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Governor Burgum
2018 Chamber Annual
Meeting & Dinner
Governor Challenges us to Differentiate

Governor Burgum was the keynote speaker at the Chamber’s Annual Meeting last month. The community rolled out the red carpet in his day long visit. The Governor spent time visiting with local business people and touring the community. Our goal in hosting the Governor was to showcase many of the things Grand Forks is doing “right”. According to Chamber President, Barry Wilfahrt “We felt he was impressed with all of the cooperative efforts going on in the community on many of the initiatives he has outlined to be part of his Main Street Initiative.”

In his introduction of the Governor, 2018 Chamber Board Chairman, Ron Galstad pointed to some the many things our communities are doing in partnership with the State including base retention, University programs and initiatives and growing the UAS industry. Ron noted there are now over 35 private sector UAS companies employing 375 people at the end of 2017 and with total 2017 payroll of over $28 million and an additional $22 million in spending on goods and services in the local economy for a direct economic impact of over $50 million in 2017.

2017 Ambassador of the Year

Stacey Brorson with BeMobile & Young Living Essential Oils was selected as Ambassador of the Year 2017. In her 5 years on the committee, Stacey has participated in every Membership Drive, many times as a Captain. She is welcoming to new Ambassadors and Members and is willing to volunteer for nearly every event and ribbon cutting. Stacey has become a great networker and does a fantastic job of connecting others.

Thank you Stacey for your investment in The Chamber!
Still Time to have a Career Conversation

Registration is open for the 3rd annual Career Conversations with students from UND, NCTC and UMC through February 6th. Career Conversations is an opportunity for your company to introduce themselves to these students and begin relationships that may lead to employment after graduation. Approximately 60% of past student participants in the program have indicated they are more likely to pursue a career in the Grand Forks region after graduation as a result of the Career Conversations. This is the main reason the Chamber, EDC and Job Service North Dakota have partnered on this workforce project.

This year’s Career Conversations will occur on February 27th and 28th. We have set the dates, but you chose the meeting location - your place of business, UND, NCTC or Job Service North Dakota, and your time slot(s) - hourly time slots between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm. You can host one student or multiple students per session and you can register for as many occupations within your company as you wish, just ensure you have a mentor for each occupation and session.

We would love for your business to participate! You can select your time slots and other options through an easy employer registration form. Additional information and the employer registration form can be found on the Northern Valley Careers website.

Chamber Intern to Visit Local Companies About Internships

The Chamber and UND Career Services have jointly hired an intern this semester to identify logical companies in the GF region who would be good candidates to host an intern. According to Chamber President, Barry Wilfahrt, “Many companies in our market have a steady stream of interns semester after semester and this is a big part of their recruitment process. On the other hand and often times more in the liberal arts areas, there are fewer companies offering internship opportunities. The intern will make appointments with local companies and talk about how an intern could benefit their business or organization. We hope to see a total of 20 new internships as a result of this effort over the next two semesters.”

This ongoing connection of UND students to local companies is yet another part of the solution to the tight local labor market.

ADC Conference

As part of the ongoing GFAFB Retention efforts Chamber President, Barry Wilfahrt will be attending the American Defense Community Conference in San Diego this month. At this meeting three members of a Grand Forks delegation will visit with key leaders in the Air Force and other defense communities about best practices in their local and statewide base retention efforts.
Laffen Receives Havig Award

The 2018 recipient of the business community’s most prestigious recognition, The Henry Havig Award for a lifetime of community service was announced at The Chamber’s Annual Meeting & Dinner.

Lonnie Laffen was selected as the 42nd recipient of the Chamber’s recognition. His community service list is long and includes: past Chairman of the Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce Board; the Downtown Leadership Group; the Reimagine Downtown Design Committee, and currently the boards of Altru Health Systems and the Grand Forks Special Assessment Commission.

In his “spare time,” he serves as a State Senator for Grand Forks District 43, where his commitment to honesty and doing the right thing are on display. One person remarked, “You can always count on him having a positive attitude and a sense of humor, both of which are very helpful in doing work of the state.”

In all, he has been a leader or participant in at least 36 significant and separate acts of service as Senator, businessman, or community leader. This is an astonishing number of accomplishments while leading one of North Dakota’s most successful business enterprises.

In addition, he has become the unofficial architecture tour guide for downtown Grand Forks. Hundreds of people have benefited from these tours and have been impressed by his obvious pride in our community.

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 our membership director at 772-7271 or emberlyL@gochamber.org to schedule a ribbon cutting event.

First International Bank & Trust
February 14, 2018
Alerus Center
11:30 am - Lunch & Program
The City of Grand Forks and The Chamber invite you to attend Mayor Brown’s 16th Annual State of the City Address.

$22/person - Open seating for individual reservations
$176 - Reserved table of 8

Luncheon Menu
Spring Mix Salad with Ranch or French Dressing
Ravioli with Florentine Mornay Sauce
Asparagus
Strawberry White Chocolate Mousse Cake

Reservations are required by Thursday, February 8th.
To make your reservation contact Kimberly Strom at kimberlys@gochamber.org or 772-7271.
Please include the names of all attending.
Reservations not cancelled 3 business days prior to event will be billed.

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

Corporate Level Sponsors

Business Level Sponsors
American Federal Bank
US Bank
RiverView Clinic invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun Business After Hours event!

Free Admission – Complimentary hors d’oeuvres & beverages
- Great door prizes - Progressive cash drawing

Stop in...Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities. You might even win our progressive cash drawing! We’ll draw the name of one Chamber Member business. If someone from that organization is present, they win!!

Because of the business nature of this event, no children under 18 may attend.
We are the welcoming arm of The Chamber.

We welcome new chamber members and businesses with ribbon cutting ceremonies. We assist with registration and greeting at Chamber functions, and we participate in The Chamber’s annual Membership Drive.

Ambassadors Meeting at LaQuinta Inn & Suites

Ambassadors of the Quarter of 2017 are
Diana Ohman & Patty Hajostek

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The Chamber’s Silent Auction held during the Annual Meeting & Dinner was a great success!

We sincerely thank the over 60 Chamber member businesses who donated items to the Auction. Also a big thank you to all who attended the event and to those who bid on the great auction items.

See the Silent Auction Contributors here.

You can see pictures of the event on The Chamber’s Facebook page.

We look forward to a fantastic 2018!

SILENT AUCTION

COMMITTEE

The Chamber meets and exceed the needs of our diverse business community and over 1080 Members through the work of our Standing Committees

Chamber Agriculture Committee

Co-Chairs:
Carah Hart, Red River Farm Network and Brandon Heider, Frandsen Bank

January 2018 Meeting Update:

True North Equipment Owner and Vice-President John Oncken shared an update on the state of the current ag equipment industry. Oncken is seeing a mix of customers in today’s farm equipment sector. He told meeting attendees optimism is there into 2018. “We’ve seen some increases in orders on a lot of the EOP programs on planters, air seeders and combines. We’ve got good optimism in terms of where technology is going. We’re pretty happy about where we are coming out of some of the interesting dynamics of 2015 and 2016.” There continues to be demand for quality used equipment. “I think we weathered the storm well.”

The Chamber Ag Committee meets at the Ramada Inn Tuesday, February 13. We’ll hear a local update on the 2018 Farm Bill.
Radio show on Wednesday mornings.

Dakota and hosts a call-in medical program at the University of North Dakota. Dr. Johnson is the assistant medical director for the Altru Diabetes Center and specializes in serving patients with all types of diabetes. Dr. Johnson also assists in developing the association’s efforts to develop strategies to engage primary care providers. Because these health care professionals treat a majority of patients with diabetes, it is important that they are knowledgeable about the changes and advances in diabetes care.

Dr. Johnson’s work with the American Diabetes Association, which started in 1992, has made an impact through several initiatives, including the national Diabetes Is Primary program. The one-day program highlights recommendations that are essential for primary care providers. Dr. Johnson also assisted in developing the association’s abridged version of the Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes, which serves as the global standard for the management of diabetes.

Dr. Johnson is the assistant medical director for the Altru Diabetes Center and specializes in serving patients with all types of diabetes. He is an associate professor, the director for the Interprofessional Educational Program and the medical director of the Physician Assistant Program at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr. Johnson is the president of the American Diabetes Association North Dakota Affiliate, the president of Tobacco Free North Dakota and hosts a call-in medical radio show on Wednesday mornings.

**ADA Names Dr. Eric Johnson as 2018 Primary Care Advisory Chair**

Grand Forks, N.D. – The American Diabetes Association named Dr. Eric Johnson, a family medicine physician at Altru Health System, as Primary Care Advisory Group Chair for a 3-year term beginning this month. In his role, Dr. Johnson will lead the association’s efforts to develop strategies to engage primary care providers. Because these health care professionals treat a majority of patients with diabetes, it is important that they are knowledgeable about the changes and advances in diabetes care.

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**Sharma wins fifth major NIH award in seven years**

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded Jyotika Sharma, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS), a major grant known as an R21. The two-year grant, worth nearly $400,000, is the fifth such award Sharma has won from the NIH since 2011.

According to Sharma, the long-term goal of her project, titled “Efferocytosis and neutrophil homeostasis in pneumonic sepsis,” is to understand the molecular processes that regulate inflammation associated with sepsis—a systemic, life-threatening condition where the immune system’s response to infection or injury damages a body’s own organs.

While falling under the umbrella of biomedical science, Sharma’s research is one of many projects ongoing at the SMHS known as clinical and translational research: research that “translates” discoveries made at the laboratory bench for clinical implementation to benefit patients directly. For her studies, Sharma is collaborating with clinicians locally at Altru Health System as well as nationally at the NIH.

**Bye and Hlebichuk promoted to Vice President at Widseth Smith Nolting**

GRAND FORKS, N.D. - WSN has added two new shareholders to the company’s ownership structure, civil engineer Bryan Bye, PE, and architect Dana Hlebichuk, AIA. Both have been promoted to Vice President. Bye, a civil engineer in the firm’s Alexandria office, joined WSN in 2007. He is a professional engineer in Minnesota with more than 10 years of experience. He is responsible for project management, civil engineering design, specifications, construction administration and client and business development. Bye works with a variety of civil engineering projects, including public works, utilities, roadways, stormwater/flood management and site design. Bye is a member of the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE), serves on the Hoffman Economic Development Authority for the City of Hoffman, MN, and volunteers with Ducks Unlimited.

Hlebichuk is head of architecture in the firm’s Rochester office. He has 19 years of experience in the fields of architecture and construction and joined WSN in 2014. He is responsible for project management, architectural design, specifications, cost estimates, client and business development, and continued growth of the firm’s architectural practice. Hlebichuk serves on the board for the Minnesota Veterans and Emergency Services Museum, is a volunteer artisan for the Boys and Girls Club of Rochester’s Chair Affair, and is a volunteer coach for the Rochester Youth Soccer Association.

Widseth Smith Nolting is a multi-disciplined firm of more than 200 employees providing engineering, architecture, land surveying and environmental services. Its offices are located in Alexandria, Bemidji, Brainerd, Crookston, East Grand Forks, Forest Lake, and Rochester, Minnesota, and Grand Forks, North Dakota. More information is available at WidsethSmithNolting.com.
Block named Associate Dean for Administration and Finance/Chief Financial and Operating Officer at UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences

GRAND FORKS, N.D.—Laura J. Block, CPA, CFP, has been named Associate Dean for Administration and Finance (ADAF) and Chief Financial and Operating Officer at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS). The ADAF oversees all non-academic operations and procedures at the SMHS and reports to the Vice President for Health Affairs at UND and Dean of the SMHS, Joshua Wynne, MD, MBA, MPH.

In her new role, Block will serve as a key member of the Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean’s leadership team; develop and execute administrative and fiscal initiatives to meet the short and long range strategic planning goals of the SMHS and UND; manage the SMHS financial operations and multi-dimensional business operations that involve four regional campuses across the state of North Dakota; and provide direction and oversight of the functional units within the SMHS Office of Administration and Finance.

“I am thrilled by the opportunity to contribute to the already strong team in place at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences,” Block said. “I’ve been watching the School from afar for a long time and have been consistently impressed with what the leadership here has accomplished for UND and the state over the last decade.”

Raised in North Dakota, Block comes to the SMHS from the UND Alumni Association & Foundation where she had been Chief Financial Officer since 2006. She brings with her two decades worth of executive experience in financial management. She earned her BSBA degree in Accountancy from UND in 1981 and her MBA from UND in 2010.

A reception welcoming Block to the School will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the West Atrium of the SMHS building on Friday, February 23.

Laura J. Block, CPA, CFP

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First issue will be available in March 2018
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Bioscience Association of North Dakota (BioND) is diligently working for the development of bio companies through startup and expansion of bio-based ventures in life sciences, bio-ag, bio-materials, bio-fuels and related entities.

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January 1 - January 31 Membership Renewals

The following businesses know the value of their Chamber Membership and have renewed their membership in The Chamber-GF/EGF. GIVE THEM A VISIT!

Al Palmer
Achieve Therapy & Fitness
Acme Equipment
Acme Rents (Heavy Equipment)
ACME TOOLS
Aflac District Office
Agassiz Associates, PLLC
AgCountry Farm Credit Services
All Reasons Self Storage, LLC.
Anchor Marketing
Anderson Brothers Auto Body Shop
Behl’s Photography
Cambridge Property Mgmt
Carrington Court Townhome Apts.
Chiro Rx Ltd
CHS Ag Services
City of East Grand Forks
City of Grand Forks
Coca-Cola Bottling Company High Country
Comeau Electric, Inc.
Comfort Keepers
Community Foundation of GF, EGF & Region
Community Options
Construction Engineers, Inc.
Corner Coffee
Custom Aire
Dakota Commercial & Development Inc. - Jerry Youngberg
Dakota Sales - Budweiser
Dakota TV & Appliance
Dean Foods N.C., Inc. - Land O’Lakes
Douglas Place
East Grand Forks Economic Development Authority
Edgewood Management Group, LLC
Edward Jones - Matt Odenbach
Evergreen Insurance
Federated Insurance
First Community Credit Union
Frandsen Bank & Trust - EGF
Galstad, Jensen, and McCann, PA
Gerrels Sports Center - Hockey World
GF County Agencies
Good Samaritan Society Heritage Grove
Grand Forks County Historical Society
Grand Forks Herald
Grand Forks Public Library
Grand Forks Public Schools
Greenberg Realty - Meggen Sande
Greenberg Realty, Inc.
Ground Round Grill & Bar
Handy Law Group PLLC
Happy Harry’s Bottle Shops
Home of Economy
Hospice of the Red River Valley
Hugo’s Retail Support Center
In-Prints Screen Printing, Inc.
Invest Wise, LLC
JC Penney
JC Penney Salon
Jenny Craig Weight Loss Centre

Job Service North Dakota
Joe Black’s
Keith’s Security World
Kenny’s Music
Kidwell’s Signature Cleaning, Inc.
L & M Meats & Sausage
Leighton Broadcasting
Leisureland RV
Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota
Mayport Insurance & Realty, Inc.
McKenna & Associates, P.C.
Meridian Behavioral Health
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
Nodak Electric Cooperative
North Sky Construction LLC
Northern Bag and Box Company
Northern Plains UAS Test Site
Now or Never Nutrition
Pepsi Americas, Inc.
Peterson Construction Company, Inc.
Pizza Ranch
Premier Signs, LLP
Red River State Recreation Area
Reliance Telephone Systems Inc.
Revive Nutrition
River Towne Properties, Inc.
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Senator Tom Campbell
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Strata Corporation
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Taco John’s
Texas Roadhouse
The Exponent
The Hub Pub
The Listen Center
The Olive Barrel
Thompson-Schaefer Insurance
Times Square Townhomes, I, Inc.
Times Square Townhomes, II & III, Inc.
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Transystems
Tri-Valley Transportation
True North Resource Center
UND Office of the President
Valley Bone & Joint Clinic
Walmart-32nd Ave
Widseth Smith Nolting - EGF
Wy’s Floral
Your Home Improvement Company
Prairie Harvest Mental Health is participating in this one day on-line fundraising annual event. Your giving is more impactful when matched by Dakota Medical Foundation and our generous donors. Please help us promote independence and an enhanced quality of life for adults with serious mental illness on February 8, 2018.

Your donation does make a difference!

CLICK HERE to reserve your spot into the next Chamber Newsletter.
Workplace Active Threat Response and De-escalation Techniques

Workplace violence is a growing concern for employers and employees across the country. Incidents of workplace violence can and do occur locally.

Attend this seminar to learn the following:
- Basic de-escalation techniques
- Basic pre-assault techniques
- How to respond to an incident involving workplace violence
- Importance of fostering a respectful atmosphere with peers, subordinates, and customers

Presented by:
Lt. William Macki, Uniform Patrol Bureau Commander,
Grand Forks Police Dept.

Lt. William Macki has 24 years of service at the Grand Forks Police Department with many overlapping specialized assignments including: 16 years in Special Operations (6 years as Hostage Negotiator, 8 years SWAT, 2 years as Special Operations group commander); 17 years of experience as a polygraph examiner (1000 examinations); 10 years of experience as a detective (3 narcotics, 7 supervisory detective); over 3,200 hours of continuing education; Master Degree in Public Administration; currently assigned as Patrol Commander, supervising 58 officers and sergeants in the Uniform Patrol Bureau.

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018
11:30am – 1:00pm
The Chamber, 202 N 3rd St

$20/Person – Chamber Member
(Includes Lunch)

$30/Person – Non-Member
(Includes Lunch)

Registrations are available online only.

To register and add the event automatically to your calendar click the register button below.

RESERVE NOW

Registrations not cancelled 3 days prior to event will be billed.

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