



THE Voice

January 2026

www.gochamber.org

2026 Chamber Annual Meeting



Governor Kelly Armstrong



Thursday, February 5, 2026
Alerus Center
5:00pm - 9:00pm

Join us as we report on 2025 and welcome our new
Board Chair for 2026, Derek Holt, First Community Credit Union

A social and auction display will begin the evening.
This will be followed by the dinner, program and our keynote speaker, Governor Kelly Armstrong.
Our evening ends with the prestigious Henry Havig Award winner announcement.

[Click Here to Register!](#)

CHAMBER NEWS

Welcome The Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand Forks new Board Members

We are thrilled to announce and extend a warm welcome to the newest members of The Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Board of Directors.



Dean Gorder
General Atomics
Aeronautical
Systems, Inc.



Shari Olson
Northland Community
& Technical College



Curtis Regan
Dakota Commercial
& Development Inc.

Congratulations to The Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Retiring Board Members

Please join us in extending warm congratulations to The Chamber retiring Board Members. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the success of our Chamber of Commerce.



Mike Fridolfs
Northrop Grumman
Corp.



Tarek Howard
Auto Finance Super
Center



Matt Norby
Norby's Work Perks

CHAMBER NEWS

Welcome The Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand Forks new Committee Chairs

We are thrilled to announce and extend a warm welcome to the newest committee chairs of The Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand Forks. Please join us in welcoming:



Tom Prout
Ellingson
Agribusiness
Committee



McKenzie Ratelle
LivWell
Ambassador
Committee



Katie Barta
UND
Leadership
Committee



Katie Joe Armbrust
Grand Forks Housing
Authority
Nonprofit
Committee



Mike McLean
JLG Architects
Past Board Chairs
Committee

CHAMBER NEWS

Congratulations to The Chamber Grand Forks/ East Grand Forks Retiring Committee Chairs

Please join us in extending warm congratulations to The Chamber retiring committee chairs. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the success of our Chamber of Commerce.



Jon Rentz
Northern Plains Rail
Services
*Agribusiness
Committee*



Bethany Rentz
lhry Insurance
*Agribusiness
Committee*



John Friend
PS Industries
*Ambassador
Committee*



Deon Wawrzyniak
Houston Engineering, Inc.
*Leadership
Committee*



Bob McWilliams
Altru Family YMCA
*Nonprofit
Committee*



Tony Hodny
H&S Electric
*Past Board Chairs
Committee*

CHAMBER NEWS

Delta Adds Additional Grand Forks Flight



The City of Grand Forks announced that Delta Air Lines, in partnership with SkyWest Airlines, will enhance service at Grand Forks International Airport (GFK). Beginning April 13, 2026, Delta will add a fourth daily flight between GFK and Minneapolis–St. Paul (MSP), bringing service closer to pre-2019 levels. All Delta Connection flights operated by SkyWest will utilize the premium CRJ550 regional jet.

“Expanding commercial air service at Grand Forks International Airport has been one of my top priorities,” said Mayor Brandon Bochenski. “The return of a fourth daily Delta Connection flight is an important step in strengthening travel options for our business community and residents.”

“We’re excited to add this daily Delta Connection flight for Grand Forks travelers,” said Cody Thomas, Managing Director of Market Development at SkyWest Airlines. “This added service means more connections, greater convenience, and an enhanced onboard experience with the CRJ550.”

Grand Forks was the only airport to receive additional MSP service in this round of Delta schedule updates. Tickets were made available for booking on November 15, 2025, for travel beginning April 13, 2026.

The Mayor’s Air Service Committee is also awaiting updates from United Airlines regarding potential daily service to Denver and Chicago.

The Chamber and many of its members have made a financial commitment to support this new service when it is made available likely mid 2026.



SAND STEEL BUILDING CO.

Emerado, ND
701-594-4435
www.sandsteelbuilding.com

Metal Building Construction
Steel Fabrication
Millwright Services



North Dakota CHAMPIONS BALL

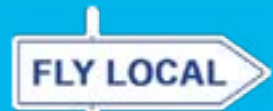
Saturday, April 25 | Alerus Center | 5-11 p.m.



Purchase tickets at
ndchampionsball.com



THE SHORTCUT WORTH TAKING



At the Fork in the Road,
Choose Smarter • Choose GFK



Save Time



Close to Home



Stress-Free Experience

Every trip starts with a choice: drive hours to a distant, crowded airport—or take the smarter, smoother route right here in Grand Forks. Flying from Grand Forks International Airport (GFK) isn't just easier. It's better.



The Valvoline/Tire One Toughest Monster Truck Tour presented by Baymont by Wyndham returns to Alerus Center on March 28 for the 2026 Championship Event, where the toughest trucks on dirt battle it out for the title!

Tickets available at the Alerus Center Box Office or online at
<https://bit.ly/47VIQ11>

Your Chamber Working For You

I P A C E

Inform

We inform our members on important business and community information.

Promote

We promote our members, the business community and the GFK region.

Advocate

We advocate for our members and our business interests at the city, state and federal levels.

Connect

We provide opportunities for business to connect with other businesses.

Educate

We provide education opportunities for your business and employees.



From Burnout to Buy-in:

The Business Case for Workforce Well-being (AND, How to Get Started Right Away)

Wellness programs are often pushed forward, something that we business leaders sometimes say we will get to right after this other urgent goal. But prioritizing well-being amongst employees, people leaders, and within the programs and services you offer can be just the trick that makes your business more effective, more authentic, and ultimately more sustainable in the long term.

In this interactive session, we'll share with you our favorite highlights from regional case studies, proving why investing in well-being is critical to grow your business; but we'll also share free, tested resources from our toolkit and work together through conversation and activities on ideas that are customized to your unique worksite wellbeing challenges, looking for opportunities to help you get started right away.



Wednesday, January 21, 2026

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Chamber of Commerce Board Room

Brown Bag Seminar



Presented by...



Nicole Benson is the Director of Organizational Wellbeing at Live Well Grand Cities

Having supported local business in employee wellness since 2022 while working with the Blue Zones Project, Nicole knows that most people spend over 25% of their time at work and she has developed a passion for helping leaders bring out the best in their teams by truly committing to well-being.

Dawn Rognerud is the Director of Food Systems with Live Well Grand Cities

As President of the Town Square Farmer's Market and a graduate of UND's School of Business, Dawn is deeply dedicated to helping small business owners in our region grow while prioritizing wellbeing within the workplace, which is an important component to business growth.

shilo virginia previti is Live Well Grand Cities' Director of Advocacy

With cross-sector experience including in the professional education field, the restaurant management industry, and with local non-profits, shilo has plenty of lessons learned to share when it comes to examining your spaces and policies with a goal of implementing positive change.

For our presentation, we will provide handouts to enhance interactive elements of the workshop session. Participants will be able to keep these free tools as a personal and professional resource in the future.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR SEMINAR

\$25/Member & \$35/Non Member (Includes Lunch)

If you have questions, please contact the Chamber, doug@gochamber.org or 701-772-7271

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Weivoda Flooring & Cabinetry

5800 Gateway Drive, Grand Forks, ND 58203

701-746-8644

<https://weivodafloorsandcabinetry.com/>

Weivoda Flooring & Cabinetry is a locally owned business serving the Grand Cities and surrounding areas. They specialize in quality flooring solutions and custom cabinetry for both residential and commercial spaces. Whether customers are building new, remodeling, or updating a single room, their team works closely with them to find products that fit their style, needs, and budget. Weivoda Flooring & Cabinetry is committed to craftsmanship, dependable service, and helping customers create functional, beautiful spaces they can enjoy for years to come.



Core Collective – Franklin

214 N 4th St, Suite 200, Grand Forks, ND 58203

701-517-0009

www.corecollectivegf.com

Core Collective at Franklin has a focus on hot yoga and has storage for personal items, a coffee bar and water station, and features an array of apparel for purchase.

Our classes are designed to accommodate all fitness levels. Every exercise can be modified and intensified to ensure everyone gets the best workout, every time!





Visit with Barry

Share your business challenges and success with Barry.

Drop me an email. I would love to stop by your business for a visit.

Barry@gochamber.org

Barry Wilfahrt, Chamber President and CEO



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Hosted by Integrated Steel

2201 N 39th St, GF

Thursday, January 15, 2026

4:45pm ~ 7:00pm

Integrated Steel invites all Chamber members and their employees to join them for a great Business After Hours event.

**Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, Drink Ticket & Cash Bar, Great door prizes.
Progressive cash drawing is at \$1900 (winner must be in attendance).**

Stop by...Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities.
You might even win **\$1900** in our Progressive Cash drawing!

Remember, BAH is FREE for all Chamber members! Is your employer a Chamber member? That means YOU ARE TOO!

See you Thursday, January 15, 2026 at Business After Hours!

*Because of the nature of this event, no children under 18 may attend.

Thank you to EAPC for hosting an eventful Business After Hours.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

December 2025 Renewals

The following businesses know the value of their Chamber Membership and have renewed their membership in The Chamber GF/EGF.

7 Brew
A & L Siding & Home Improvement Center
ACCESSND
Acme Rents (Heavy Equipment)
ACME TOOLS
Ad Monkeys
Advanced Business Methods
Altru Family YMCA
American Family Insurance - Tyler Nagel Agency LLC
AmericInn by Wyndham
Amrize
Amundson Family Funeral Home
Applegren Construction
Badger Dental Group
Bank of North Dakota
Bergstrom Electric, Inc.
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Family Realty - Jodi Danzl
Bert's Truck Equipment, Inc
Brekke Tours & Travel
Brick & Barley
Brockmeyer Tile & Stone, Inc.
Broken Drum
Brown Corporations
Budget RV
C'Mon Inn
C.L. Linfoot Company
Cambridge Property Mgmt
Cancer Center of North Dakota
Carrington Court Townhome Apts.
Catholic Charities North Dakota
Choice Bank - South Washington
City of East Grand Forks
Coca-Cola Bottling Company High Country
Comeau Electric, Inc.
Community Contractors, Inc.
Construction Engineers, Inc.
Cookie's Lounge
Cooper Commissioning
Cost Cutters - Grand Cities Mall
Country Inn & Suites
CPS, Ltd. Engineering - Land Surveying
Crookston Building Center and Dakota Valley Lumber
Dacotah Paper Company
Dak Minn Blood Bank
Dakota Fire Protection
Dakota Law Group P.C.
Dakota Sales - Budweiser
Dakota Supply Group
Dale Carnegie Training of ND and MN
Dan's Pest Control
Don's ABC Seamless, Inc.
Down To Earth Counseling PLLC
Dusek Law
Eagles Club #350
East Grand Forks Economic Development Authority
Easter Seals Goodwill ND, Inc.
Edgewood - East Grand Forks
EGF Rod & Gun Club
El Way Child Care and Learning Center
Empire Arts Center
Enclave Property Management

Evergreen Insurance
Express Employment Professionals
Fairfield Inn & Suites East Grand Forks
Finest Auto Trim, INC
Florian's Excavating
Forks Lath & Plaster, Inc.
Freedom Church
Gate City Bank - 24th Ave S
Gate City Bank - DeMers Ave
Gate City Bank - So. Washington
Gerrells Sports Center - Hockey World
GF Blue Line Club
GF Board of Realtors
Global Friends Coalition
Golden Rule Auto Repair
Gowan Construction, Inc.
Grand Cities Monument
Grand Forks Area Youth For Christ
Grand Forks Clinic
Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District
Grand Forks Housing Authority
Grand Forks Public Schools
Grand Forks Regional Airport Authority
Grand Forks Senior Center
Grape Mill Vineyard and Winery
H&S Electrical Services LLC
Hampton Management
Happy Harry's Bottle Shops
Happy Harry's Bottle Shops - 2
Hilton Garden Inn - Grand Forks - UND
ICON Architects
Ideal Aerosmith Inc.
In-Prints Screen Printing, Inc.
Indigo Signs
Innes Construction Company
Ironhide Equipment
Jeff's Landscaping
Jiffy Lube
JLG Architects
Job Service North Dakota
Johnstown Bean Company
Keep In Touch Massage Therapy
Kelly's Bar
Kidwell's Signature Cleaning, Inc.
KLJ Engineering LLC
Kuhl Properties
L.I.S.T.E.N. Center
Lake Region State College
Lifestyle Storage
LM Wind Power
Lost Limb Logging & Tree Service LLC
LucentHD
Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Dakota
McFarlane, Inc.
McGough Construction
Modern Auto Body, Inc.
My Place Hotels
MyAlly Health
Nations Lending
ND Mill & Elevator
Nexus-PATH Family Healing - Grand Forks
North Dakota Ballet Company
North Dakota Eye Clinic
Northern Bag and Box Company

Northern Plains Rail Services
Northern Plumbing Supply
Northern Valley Electrical Services, Inc
Northridge (Hospitality & Construction)
Northwest Tire
Obernel Engineering
Opticare-Forks Vision Clinic
Peterson Veterinary Clinic
Pizza Ranch
Polk County DAC
Prairie Business Magazine
Premier Signs, LLP
Priority Title, LLC.
PS Industries Incorporated
Public Arts Commission
Rachel's Property Solutions
Red River State Recreation Area
Red River Stepping Stones
Red River Valley Motorcyclists
Rhombus Guys
Riverside Christian School
Rogers Construction, Inc.
Rosenquist Law Office
Runnings
Sacred Heart Catholic School
Sand Steel Building Co.
Simonson Lumber and Design Center
SimplyMaid
South Hampton Townhome Apts.
Spectra Health
SpringHill Suites by Marriott
St. Anne's Guest Home
St. Michel Furniture
Staybridge Suites Grand Forks
Steeple Apartments, LLC
Sterling Carpet One Floor & Home
Stifel Nicolaus
Stone's Security Systems Inc
Swanson & Warcup, Ltd.
Taylor Monson - Edward Jones
Tecta America Dakotas
The DRIPBaR Grand Forks
The Greater Grand Forks Fair
Thermal Air
Thomsen Homes LLC
Thrifty White Pharmacy #081
Times Square Townhomes, I, Inc.
Times Square Townhomes, II & III, Inc.
Times Square Townhomes, II & III, Inc.
Tire One Auto Center
Top Tier Plumbing & HVAC LLC.
Ultima Bank Minnesota
University of Mary
University of Minnesota Crookston
Valley Golf
Valley Petroleum Equipment Inc.
Valley Senior Living
Valley Truck Parts and Service, Inc.
Valvoline Instant Oil Change
Valvoline Instant Oil Change
VitellaCare
Vorbeck Materials
Walmart-32nd Ave #1545
Wilbur-Ellis

Top **TEN** Chamber Membership Benefits

- 1. New Business Contacts** – Networking and new business contacts will help your business grow. With more than 100 chamber programs and events, you'll have no problem adding to your contact base.
- 2. Credibility** – Make a statement that you are committed to the future of the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks region.
- 3. Leadership Development** – The Chamber offers learning and professional development opportunities to help you run a smarter, more profitable business.
- 4. Community Commitment** – Community involvement benefits you and the community and shows your commitment to helping our region grow.
- 5. Referrals** – The Chamber's referrals of our members are a great return on your investment.

- 6. Publicity and Exposure** – Publicity and heightened name recognition as a Chamber Member shows your customers and potential customers who you are.
- 7. Marketing & Advertising** – Targeted and affordable advertising offered by The Chamber help you promote your business effectively on a small budget.
- 8. A Healthy Local Economy** – Be a part of a group that is committed to creating a strong local economy to keep our business momentum moving forward.
- 9. Gain a Voice in Government** – The Chamber is your representative on a local, regional, state and national level. With over 1100 members representing thousands of area employees, The Chamber speaks with a strong voice for our business community on issues affecting your business.
- 10. Partnership** – You will be a part of an organization whose mission is to create an environment that encourages business success while enhancing the quality of life in our region.

Edward Jones®

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



Complimentary investment review.
Give us a call.



Taylor Monson, CFP®
Financial Advisor

4700 S Washington St Suite A
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-772-9243

AMBASSADORS MEETING



The Chamber Ambassadors extend a warm welcome to new businesses, actively participate in celebrating grand openings and special events, and engage in various Chamber activities.

The Chamber Ambassadors play a crucial role in fostering a vibrant business community by actively encouraging and supporting new and fellow members. Their mission is centered around creating opportunities for businesses to thrive while simultaneously contributing to the community's well-being.

Their dedication involves promoting The Chamber to potential members, highlighting the benefits of membership, and showcasing the community as an excellent place to live and do business. Ambassadors commit to attending monthly meetings and participating in diverse events throughout the year, such as Ribbon Cuttings, Business After Hours, and Chamber activities. Through their commitment and positive representation, Ambassadors actively contribute to the success and growth of The Chamber and its members.

The Ambassadors meet on the 3rd Monday of the month.



Pictured The Chamber Ambassadors enjoying their annual Christmas Social at Tavern United.

RIBBON CUTTING

The Chamber Ambassadors would love to meet you and celebrate your business with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

If you are interested, please contact Doug at **772-7271** or Doug@gochamber.org to schedule a ribbon cutting event.

Core Collective

214 N 4th St (In Franklin on 4th), Grand Forks, ND



Pictured are Core Collective employees, guests and The Chamber Ambassadors.

Hammers Construction & Hammer-Lok

2813 Heartland Business Court, Grand Forks, ND



Pictured are Hammers Construction employees, guests and The Chamber Ambassadors.

MEMBER NEWS

U.S. News & World Report's 2026 Best Nursing Homes Analysis Names Valley Senior Living on Columbia Among the Best in North Dakota

Valley Senior Living on Columbia has been recognized as a Best Nursing Home for 2026 by U.S. News & World Report. This ranking places Valley on Columbia as one of five nursing homes in North Dakota to receive this designation.

Since its debut in 2009, the annual U.S. News Best Nursing Homes analysis has served as a resource, providing trusted, data-driven insights to families - in consultation with their health care providers - seeking the best options for either short-term rehabilitation or comprehensive long-term care. A High Performance designation, the highest level of recognition offered by U.S. News, was awarded to Valley Senior Living on Columbia for outstanding quality in short-term rehabilitation and long-term care.

U.S. News' annual evaluation of nursing homes is highly selective, recognizing fewer than 19% of the evaluated U.S. nursing homes as "Best Nursing Homes" as part of the 2026 ratings. This designation is reserved only for facilities that satisfy U.S. News' rigorous, proprietary assessment criteria demonstrating a consistent and superior commitment to quality resident care.

For the 2026 edition, U.S. News Best Nursing Homes' proprietary ratings feature a significant methodology update, expanding both the short-term rehabilitation and long-term care ratings to include 17 distinct quality measures each, offering a comprehensive assessment. U.S. News evaluated nearly 15,000 nursing homes on resident outcomes, such as hospital readmission rates, staffing levels, health inspection results, and other indicators of quality.

For more information, visit USNews.com and explore #BestNursingHomes on Facebook, Instagram, Threads, TikTok and X.



of U.S. adults agree that their local chamber of commerce is a **trusted resource and partner** for businesses.



feel that their local chamber has an impact on **growing businesses locally**.

90%

believe that their local chamber has an impact on **growing the local economy**.



say that their local chamber has an impact on **addressing challenges** within their community.

MEMBER NEWS

Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota Announces Dr. Mary Van Haneghan as New Chief Executive Officer



Dr. Mary Van Haneghan

The Board of Directors of Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota is thrilled to announce the appointment of Dr. Mary Van Haneghan as the organization's new Chief Executive Officer, effective August 11, 2025.

Following a comprehensive and highly competitive national search led by Sagency, an executive search and leadership consulting firm, the search committee unanimously and enthusiastically recommended Dr. Van Haneghan to the Board of Directors. Her appointment marks an exciting new chapter for the organization.

"I am honored to build upon this legacy and lead Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota into its next chapter of impact and innovation," said Dr. Van Haneghan.

Dr. Van Haneghan brings over two decades of experience leading local, state, and national nonprofit organizations with budgets exceeding \$50 million and teams of 500+ across both centralized and remote settings. She is known for providing steady, visionary leadership—especially during transitions following long-tenured CEOs—and is recognized for her focus on operational excellence, financial stewardship, and strong community engagement.

In addition to her expertise in nonprofit leadership, Dr. Van Haneghan brings significant experience in retail operations, real estate, and property management—key elements of Goodwill's business model. She has successfully managed extensive thrift operations, led high-impact social enterprises, and implemented strategic business initiatives that resulted in meaningful growth and operational efficiency.

Yet Dr. Van Haneghan's story is not just one of strategy and numbers—it is rooted in heart. She has dedicated her career to advancing equity and opportunity for underserved communities, with a focus on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), as well as veterans, military families, opportunity youth, older adults, and individuals facing barriers to employment. Her work has spanned workforce development, inclusive education, job training, and employment support programs funded at the local, state, and federal levels.

THE CHAMBER

Executive Committee

Chair: Derek Holt, First Community Credit Union

Chair Elect: Anna Rosburg, Alerus Center

Past Chair: Mike McLean, JLG Architects

Russel Crary, Crary Real Estate

Chris Jordheim, Widseth

Daren Muscha, Bass Pro Shops

Barry Wilfahrt, Chamber GF/EGF

Board of Directors

Landon Bahl, 322 Hospitality Group & Dist. 17 Legislator

Matt Bredemeier, Grand Forks Subaru Kia

Mylo Einarson, Nodak Electric

Jon Fargo, RealTruck

Todd Forkel, Altru Health System

Dean Gorder, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.

Tony Hodny, H&S Electrical Services, LLC

Meloney Linder, University of North Dakota

Keith Lund, GF EDC

Emily O'Brien, ND Human Services Agency

Shari Olson, Northland Community & Technical College

Scott Reck, Northdale Oil

Curtis Regan, Dakota Commercial & Development Inc.

Andy Schneider, Dakota Concealed/GF County Sheriff

Andrew Vigen, Vigen Construction

Tyler Wilson, Vilandre Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing

Chamber Staff

Barry Wilfahrt

President/CEO

barry@gochamber.org

Kimberly Strom

Vice President of Operations

kimberlys@gochamber.org

Tina Fetsch

Marketing and Communications Director

info@gochamber.org

tfetsch@gochamber.org

Doug Iverson

Director of Membership Engagement & Development

doug@gochamber.org

