



# THE **Voice**

August 2023

[www.gochamber.org](http://www.gochamber.org)

## Grand Forks strives to be more "Business Friendly"!



Pictured above are several local retail business owners talking about how we can promote more of a shop local and "business friendly" attitude in our community.

In August the Chamber will host several meetings with Mayor Bochenski to talk about what else Grand Forks can do to be more "business friendly". Approximately 100 business people are invited to a series of meetings in three broad categories: Fast growing Grand Forks companies, local developers, and contractors.

When The Chamber held these meetings three years ago, right after Mayor Bochenski was elected, the Mayor made some intentional changes at City Hall working with city departments and staff to make Grand Forks more responsive to business and more "business friendly". This proactive approach has played a big role in the recent business development boom in our city.

# CHAMBER NEWS

## Chamber Board Support extension of Alerus Center Sales Tax.



*Barry Wilfahrt,  
Chamber President  
and CEO*

Although the final details are not set for the planned fall public vote to extend the Alerus Center  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cent sales tax for a new turf facility, aquatics center, and long term capital improvement projects for the City, The Chamber Board strongly support this type of quality of life investment in the community. Chamber Board Chair, Russel Crary notes we are in a fierce competition of workforce and the communities that are finding success are focused on quality of life initiatives like the proposed facilities offer.

[click here to see the preliminary park district plan](#)

Chamber Board Chair elect, Tony Hodny noted the focus on youth sports tournaments in these new facilities also makes economic sense.

Chamber President, Barry Wilfahrt compared the plan to refinancing your house to include some home improvements.

The Chamber also reiterated its strong support of the Children's Museum Project. The Chamber helped secure funding for this project during the legislative session.

# CHAMBER NEWS

## The Chamber Board and Committee Chairs Visit Rydell Toy Shop



Pictured above are members of The Chamber Board and Committee Chairs.



The Chamber Board, and Committee Chairs had a wonderful Tuesday evening of socializing at the Rydell Toy Shop! It's always great to have opportunities for networking and building relationships.

Rydell Toy Shop deserves a big thank you for hosting the event and providing some insights into their collection of beautiful cars. It was an enjoyable experience to learn more about these fascinating vehicles.

Ending the night with a tour of Lifestyle Storage was a nice addition to the event. It's great to see the appreciation for the impressive storage facility and the opportunity to explore it further.

# CHAMBER NEWS

## Agribusiness Committee City to Farm Tour



Vance Taylor  
President and CEO  
ND Mill and Elevator



The ND Mill and Elevator hosted nearly 30 local business people and community leaders for this year's Agribusiness City to Farm Tour. The Agribusiness City to Farm tour is aimed to bring together local business people and community leaders. Such events play a crucial role in strengthening the agricultural community and contributing to the growth and prosperity of the local economy.

The group toured the impressive ND Mill on Mill Rd. The facility plays a crucial role in the agricultural industry. As the largest flour mill in the United States, it boasts ten milling units, a terminal elevator, and a packing warehouse to handle the processing and shipment of milled products.

On a daily basis, the Mill produces and ships an impressive 60,500 hundredweight (cwt) of milled products. Additionally, it ships over 17,000 cwt of food-grade bran and wheat midds each day. This reflects the significant volume and scale of operations at the facility.

Overall, the ND Mill and Elevator is a critical player in the agricultural and food processing industry, making substantial contributions to the local economy and the broader agricultural community in North Dakota and beyond.

# CHAMBER NEWS

## Chamber Members and active Military Personal network at Military Affairs Committee "MAC" Golf Scramble



Pictured above are MAC Golf participants enjoying supper after the golf scramble



3rd Place winners pictured: Larry Sloan, SFC Tanner Norton, Bill Stauss. Not pictured: SFC Trevor Desrosier



2nd Place winners: CMSgt Carl Vogel, Tommy Kenville, Col Tim Monroe, Barry Wilfahrt



1st Place winners: CPT Eric Edwardson, Alex Torrey, Lyle Bertsch, CPT Josh Roller

The MAC Golf Scramble is an annual event that aims to foster connections and strengthen the bonds between the local community members and active military personnel. The tournament is designed to bring together two community members and two military members in each team, providing an opportunity for them to network and build meaningful relationships.

The event would not be possible without the generous support of sponsors, who contribute resources and funding to make the tournament a success. Additionally, volunteers play a crucial role in organizing and facilitating the event, ensuring that everything runs smoothly and participants have an enjoyable experience.

The MAC Golf Scramble serves as a platform for community members and military personnel to come together in a friendly and fun environment. Through this event, the community can express their gratitude and appreciation for the dedicated service of the active military personnel.

Overall, the tournament not only promotes camaraderie and friendship between the participants but also creates a positive and supportive atmosphere for the military and the local community. By participating in the MAC Golf Scramble, everyone involved contributes to building a stronger and more connected community, where the bonds between civilians and military members are nurtured and celebrated.

## Enhancing workplace safety

The presentation will provide information for business owners and their employees on how to prepare and potentially prevent an active threat from causing a mass casualty incident in their place of business. We will cover topics regarding recognizing a potential aggressor, options on how to protect yourself, protecting your employees, and measures that could be considered moving forward for the safety of your employees and customers.

### Presented by: Sheriff Andy Schneider



Andy Schneider  
Grand Forks  
County Sheriff

*Andy Schneider is the Grand Forks County Sheriff. He was elected in 2018 to serve in the position. He was hired in 2005 as a deputy sheriff by Sheriff Dan Hill. Over the years, Andy has attended thousands of hours of law enforcement training including active shooter and tactical response trainings. Along with being a concealed weapons instructor, Andy also provides presentations and instruction on preparation and response to active threats for businesses and schools. Andy is an assistant team leader for the Regional SWAT team, which he has been a member of for 15 years.*

*Andy grew up in rural Grand Forks with his three siblings. He now lives in Grand Forks with his wife Callie and their 5 boys. Andy spends his free time outdoors camping, hunting, and fishing with his family, watching his boys participate in multiple sports and activities, and volunteering for multiple*

**Wednesday, August 18, 2023**

**11:30am-1:00pm**

**The Chamber Board Room**

**\$20/person - Member**

**(Includes Lunch)**

**\$30/person - Non-Member**

**(Includes Lunch)**

*Registration Information*

**Limited seats available.  
Sign up today!**

Registrations for this seminar are available online only.

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)**

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## **F5 Project**

Darby Njos

311 4th Street S, Ste. 8,

Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-960-9648

[email-darby@f5project.org](mailto:email-darby@f5project.org)

<http://www.f5project.org/>

About F5 Project

Started by a former inmate in 2016, F5 Project was founded to help individuals struggling with incarceration, mental health, and addiction by providing resources and services to help obtain employment, housing, health care, and other basic needs. By empowering individuals to create meaningful changes through support and grace, F5 Project restores purpose for individuals, fosters healing, and rebuilds stronger communities. Learn more at [www.f5project.org](http://www.f5project.org). I'll get logged in and get it all set up. I'm based in Fargo, so I'll be adding my Grand Forks staff as well so they can utilize the membership to its fullest. Cheers,

## **Cornerstone Caregiving**

McKenzie Ratelle

1133 S Columbia Rd, Suite B1

Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-203-9326

[email-mratelle@cornerstonecaregiving.com](mailto:email-mratelle@cornerstonecaregiving.com)

<http://cornerstonecaregiving.com/grandforks/about-us/>

Cornerstone Caregiving is a senior in-home care service that allows our loved ones to stay where they feel most comfortable: home. We are experienced senior care professionals who are willing and ready to be with your loved ones whenever they need help, for as long as they need help. Cornerstone also proudly serves our veteran community with a fully funded VA program to provide quality care in the comfort of their own homes.

## **Elements Yoga**

Diane Magnuson

2397 Demers Ave Suite C

Grand Forks, ND 58201

[email-elementsyogagf@gmail.com](mailto:email-elementsyogagf@gmail.com)

<http://www.elementsyogagf.com/>

Elements Yoga is a relaxed & supportive space to practice yoga as a community. Along with our yoga classes, we also offer Healing Touch, Crystal Light Therapy and online Medical Therapeutic Yoga classes with Dr. Ginger Garner.

What are the yoga classes like at Elements?

- We begin each class with a breathing technique to help calm your mind and transition into your yoga practice.
- Classes are taught at a relaxed pace with one transition from floor to standing and then one transition back to the floor.
- We focus on feeling steady in the pose, before adding movement.
- We always stand next to a wall, so you can place your hand on the wall for balance or a feeling of security.
- Yoga is not competitive - it is a practice, not a performance.

## **KBR**

Timothy Morey

1220 Avenida Acaso, Suite A

Camarillo, CA 93012

805-465-1943

<http://www.kbr.com/en>

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## mid-season MEMBERSHIPS

PLAY THE LAST HALF OF THE SUMMER, PLUS GREAT FALL GOLF, FOR REDUCED MID-SEASON MEMBERSHIP RATES

VISIT [KINGSWALK.ORG](http://KINGSWALK.ORG) FOR DETAILS

## YOU'RE INVITED TO THE STATE OF THE UND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION ADDRESS

Gorecki Alumni Center

Tuesday, August 22 | 4:30-6 p.m.

[go.UNDalumni.org/address](http://go.UNDalumni.org/address)



FIVE ALBUMS. ONE NIGHT.

# JONAS BROTHERS

WITH SPECIAL GUEST *Lawrence*

ALERUS CENTER  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17



LIVE NATION



# MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

July 1, To July 31, 2023

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

American Federal Bank

Anytime Fitness

Beckstead's Auto Repair

Behl's Photography

Boardwalk Bar & Grill

Border States Trophy & Awards

Business Essentials

Cash-Wa Distributing Co. of Fargo

CHS Ag Services-Grand Forks

Cummins Sales and Service

Dakota Dry Bean

Development Homes, Inc.

Eagles Club #350

Edward Jones - Financial Advisor:

Brian Fedje

Empire Arts Center

Grease Monkey

Insure Forward

Insure Forward

Johnson Law Firm

Johnstown Bean Company

Monarch Travel & Tours

Northwestern Mutual

Pizza Ranch

The Greenhouse

Thrivent Financial - Chad Erickson

Valley Corn Maize



# SAND STEEL BUILDING CO.

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

Metal Building Construction  
Steel Fabrication  
Millwright Services



## Say Yes to Your Local Lending Experts



We process small loans for local businesses and multi-million dollar loans for large corporations with the same quality of service and expertise. Our status as a large community bank helps us offer the best of both worlds - the knowledge and expertise of a big financial institution and the customer service and attention to detail of a small community bank. With First International Bank & Trust, you'll be able to Say Yes to Living First with banking solutions tailored to your needs, from business loans to direct deposits. No matter what stage your business is currently in, we can help you grow into your future.

### Eureka!

Do you have a project or challenge that requires innovative solutions?

- New product design
- Changing company culture
- Logo/slogan design
- Recruitment tactics
- New marketing strategy
- Need to find new clients

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



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**I AM LIGNITE**

**Member 2 Member**  
*The Chamber E-Promotion*

[CLICK HERE TO ADVERTISE](#)

# AMBASSADORS MEETING

## 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.*

If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador please contact Jessica, [jessicat@gochamber.org](mailto:jessicat@gochamber.org) or call 701-772-7271.



Pictured above are the 2022-2023 Ambassadors.



## Time to plan your summer vacation!

Book your flight on Delta or Allegiant this summer and get away! Take the family and loved ones on those trips you have always wanted to go on. Take summer vacations and make memories to last a lifetime! Fly from GFK today!

Visit [www.gfkairport.com/airlines](http://www.gfkairport.com/airlines) to book flights.

# 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 Jessica at **772-7271** or [jessicat@gochamber.org](mailto:jessicat@gochamber.org) to schedule a ribbon cutting event.



## The Lighting Gallery

3622 S Washington St, Grand Forks



## Treat Play Love

1905 S Washington St B, Grand Forks

# BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

## Hosted by **All Embracing Home Care**

2211 So. Washington, Grand Forks, ND

**Thursday, August 17, 2023 - 4:45pm ~ 7:00pm**

**All Embracing Home Care** 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 is at \$1800.**

Stop by...Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities.  
You might even win **\$1800** in our Progressive Cash drawing!  
We'll draw the name of one Chamber Member business. If someone from that organization is present, they win!!

Forward this message on to your friends and colleagues.  
See you Thursday, August 17, 2023 at Business After Hours!

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

**Thank you to the lighting gallery, Something Sweet and ski and bike shop for hosting an eventful July Business After Hours.**



# MEMBER NEWS

## All Embracing Home Care Welcomes Roberta Hassett



*Roberta Hassett*

We would like to welcome Roberta Hassett. She is the new Developmental Disabilities Program Coordinator at All Embracing Home Care. Although not new to the healthcare industry, we are so happy to have her on our team. Roberta started with us in June of 2023. She is busy training, meeting new staff and clients. Focusing on individual client needs and quality care is a priority for Roberta.

The All Embracing Home Care (AEHC) Program Coordinator is responsible for supporting people in the achievement of their personal goals, needs and preferences. They demonstrate knowledge of Personal Outcome Measures/CQL regulations. The DD Program Coordinator acts as a liaison between the person supported, his/her family and/or guardian and other support networks.

Roberta lives in Grand Forks with her family and is very involved with the community. Stop by All Embracing and find out more about what we have to offer.

## Advanced Business Methods Acquires True IT LLC in Fargo ND

Advanced Business Methods (ABM), a North Dakota office products and solutions company headquartered in West Fargo, ND, has acquired True IT LLC, a Fargo, ND based Information Technology Managed IT Services and Solutions provider, providing high-quality tech solutions since 2012. The official announcement was made in West Fargo on Thursday, July 6. The move to acquire True IT first started in the Summer of 2022.



“It was essential to the growth of these companies to come together”, said Jeff Ellingson President of ABM. “Our customers have been asking for this for many years and now we can deliver them a greater experience when it comes to providing technology to our customers.”

The acquisition of True IT LLC fits into ABM’s mission and growth strategy. With the addition of True IT, and their expertise, ABM will expand its offerings beyond copiers, printers, wide format, and scanning solutions, to now include managed IT services, cyber security, project management, along with a robust Microsoft practice.

# MEMBER NEWS

## Alluma Chief Financial Officer Tammy Hickel Zola Announces Retirement



*Tammy Hickel Zola*

Alluma's Chief Financial Officer, Tammy Hickel Zola, has announced that she will retire at the end of this year.

Tammy joined the agency, formerly Northwestern Mental Health Center, as CFO in May 2015. Before joining Alluma, Tammy worked for Ecolab in various financial capacities for 15 years and spent the early part of her career in public accounting. Tammy earned her BSBA in Accounting from the University of North Dakota and became a Certified Public Accountant in 1987.

Alluma Chief Executive Officer, Shauna Reitmeier, said, "Tammy has built the framework of financial wellbeing for Alluma so we can continue to provide quality care and support to our region."

Tammy was instrumental in Alluma's successful implementation of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model in 2017. In 2018, she and her team helped establish a new clinic in East Grand Forks. Under Hickel Zola's leadership, the finance team was critical in the agency's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The team also implemented a new financial platform, established reporting and financial analysis, and operationalized process standardization.

"It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Alluma's first Chief Financial Officer, working alongside our talented finance team to establish an aligned purpose and to create an environment of quality relationships, financial literacy, and sustainability," says Tammy.

"I am blessed to have led the Alluma Finance team for the last eight years building a solid foundation by hiring experienced people who have an Alluma-aligned purpose. This team of people driven by purpose delivered many projects and process improvements to support Alluma into the future. It has been a tremendous experience and rewarding journey for which I am forever grateful."

The agency has chosen Tammy's replacement, Rachael Kangesier, who currently serves as Alluma's Controller. Rachael's appointment will begin on October 1, 2023.

# MEMBER NEWS

## Anne Carlsen is pleased to announce the hiring of Angie Bolme as the Therapy Operations Manager - East

Angie holds a bachelor's degree in communication disorders and a master's degree in Speech Language Pathology, both from MSUM. She has most recently completed her Education Leadership Credentialing.

Angie's professional background is extensive, having started her career in speech therapy at Medcenter One Hospital in Bismarck, ND, and then advancing to the Section Head of the Speech Therapy Department. Angie also spent 11 years providing speech therapy services at Miller Elementary School in Bismarck, during which she also served as Assistant Principal for three years. She then moved to West Fargo and worked as the Dean of Students at Independence Elementary School.

As the Therapy Operations Manager, Angie will be responsible for overseeing the overall operation and effectiveness of Anne Carlsen's outpatient therapy services in both Fargo and Grand Forks. Her role is critical in actively networking with therapy partners across North Dakota and Minnesota, identifying growth opportunities, and aligning Anne Carlsen's East Region therapy services with the needs of the communities we serve.

Learn more at [annecarlsen.org](http://annecarlsen.org).





# THE CHAMBER

## **Executive Committee**

**Chair: Russel Crary**, Crary Real Estate

**Chair Elect: Tony Hodny**, H & S Electrical Services LLC

**Past Chair: Tommy Kenville**, iSight Drone Services

**Matt Fisher**, Probitas Promotions

**Kay Derry**, Northern Roots Boutique

**Pat Boppre**, Blue Moose Bar & Grill

**Barry Wilfahrt**, Chamber GF/EGF

## **Board of Directors**

**Meghan Compton**, Altru Health System

**Mike Dunn**, Construction Engineers

**Torrie Enget**, Hugo's Family Marketplace

**Mike Fridolfs**, Northrop Grumman Corp.

**Annie Gorder**, Three Farm Daughters

**Tarek Howard**, Auto Finance Super Center

**Meloney Linder**, University of North Dakota

**Keith Lund**, GF EDC

**Mike McLean**, JLG Architects

**Matt Norby**, Norby's Work Perks

**Emily O'Brien**, Bioscience Association of ND

**Scott Reck**, Northdale Oil

**Andy Schneider**, Dakota Concealed/GF County Sheriff

**John Schumacher**, American Federal

**Penny Stai**, River Cinema

**Tyler Wilson**, Vilandre Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing

## **Sr. Military Advisor to the Board**

**Col. Timothy Curry**, GFAFB

## **Chamber Staff**

**Barry Wilfahrt**

President/CEO

**[barry@gochamber.org](mailto:barry@gochamber.org)**

**Kimberly Strom**

Vice President of Operations

**[kimberlys@gochamber.org](mailto:kimberlys@gochamber.org)**

**Tina Fetsch**

Executive Assistant

**[info@gochamber.org](mailto:info@gochamber.org)**

**Jessica Tennison**

Membership Director

**[jessicat@gochamber.org](mailto:jessicat@gochamber.org)**

