people together while advancing inclusive opportunities throughout the community.

Looking Ahead:

Starlight Stroll 2026

Mark your calendar for Friday, November 6, 2026, when the Starlight Stroll returns for another memorable evening supporting Winona ORC. We are excited to grow participation by welcoming corporate teams, school groups, regional running clubs, and families seeking a unique fall tradition.

Businesses are encouraged to consider offering employee registration incentives, forming team challenges, or sponsoring group participation as a fun and healthy workplace perk that also strengthens community impact. Get Involved

Interested in bringing a group, exploring business partnerships, or learning more about sponsorship opportunities? **Contact sschneider@winonaorc.org to get started and help make this year's Starlight Stroll even brighter.**



Proud Sponsor
FASTENAL

Top Female Winner
Brooke Hemann



Businesses & organizations can make a meaningful impact while promoting employee wellness by joining the Starlight Stroll.

Form a team, offer a registration perk, or create a glow-themed employee challenge and turn a fun evening into a shared experience that supports the mission of Winona ORC.

Contact

**sschneider@winonaorc.org
to explore partnership opportunities.**

Golf for a Cause
 July 23, 2026
 The Bridges Golf Course



The annual golf tournament benefiting Winona ORC returns on July 23, 2026 for a day that brings together community, connection, and purpose. Held at The Bridges, this event supports our mission of helping individuals with disabilities achieve their full potential through meaningful work while offering participants a relaxed and enjoyable summer experience.

- Register a foursome and enjoy a fun, relaxed day on the course
- Enjoy creative pin events including the marshmallow drive and interactive challenges
- Dinner and prizes following tournament play

Sponsorship opportunities available

- Platinum, Diamond, and Gold tournament levels
- Hole sponsorship options
- Three premier partnerships levels: Make the Difference, Be the Change, and Champion the Cause

Great opportunity for employee appreciation, client engagement, and community visibility!

All skill levels welcome

Reserve your spot or become a sponsor

Contact Shella Schneider

507.452.1855

sschneider@winonaorc.org



Contributions January - June 2025
Thank you for the support of our
mission!

Gerald Cichanowski
Greg & Rebecca Lossen
Butch & Lynne Beier
Suzanee Hoodcheck
Ellyn English
Brad Turner
Don & Sandra Curtin
James Frankard
Foundation
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Ashley Czaplewski
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Frank & Ruth Bures
David & Jean Skime
Frank E. Wohletz
Judy Herdina
Chelsea Sylvester

Mission

Provide services for people with disabilities in our community, including vocational counseling, comprehensive job-related skill training and meaningful employment.

Vision

Every person with disabilities – physical, mental, or learning – is living their full potential through meaningful work, community interactions, family and friendships.

Contact and Hours

Open Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
(Except holidays)

Receiving Hours 7:00 am – 2:30 pm

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Donate here

