



Conference Agenda

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

5:00 p.m. Pre-Conference gathering at Leo & Leona's

Thursday, June 26, 2025

7:30 a.m. Registration and Continental breakfast
8:15 a.m. Welcome and Opening Reflection – Passion & Purpose
Tom Thibodeau, Distinguished Professor of Servant Leadership at Viterbo University
8:30 a.m. *Servant Leadership: The Ho-Chunk Sacred Story*
Ryan Crain & John Greendeer
9:30 a.m. *Housing: A Servant Leadership Approach*
Chris Laurent, Cinnaire
10:15 a.m. Break
10:35 a.m. *Interactive Activity*
11:00 a.m. *A Little Empathy Goes A Long Way*
Heather Schimmers, Gundersen Region President
11:50 a.m. Lunch @ The Weber Center
1:00 p.m. *Purpose & Passion: Author's Panel*
Carolyn Colleen, Founder of FIERCE Network
Neil Zygarlicke, President of Badger Corrugating Company
Lauren Journot – Impact Director at La Crosse Area Community Foundation
1:50 p.m. *Interactive Activity*
2:10 p.m. *The Culver's Story*
Jake Bowe, Owner/Operator of Culver's
3:05 p.m. *Let Purpose Find You: A Skeptic's Story*
Frank Oswald
3:55 p.m. Closing

Friday, June 27, 2025

7:30 a.m. Gathering and Continental breakfast
8:15 a.m. *Opening Activity – Leading & Serving with Passion & Purpose*
Creating a Purpose Statement
8:30 a.m. *The Courage of Vulnerability: The Chileda Story*
Derek Cortez, CEO of Chileda
9:15 a.m. *The Gift of Feedback*
Misty Lown, Founder of Misty's Dance Unlimited, More Than Just Great Dancing!®, Willow & Grace Boutique, and the Chance To Dance Foundation
10:00 a.m. Break
10:15 a.m. *Empathetic Imagination*
James Bowey
11:30 a.m. *Interactive Activity*
11:45 p.m. Lunch @ The Cargill Room
12:45 p.m. *Purpose & Passion Through Words*
Valerie Savage
Martha Boehm, Author of *Just Keep Growing: 25 Servant Leadership Lessons*
Dennis Dean Ondrejka
1:30 p.m. *Turning Tragedy Into Triumph*
Lucas Herro
2:15 p.m. *Purpose and Passion: A Concert* - Dan Sebranek, Mary Cortesi, Tim Kolek
3:00 p.m. Closing Remarks



VITERBO UNIVERSITY
CENTER *for* PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



The hall was once a ballroom owned by Leo and Leona Cavadini. The story of the tavern has been told before in OnMilwaukee.com Beyond columns. Leona Cavadini lived above the tavern and helped operate it for more than 60 years. Her parents first owned it, and then she and her late husband, Leo, ran it.

The bar became a hangout for many of the NFL football players who trained in Wisconsin during the Cheese League days. One of the best stories about those days concerned former Bears Dick Butkus, who frequented the place.

Leo and Leona were huge Packers fans and sold a T-shirt with the familiar saying, "Da Bears Suck." After he had been coming into the bar for quite some time, Butkus asked Leo if he could remove the shirt, since, after all, he'd played for the Bears.



Leo, a former WWII bomber pilot, reportedly got into Butkus face and said, "Hell no; it's my best seller, and the Bears do suck!" Butkus backed off with a smile.

The legend of the bar goes well beyond those Cheese League days and tells the tale of a place that really did become an institution in the region of the state and for people from eastern Minnesota and Iowa.

The new owners, made up primarily of people who loved the old place and couldn't stand to see it go, bought the bar after Leona decided to retire. They fixed it up and opened the bar in 2008.

With the help of Amish craftsmen, they renovated the ballroom, which had become a storage room for some great sports, tavern and other memorabilia. Much of those items have been sold via an auction and a La Crosse collectibles store. But, some of it has been returned to the walls of the concert hall.

The place has a real feel of a traditional roadhouse. It also is right on the road, off Highway 33, east of La Crosse, in a tiny place called Newburg Corners.