



2022 Call for Candidates for the FACCMN Board of Directors

French-American Chamber of Commerce, Minnesota Chapter

The 2022 Annual meeting of members of the FACCMN will take place in person on **June 2** (announcement coming in May), when we will hold our election for positions on our Board of Directors. The Board is the governing group of the FACCMN and is the pool of candidates for officer positions, but no director is expected to become an officer. To give the membership time to know something about the candidates before choosing Directors, we are inviting all interested people to contact us **now**. The current Board will provide its recommendations on candidates in early May.

The French-American Chamber of Commerce, Minnesota Chapter (FACCMN), is a non-profit, non-governmental and member-driven organization created in 1978. Our organization is dedicated to fostering transatlantic business relationships between France and the United States. For over 40 years now, the Chapter has been dedicated to fulfilling our mission of promoting bilateral trade, investment, and commercial relations between France and Minnesota. We achieve this result through the energy and activity of our members, Directors, Executive Director, and periodic interns. For more about the FACCMN, see below or follow [this link](#).

The French-American Chamber of Commerce network counts 25 chapters in North America. We are proud members of CCI France International (CCIFI) with 125 chambers in 95 countries. Our worldwide network counts over 38,400 member companies, 1,200 bilingual staff and 102 business centers.

Why join the FACCMN? The FACCMN serves as a forum and a representative body for US and French companies, professionals and associations with international interest. It allows French companies to integrate more effectively into the American business community, it helps its members to appreciate the differences in business habits between France and the United States, and it offers US firms an opportunity to build closer ties with French business partners. Through strategic partnerships with other organizations, we act as a link for associations promoting trans-Atlantic understanding and offer greater visibility to members businesses in the French-American community.

Examples of our activity include:

- Every year we celebrate the release of the Beaujolais Nouveau wine with a FACC-branded premier event, which we carried on even during the pandemic.



- Three years ago, we introduced the French-American Innovation Midwest (FAIM). This annual event highlights the best of French-American synergies and joint innovation in science, technology, education, arts, culture, wellness and more. The various presentations and activities provide examples that reinforce the growth potential areas between France and the United States:
 - Creating opportunities for French-American cultural, educational and business exchanges
 - Stimulating Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
 - Promoting French companies in Minnesota and Minnesotan companies in France
 - Exploring joint innovation opportunities
 - Recognizing individuals who are a positive factor and driving force in French-American innovation.

We look forward to hosting another FAIM event.

- Other events and activities include webinars on relevant topics, in-person networking events & business socials and numerous events that arise from time to time, featuring a corporate member, a speaker on a timely subject, or a visit by the Consul General or other dignitary.
- We have committees centering on membership, communication, fundraising, the Beaujolais and FAIM annual events, among others.

Search for Candidates

We are looking for proactive individuals; directors engage in both supervisory and hands-on activities, depending on their interest and expertise. No nomination is needed; we ask candidates to come forward and present their candidacy. Following the conclusions from our strategic planning sessions of 2020 and 2021, we welcome, most of all, people who have a general interest in French-American commercial relations and the energy to take action in support of that interest. We are also looking for people with special interest or capability in marketing, management, corporate or event planning, social media, and communication, and in the sectors of agriculture, healthcare, innovation, biotech, finance, and education, with fundraising experience always a plus for any candidate.

If you are interested in joining our Board, please contact info@faccmn.com.

If you are interested in working with us but prefer not to be a director at present, we welcome your contact as well, also at info@faccmn.com. Our strength is in our members, who offer their help where they know their talents best apply.

We look forward to hearing from you by May 1!