



March 2023

THE Voice

www.gochamber.org

Grand Forks Day at the Legislature a Huge Success



Lt. Governor Tammy Miller met with the Team Grand Forks delegation.

Pictured is the group from Grand Forks who participated in Grand Forks Day at the Legislature. The group made presentations on key issues and opportunities facing Grand Forks. The delegation met with Lt. Governor, Ag Commissioner, Commerce Commissioner, DOT Commissioner, Water Resources Commissioner, National Guard leadership, Bank of North Dakota President and CEO and the Chancellor of the University System.

CHAMBER NEWS

EGF Businesses and Leaders Meet in Intergovernmental Retreat



Key takeaways from the various presentations:

- EGF EDA – still has a handful of lots available for sale.
- City of EGF – Road infrastructure and an in town bridge are priorities
- Polk County – tightest budget in ever.
- EGF Park Department – the LaFave park plan was detailed. Will require a sale tax which is being considered at the legislature this session
- Northland – attendance figures for Fall Semester are looking positive; the bonding Bill with has some major improvements for labs at northland included in it.
- The Chamber – With Safe and Sick Time and Paid Leave Bills racing through the legislature the MN business climate in on track to be the worst in state's history compared to neighboring ND.
- MN Dist 1 Senator Mark Johnson – the session is moving very rapidly with virtually no discussion on any Bills which is not how the process should work to ensure the best outcomes for Minnesotans.

CHAMBER NEWS

Update on Bridges



*Barry Wilfahrt,
Chamber President
and CEO*

The City of EGF has been strongly promoting the two cities and two counties fund a consulting firm to walk the four government entities through the bridge site selection and funding process. Last week Polk County joined the two cities and agreed to fund its share of the process. On March 7th Grand Forks County will discuss and hopefully act favorably on funding this process so the bridge location and funding process can move forward while both MN and ND have federal funds and surpluses available.

The connections between our two cities is vital with over 1,500 people crossing in each direction between our two cities to work every day. Previous studies have shown just how many hours of driving time would be saved with an in town bridge location and the increased safety a Merrifield bridge provides by taking much of the truck traffic out of the downtown.

CHAMBER NEWS

Legislators Strategize at Chamber



Pictured are some of the participants in the February Legislative Strategy Session

Grand Forks Area Legislators meet monthly during the Legislative session with community leaders to strategize on key legislation that impacts Grand Forks. According to Chamber president, Barry Wilfahrt with so much at stake for Grand Forks future each legislative session it is critical the whole legislative team and all of the Grand Forks institutional partners are on the same page. Our success at the legislature every two years has tremendous impact every single business in Grand Forks.

On our agenda this year is Career Technical Education funding, Lift Funds for expanding and new businesses, Grand Sky and the UAS Test Site expansion and operations funding; I-29 interchange funding; workforce program funding; the Governors Destination Fund which could support the planned Children's Museum in Grand Forks; Red River Valley water supply funding; plus a whole list of priorities for UND like scholarships, National Security Corridor funding, and research funding.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Livewire

Kent Kolstad
Fargo, ND 58102

<http://livewirenow.com/>
kent.kolstad@livewirenow.com

Livewire was founded in 1999 by Kent Kolstad in Alexandria, Minnesota.

From the start, Kent aimed to supply our region with world-class audio, video, lighting, scenery and staging for corporate events, conferences, non-profit galas, concerts, and theatrical events, of all shapes and sizes.

In our 23+ years, we've had the pleasure of working with thousands of event planners to bring high-quality, impactful, successful events to life.

Livewire is now based in Downtown Fargo, North Dakota, with a constant presence throughout the North's greatest cities including Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Sioux Falls, Bismarck, St. Cloud, and Alexandria.

As we've grown, so has our reach. We've had the pleasure of working with clients on events across the country...with only 4 states left to cross off the list!

Get in touch today to start planning your next event's success

Tau Drones

Matt Dunlevy
Grand Forks, ND

matt@taudrones.com

Tau Drones is an analytics company focused on helping customers make strategic decisions about their building façades, and other building components. Tau Drones combines drones, artificial intelligence and data analytics to provide information on building health to facility managers in large public and private institutions. Tau Drones aims at becoming a one-stop solution for institutional facility building management solutions by providing labeled granular building envelope health information, energy consumption, carbon-dioxide emissions, maintenance recommendations, financial planning, 3D models and financial aid options. We create additional value for our customers through three main means of providing actionable data in the form of interactive dashboards and reports, which will help them: strategize their preventative management plans to reduce deferred maintenance on building facades; reduce their operational expenditures; and provide information needed for budgetary justifications.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Epitome Energy

Dennis Egan
Red Wing, MN 55066

<http://epitomeenergy.com/>
dennis@epitomeenergy.com

Provide new opportunities for farmers. Many soybean farmers are more than 100 miles away from a processing facility. Epitome's facility will provide a more efficient and reliable option for processing.

Joel Arnason

jfamoose@gra.midco.net

Midtown MarketPlace

Laura Dahlen & Jessica Ford
1990 S Washington St Suite E
Grand Forks, ND 58201

<http://www.midtownmarketplacegf.com/>
Email-midtownmarketplacegf@gmail.com

Midtown Marketplace is a community style small business market. We have a variety of vendors from clothing, jewelry, delicious treats and so much more! We are a collaborative and locally based market, located in Grand Forks, ND. If you are interested in being a vendor, or renting

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.



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AMBASSADOR Special

Become a member by April 1, 2023 & you'll receive 10% off at the Pro Shop & Eagle's Crest Grill all season, plus a free gift!

WOMEN *for* PHILANTHROPY

Marilyn Vetter, '77

APRIL 25, 2023

undalumni.org/wfp



ALERUS CENTER

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

February 1, To February 28, 2023

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

Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.
Big Sky Kennel
Bob's Oil and Gas LLC
Brode Communications Consulting, LLC
Campbell, Tom
Chiro Rx Ltd
Circle of Friends Humane Society
Compass Leadership Advisors
Conlin's Furniture
Edward Jones - Bryan Brenden
Ethos Home Care & Hospice
Express Employment Professionals
Farmers Union Insurance Agency, Inc.
German Wealth
Global Friends Coalition
HELIX wine & bites
High Plains Water
In-Prints Screen Printing, Inc.
It All Adds Up
Kidwell's Signature Cleaning, Inc.
Krampade LLC
Northern Valley Federal Credit Union
Now or Never Nutrition
Pampered Chef-Tonya Murphy
Pro Land | Snow
RiverView Clinic
St. Anne's Guest Home
Viking Track Services
Willie Huot
Women's Pregnancy Center



Women in Business Panel

This panel will feature industry professionals sharing their knowledge and experience.

Our session will conclude with a Q & A. Bring your questions!

Presented by: Kelly Pratt, Kindle Wellness, Kathy Reiser, Valley Petroleum Equipment Inc., Klaudia Holkup, Klaudia & Co.

Wednesday, March 15, 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](#)

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

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Creative Problem Solving

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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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.

February Ambassador Meeting, was held at Northside Cafe. Nicole Kringstad spoke about That Protein Place and Sam Jenson gave some information about Great Grand Forks Young Professionals.



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 to schedule a ribbon cutting event.



Red River Children’s Advocacy Center
rrcac.org, 1407 24th Ave S Suite C, Grand Forks, ND

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Hosted by **Riverview Clinic**

1428 Central Ave NW, East Grand Forks, MN

Thursday, March 16, 2023 - 4:45pm ~ 7:00pm

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 is at \$1300.

Stop by...Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities.

You might even win **\$1300** 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, March 16 at Business After Hours!

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

Thank you to Gorecki Alumni Center for hosting an eventful February Business After Hours.





GET THE SCOOP ON THE CHAMBER

2023 Membership
Drive
April 12 - May 16

WE ARE CURRENTLY ACCEPTING PRIZE
DONATIONS!

These donations are awarded to our
Membership Drive volunteers who work
ambitiously to bring in new chamber members!

Prize ideas include but are not limited to:

- Gift Cards
- Hotel Stay
- Golf Package
- Gym Membership
- Maid Services
- Electronics

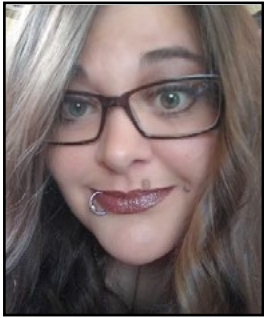
DONATE NOW!

**Your business will be recognized on the
donor list which will be seen in future
promotions.**

For questions regarding membership drive contact Jessica at
JessicaT@gochamber.org or 701-772-7271

MEMBER NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to Natasha Compeau!!



Natasha Compeau

We are honored to announce that Natasha Compeau has successfully completed the North Dakota Developmental Disabilities Curriculum and is a Certified Direct Support Professional. (CDSP)

Growing up Natasha's family was in the military and was born in England. She was raised in several countries before settling in the United States.

Currently she lives in the tiny town of Niagara, ND with her husband and 3 kids. She has 16 and 11 year old boys and a 10 year old girl. She also has a dog named, "Sally Splooter."

Natasha started her career as a caregiver 20 years ago when her mother became very ill. With her experiences she has excelled in what she has come to love. "I just want to help and make people's lives a little bit better," says Natasha. Well, she certainly does that and so much more every day.



Do you have Spring Fever? Tired of looking at the snow piles?

Book a flight today! Fly right from GFK to any destination on Delta or fly on Allegiant to Mesa, Las Vegas or Orlando. Plan your next trip today and spring will be here before you know it. Visit our website www.gfkairport.com/airlines

MEMBER NEWS

Local java joint brews up a food drive to stock shelves at college food pantry

East Grand Forks' Bully Brew taking donations in March for Northland Community & Technical College's new Pioneer Pantry

A favorite local coffee shop is hoping to fill up more than just mugs this March. Bully Brew Coffee is teaming up with Northland Community and Technical College to host a food drive during the month of March in an effort to fully stock the shelves of Pioneer Pantry, Northland's newly opened on-campus food pantry. Northland's Phi Theta Kappa honor students led the coordination with Bully Brew Coffee East Grand Forks to organize the event.

Sandi Luck, Founder and CEO of North Dakota Coffee Roastery and Bully Brew, has long used her multiple business ventures as a way to stay connected with the communities she serves. Giving back is one way she's been able to support local causes like Pioneer Pantry.

"We teamed up with Northland last year to develop the college's own brand of coffee called Rocket Fuel, which we used as a fundraiser and newsmaker for Northland," Luck said. "It was a great collaboration. As a graduate, Northland is near and dear to my heart, and I am excited to give back to the community that gave to me."

Food insecurity is a challenge for approximately one-third of all college students. While never having a formal program in place, Northland always provided assistance to students who requested it or connected students with local food pantries to help meet their needs. Pioneer Pantry, along with the recently launched Northland Cares program, is the college's latest effort to combat the many barriers to student success.

MEMBER NEWS

AUBREY BARNEY ACCEPTS NEW ROLE AS ND RETAIL MARKET MANAGER



Aubrey Barney
Alerus

Alerus is pleased to announce Aubrey Barney has accepted a new role as North Dakota retail market manager. In this role, she leads consumer service teams at Alerus locations in Fargo, Grand Forks, Northwood, and West Fargo and works closely market managers across Alerus' footprint to develop and implement best practices that enhance the client experience and drive branch success.

Barney joined Alerus in 2017 and most recently served as client services manager. She previously served as branch manager. Barney has nearly 15 years of experience in the financial industry, specializing in client service and consumer banking and lending. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and management from the University of North Dakota. She is active in her community and is a member of the Greater Grand Forks Young Professionals and a board member for the Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks and Region.

Barney lives in Thompson, North Dakota, with her husband and their three children.

ALERUS NAMES MIRANDA MYERS DIRECTOR OF RETAIL BANKING



Miranda Meyers
Alerus

Alerus is pleased to announce Miranda Myers has been named director of retail banking. In this role, she is responsible for all retail bank offerings, including deposits, consumer lending, teller line services, branch services, and security. She also leads the implementation of deposits-related initiatives, identifies trends, and evaluates the risk and potential of new technologies, with a focus on providing a high level of client service to meet their evolving needs.

Myers joined Alerus in 2006 as a teller and has served in various roles throughout her career with the company, including customer service supervisor, retail trainer, and branch services specialist. She most recently served as branch services manager, where she was responsible for consumer deposit product management, in-branch systems, client onboarding technology, and in-branch client behavior data. She holds a bachelor's degree in English and mass communication from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

THE CHAMBER

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Matt Fisher, Probitas Promotions
Kay Derry, Northern Roots Boutique
Pat Boppre, Blue Moose Bar & Grill
Barry Wilfahrt, Chamber GF/EGF

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