

Rising to the occasion

Mary Scheibel is the principal owner of Scheibel Halaska in Milwaukee and is the new chair of the MMAC's Council of Small Business Executives (COSBE). She stresses the importance of small businesses' collaborative efforts to boost southeastern Wisconsin's economy.

"Small businesses are responsible for nearly 82 percent of job creation in our region, according to MMAC data. This statistic underscores the important role of small-business owners in growing the economy and ensuring a thriving future for the Milwaukee region.

"The MMAC's COSBE is a great example of what small business executives can and must do to improve the region's business climate. By addressing current challenges and enhancing existing strengths together, these leaders advance Wisconsin's drive to be a national haven for new business.

"Although we still have work to do to help our state stand out, the good news is that Wisconsin businesses are no strangers to hard work. Small businesses will play a large part in demonstrating that 'Wisconsin is open for business,' by helping Gov. Scott Walker realize his goal of creating 250,000 private-sector jobs while enriching the state's livelihood.

"As we look toward the future at MMAC, we seek small businesses' support in strengthening the region's educational system, promoting job growth, attracting a talented workforce and shaping policies that encourage business development.

"Similarly, as the new chair of COSBE, my goal is to build on the council's strong foundation and momentum to increase visibility of its efforts, which not only impact small businesses, but everyone in our community. I hope that, through greater recognition, more small businesses join our efforts in creating a healthier, more vibrant community." ■



Mary Scheibel

Chair

**Metropolitan Milwaukee
Association of Commerce's
Council of Small Business
Executives (COSBE)**

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