

Laurentian Vision Partnership Wednesday, May 25, 2016  
The Quad Cities: Eveleth, Gilbert, Mountain Iron, Virginia

### **Joy Global Hosts Non-traditional Lenders**



*Thirty-six interested bankers and entrepreneurs listen to presenters at the Chamber's Non-traditional Lenders Forum*  
VIRGINIA – May 3 luncheon

Presenters were:

Jeff Borling, Great River Energy

Bob Palmquist, (Northspan Group)

Michael Lattery, Entrepreneur Fund

Matt Sjoberg, IRRRB

Michael Colclough, Northland Foundation

Bankers and interested entrepreneurs heard news about loans, and way to work with lenders to ensure working capital for businesses.

### **MnDOT Coffee & Conversation**

VIRGINIA – The Minnesota Department of Transportation hold their Monthly Coffee and Conversation on First Thursday's. Since Kiewit Infrastructure has been on the scene at Rouchleay Pit building the big bridge, a construction representative has presented at the popular meetings. The next Coffee 'N is Thursday, June 2, 10:00 am on Hoover Road, Virginia.

### **Strong Towns visits Iron Range**

VIRGINIA – May 19

Strong Towns, a Brainerd-based nonprofit working to strengthen financial resilience in America's towns and neighborhoods, led a series of community conversations in the Iron Range May 16-19, sponsored by the IRRRB and the Blandin Foundation.

Strong Towns President and lifelong resident of northern Minnesota, Chuck Marohn, held Curbside Chat presentations and led downtown walking tours, including one in Virginia. Marohn used his professional engineering and planning background to point out strengths and challenges in the downtown landscape. Lunch discussions at the Lyric Center for the Arts highlighted different approaches to development and showcased local entrepreneurs drew good crowds.

In addition, stories and people from the Range were broadcast to Strong Towns' audience across North America and beyond. All of Strong Towns' content from the week including featured stories and podcasts from the Iron Range can be found at: [www.strongtowns.org/iron-range](http://www.strongtowns.org/iron-range)

Strong Towns visited the Iron Range. During a meeting at the Lyric Center, Virginia, Chuck Marohn outlined types and styles of entrepreneurial businesses. Keeping an emerging business growing and a community's role in business and industrial growth were set out. Obstacles for people wanting to go into business need to be cleared. Creation of a desire for companies to want to locate and build in the area are part of those roles.



*Chuck Marohn (left) talks with walking tour guests as he gives opinion and description of downtown sites after the Strong Towns meeting at the Lyric Center for the Arts.*

### **Northeast Chamber Executives, State Chamber meet, hear from Duluth Seaway Port Authority**

DULUTH – Government & Environmental Affairs Director with the Duluth Seaway Port Authority Deborah DeLuca, spoke to the Minnesota Chamber's northeast executives. Attendees included Minnesota State Chamber President Doug Loon and Sr. Vice President Jennifer Byers. During the May 11, luncheon meeting, DeLuca talked about activities and plans for the port authority. One statistic of interest is the 30% support of the seaway from the Iron Range.



*VIRGINIA – May 16 Interested businesses from Quad Cities met at the Senior Center to discuss plans for businesses. A name for business associations, affiliation with a fiscal agent and projects (after a successful clean-up effort the evening of Thursday, April 28) were topics for discussion.*