



THE Voice

www.gochamber.org

Mr. Wonderful “Wows” Chamber Annual Meeting Crowd.

Kevin O’Leary, Shark Tank’s “Mr. Wonderful” made a guest appearance at the Chamber Annual Meeting last month. He talked about how North Dakota is one of only three states he will invest in and the huge opportunity we have as a community. The business oriented audience very much appreciated and enjoyed his pro-business comments.

The complete annual meeting including Kevin’s comments are at this [link](#). Kevin’s comments start at about the 55-minute mark.



Kevin O’Leary



Kevin O’Leary, Josh Riedy

CHAMBER NEWS

Panels Talk About Grand Forks Future Opportunities

The two panels talked about future opportunities for the community in Bioscience, Cyber and AI. Historically our communities have been successful when focused on specific industries and opportunities.



Pictured are Richard Glynn, Executive Director of ND Bioscience Association, Todd Forkel, CEO Altru Health System, Joe Vacek, Associate Professor, Aviation UND

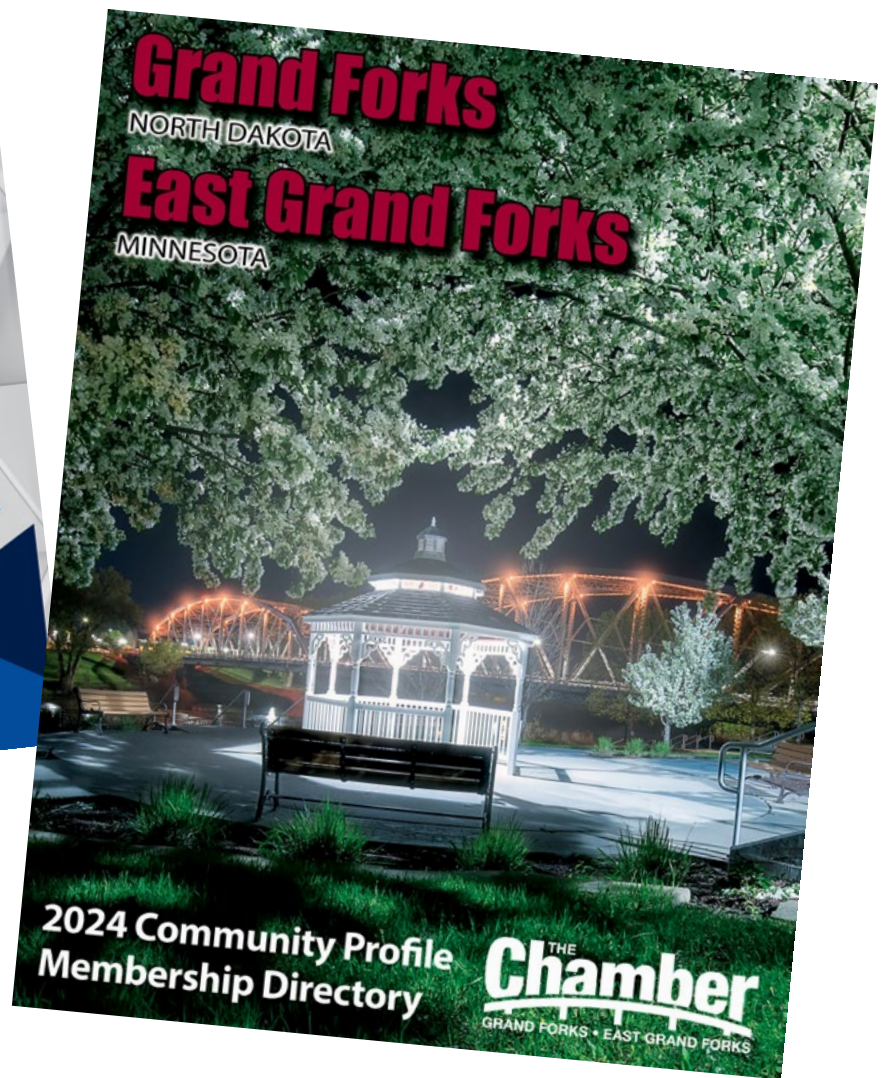


Pictured are Andy Armacost, UND President, Josh Riedy, CEO Thread, Ryan Adams, Associate Dean National Security/ Professor, College of Engineering & Mines UND

CHAMBER NEWS

2024 Membership Directory and Plan of Action in the Mail

Watch your mail for the 2024 Chamber Plan of Action and Membership Directory. Both will be mailed in the next couple weeks to all members. The plan of action talks about the many great committees and plans for 2024 and features so many great Chamber volunteers. The directory tells the Grand Forks story and makes a great recruitment tool in addition to listing all chamber members – Support your fellow chamber members – Shop local, attend local!!!



Attention HR Directors.

The membership directory is a great recruitment tool. It tells the Grand Forks / East Grand Forks story with great local flavor and photos. Request additional copies from the Chamber office to send to potential candidates for employment outside our region!

CHAMBER NEWS

John Friend Named Ambassador of the Year

Pictured is Chamber outgoing Board Chair Russel Crary with 2024 Chamber Ambassador of the year John Friend, PS Industries. John is a long time Ambassador and adds a spark to every ribbon cutting and chamber event he attends. Congratulations and Thank you John!!!

Pictured are Russel Crary, Crary Real Estate, John Friend, PS Industries



Molmen Selected as Havig Award Winner

Dave Molmen 2024 winner of the Henry Havig Award. Former Altru CEO and past Chamber Board Chair, Dave has been behind so many strategic developments and initiatives over the years. Dave certainly deserves the Henry Havig Award which is the Chamber's "lifetime achievement award".

Pictured is Dave Molmen, 2024 winner of the Henry Havig Award.

CHAMBER NEWS

BGEA Tours EERC

The Chamber Business Government Education Alliance toured the EERC last month. EERC CEO Charlie Gorecki talked about the nearly \$1B in grant funding the center recently received for hydrogen research in addition to the many other energy research programs the more than 250 staff are working on at any given time. This is truly a hidden gem doing great things for the world right in our backyard.

East Visit West Trip Planned for July 16th and 17th

The Chamber will lead another east meets west tour of parts of western ND as part of our ongoing relationship building effort. The 2024 event will be in conjunction with the ND Petroleum Councils "Cookfest" on July 16th. Put the dates on your calendar and plan to attend the two-day event now.

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GFK
www.gfkairport.com/

CHAMBER NEWS

UAS Focus Groups Develop Direction



Tommy Kenville,
ISight Drone Services
CoChair



Michael Fridolfs,
Northrop
Grumman Corp.
CoChair

Five separate focus group meetings were held in January around large UAS, small UAS, beyond visual line of sight, workforce and marketing. A SWOT analysis and several goals were set by each group. All of this information will be gathered, presented and discussed at the February 21st ND UAS Committee meeting at the HIVE from 3:30 to 5.

According to UAS CoChair Tommy Kenville, "we expect to come away with multiple sort and long term goals at that meeting. Then we can assign work groups to get them accomplished. According to Chamber CEO Barry Wilfahrt we will also look at organizational structures to best move the goals forward as well. UAS has a very bright future in Grand Forks and the whole state of ND. We must stay aggressive to remain a leader!



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How much money do you lose when your internet goes down?

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Since 1996, Dakota Carrier Network has been a dedicated internet provider, guaranteeing 99.999% uptime. As part of your team, we're here when you need us.

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From Start-Up to Success Story: Lessons from Thriving Local Entrepreneurs

The world is changing faster than ever. Harness cool technology for success and change, learn about big data and cyber security, and personalized delivery of goods!

Featured panelists:



Kaleb Dschaak, CEO
Fenworks



Josh Riedy, Founder/
CEO Thread



Sandi Luck, Founder/CEO Bully
Brew Coffee, ND Coffee Rostery
Owner of Board Room

Facilitated by:



Dee Decimus Holmes

Founder/Owner All Embracing Home Care, Founder, All Embracing Home Care Foundation, Co-Owner, El Way Child Care and Learning Center, Co-Owner Caff Property Group

Dee formerly ran the Small Business Committee at the Grand Forks East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce. She will lead the presentation as a moderator digging deep into the hard questions people have when building, leading, and sustaining businesses while engaging Kaleb, Josh, and Sandi as industry leaders through a fun, passionate, and innovative approach!

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 - 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

Carlson Insurance Agency

Chris Carlson

chrisnd25@yahoo.com

www.CoveredByCarlson.com

Carlson Insurance Agency is an Insurance Broker in Health, Life, Annuities, and Supplemental Insurance licensed with the state in multiple states including ND and MN I am appointed with all the major carriers and multiple others. I am currently studying to take my P&C license so by early February I will also be licensed to sell Auto, Home, and Business Insurance one day my agency will be a one stop shop for every insurance out there. I am the CEO and only employee as of now Christopher Carlson. I grew up on a farm in Lankin ND and lived in Grand Forks for the past 15 years.

UASPerspectives.com

Bill Adams

www.uasperspectives.com

charles.adams.1@und.edu

billadamsrealty@hotmail.com

UASPerspectives.com is a drone services company founded by an experienced UAS (Uncrewed Aircraft Systems) and aviation safety professional educated at the University of North Dakota. UND was the first university in the country to offer a UAS degree. Grand Forks is considered by most to be the #1 area for UAS in the country. With a solid educational background in UAS and 14 months of valuable experience with the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation, our founder, Bill Adams, has embarked on a solo venture, offering top-notch consulting services and imagery solutions. Drawing on industry knowledge, education, and industry connections, UASPerspectives.com is dedicated to providing unparalleled insights, service, and support in the ever-evolving field of drone solutions.

Kangoma's Multi Services Consulting Family Based Immigration and Visa Consultancy

Francis Dunor

www.kangomaconsulting.com

kkmultiservicesagencyllc@gmail.com

Our Services Itemized into Six (6) Categories:
Family-Based Immigration Service:

Filing for loved ones such as spouses, children, parents, brothers/sisters & fiancée, and other family members to come and live/work in the United States legally, etc.

USCIS Documents Processing:

Citizenship & Naturalization paperwork
 Re-admission to the U.S. after deportation/removal from the U.S.

First time Green card, Green card renewal either expired or lost, 1st time work permit for adjusted residents, etc.

Asylum application processing for refugees and other applicants eligible for immigration benefits and initial work permit for all adjusted residents in the U.S. either expired or lost, etc.

Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Visa Service:

Fiancée visa, DV visa, work visa, Student visa, visiting visa, etc.

Affidavit of Support (AOS) Preparation:

AOS paperwork preparation
 Civil Documents collection, financial documents collection

Submission to National Visa Center (NVC)

Financial Services:

Life & Auto Insurance, Income Tax & small Investment education

Liberian civil documents processing:

Intent to deny, request for evidence, initial evidence & additional evidence letters from USCIS, ECOWAS Passport, Birth certificate, Traditional marriage & divorce certificates, plus more.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

OpXUAS

Joe Cozart

joecozart@outlook.com

We're not just about enhancing operational efficiency in UAS applications. We're also here to provide expert guidance on navigating barriers to entry, understanding and overcoming barriers to acceptance, and even assisting in securing funding. My expertise includes identifying potential investors, crafting impactful pitch decks and presentations, and facilitating negotiations.

LucentHD

Josh Goldade

christians@lucenthd.com

lucenthd.com/

LucentHD is a design, engineering, and construction firm that provides AV system integration and installation for enterprise clients as well as AV consultants. LucentHD was founded by Josh Goldade and Jared Anderson. The founders of LucentHD have worked on over 200 major sports designs and installations throughout the U.S. and Canada. These projects have been for NFL, NBA, NHL, MLS, and NASCAR clients as well as major NCAA universities. LucentHD's core capabilities provide an AV project delivery that is both turn-key and reliable. LucentHD provides best-of-breed design approach using industry leading technology partners, seamless technology integration for a total solution and complete project management during deployment. LucentHD can also build anything with in-house custom fabrication, provide complete modeling and engineering of solutions and photo realistic renderings and modeling visualizations.

Crookston Building Center and Dakota Valley Lumber

Jarid Cameron

accounting.cbc@midconetwork.com

Family-owned servicing the Red River Valley since 1987. We can be reached at Crookston Building Center 218-281-1170 and at Dakota Valley Lumber Grand Forks, ND 701-775-7522 for building materials, cabinets, and flooring. Drafting offered. Thank you for your business.

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Syler Feldman

hello@haulawayjunkdemo.com

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Haul Away Junk & Demo handles the removal of all junk or unwanted items. We do demolition as well.

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Feb. 16 & 17 | Mar. 1 & 2
ALERUS CENTER | 6-9 pm

event by:
gf parks
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Saturday, April 27 | Alerus Center | 5-11 p.m.

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 JON REDDICK
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

January 1, To January 31, 2024

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

Aatrix Software	DCN (Dakota Carrier Network)
Acme Equipment	Delta Dental of Minnesota
Altru Family YMCA	Dietzler Electric LLC
Altru Health Foundation	Eagle's Crest Grill
American Legion Post 6	East Grand Forks Economic Development Authority
Anderson Brothers Auto Body Shop	Edgewood - East Grand Forks
Badger Dental Group	Edward Jones - Financial Advisor: Brian Emerson
Bears Home Solutions	El Way Child Care and Learning Center
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Family Realty - Jodi Danzl	Express Employment Professionals
Blue Zones Project - Grand Forks	Gerrells Sports Center - Hockey World
Brekke Tours & Travel	Golden Rule Auto Repair
Bremer Bank	Good Samaritan Society Heritage Grove
Buffalo Wild Wings	Grand Forks Area Youth For Christ
CF Industries Distribution Facilities, LLC	Grand Forks Builders and Traders Exchange
Chiro Rx Ltd	Grand Forks Herald
Choice Bank - South Washington	Grand Forks Public Library
City of Grand Forks	Grand Forks Public Schools
Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks & Region	Ground Round Grill & Bar
Connect Interiors	Hampton Inn & Suites
Construction Engineers, Inc.	Hilton Garden Inn - Grand Forks - UND
CPS, Ltd. Engineering - Land Surveying	Houston Engineering, Inc.
Curt Kreun	Italian Moon Pizza & Restaurant
Dahl Funeral Home	Jersey Mike's Subs
Dakota Sales - Budweiser	JLG Architects
Dakota Supply Group	Keith's Security World
Dakota TV & Appliance	Kidwell's Signature Cleaning, Inc.
Dakota Venture Group	

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

KROX Radio

Leighton Broadcasting 1310 KNOX/97

KYCK/1043 Cities FM/Rock 95/Z947

Livewire

Mainstream Boutique

McDonald's - 32nd Ave

McDonald's - EGF

McDonald's - Gateway Dr.

McDonald's - S. Washington

Mexican Village

Midco

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Modern Information Systems, Inc.

Morgan Printing, Inc.

My Place Hotels

National Property Inspections - Tim
Brown

ND Mill & Elevator

Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Nodak Insurance Company - Kris Moen
Agency

Northern Lights Council, Boy Scouts of
America

Northern Plains Financial

Northwood Park Townhomes

Norwex - Stacey Brorson

Oxford Realty LLC - David Blumkin

Pace Painting & Drywall

Paragon Pro Manufacturing Solutions

Petopia

Philadelphia Macaroni Company

Premier Signs, LLP

Priority Title, LLC.

RDO Equipment Company

Red River State Recreation Area

Reliance Telephone Systems Inc.

Rydell Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac

Rydell Honda Nissan of Grand Forks

Rydell Toyota of Grand Forks

Sanford Health Grand Forks Clinic

Simonson Lumber and Design Center

Speedway Grill & Bar

Stifel Nicolaus

Strive Life Grand Forks

Suedel Therapeutics and Wellness

Swanson & Warcup, Ltd.

Swingen Construction Company

Tri-Valley Transportation

True North Resource Center

UND Office of the President

United Way of Grand Forks, East Grand
Forks & Area

US Foods

Vaaler Insurance, a Marsh & McLennan
Agency LLC Company

Valley Oral & Facial Surgery

Valley Vision Clinic

Vilandre Heating, Air Conditioning,
Plumbing

Webster, Foster & Weston Consulting
Engineers, Inc

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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. The qualifications for an Ambassador include embodying a positive and engaged spirit, enjoying interactions with new people, demonstrating enthusiasm, flexibility, and integrity, and possessing the ability to work effectively as both a team player and a team builder. Through their commitment and positive representation, Ambassadors actively contribute to the success and growth of the Chamber and its members.

Join the team. Become a Chamber Ambassador!

Being an Ambassador provides opportunities for you to promote your business, and network while doing something great for your community!
(Your business must be a current Chamber member to participate)

If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador please contact Tina, info@gochamber.org or call 701-772-7271.

The Chamber Ambassador meet on the 3rd Monday of the month. Last month the Committee held their monthly meeting at Pizza Ranch. It's evident that the Ambassadors play a crucial role in supporting the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Community,

Thank you to everyone on the Ambassador Committee for their dedication and efforts in making a positive impact on the 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 Tina at **772-7271** or [**info@gochamber.org**](mailto:info@gochamber.org) to schedule a ribbon cutting event.



Pictured are employees of Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, in The Olive Ann, Downtown Grand Forks.

Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea

322 Demers Ave #100, Grand Forks, ND 58201



Thank you for donating!

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Alerus Center
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Best Western Harvest Inn and Suites
Blue Zones Project- Grand Forks
Buffalo Wild Wings
Burian & Associates, LLC
CleanTech
Dairy Queen-Northend
DCN (Dakota Carrier Network)
Easter Seals Goodwill ND, Inc.
First Community Credit Union
Forks Freightliner
Genevas
Girl Scouts- Dakota Horizons
Grand Cities Games
Grand Forks Park District
Ground Round
Harry's Steakhouse x 5
Hebron Brick Supply
Hugo's Family Market Place
ISight Drone Services
Jewelry on the Run
Kenny's Music
Kindle Wellness
Kost Materials

Nelson Ford
Network Center Incorporated
North Sky Construction LLC
Nodak Electric Cooperative
Northrop Grumman Corporation
Northern Roots Boutique
Probitas Promotions
Red River Valley Habitat for Humanity
River Cinema 15
Ruffing It Doggie Daycare, Overnight
Center & Grooming
Simply Maid
S&S Promotional Group
Sterling Carpet One
Sublime Aesthetic Professionals, LLC
Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea
Thales
The Golf Center
The Shire Bar & Grill
True North Equipment
Ultima Bank Minnesota
University of Minnesota Crookston
UND Marketing & Communications
Vilandre Heating, Air Conditioning &
Plumbing
UND Center for Innovation
Valley Senior Living

MEMBER NEWS

BBI International welcomes two spring interns

BBI International has hired two interns for the spring of 2024 within the Sales & Marketing Departments.



Grace Nustad

BBI International welcomes Grace Nustad as the Social Media & Marketing Intern. Grace will assist with the marketing efforts promoting the International Biomass Conference & Expo, the International Fuel Ethanol Workshop & Expo, along with BBI International's family of publications including Ethanol Producer Magazine, Biomass Magazine, UAS Magazine and SAF Magazine.

Nustad will also assist with social media marketing for all BBI International media and events, increasing reach on LinkedIn, X and Facebook.

Nustad, originally from Grand Forks, ND, is a senior at the University of North Dakota where she is studying marketing, managerial finance and accounting. She will graduate with a degree in Business Administration in May 2024. She is also involved in Marketing Club and Beta Gamma Sigma International business honor society.



Mattaeus Drill

BBI International also welcomes Mattaeus Drill as Sales Intern. He will assist the sales team with lead generation, data management, and customer service.

Drill will also assist with the execution of trade shows, including discussing opportunities with sponsors, exhibitors, attendees and speakers, and assist with influencing customers to purchase advertising and subscribe to BBI International trade publications.

Drill, from New Richmond, Wisconsin, is a senior at the University of North Dakota, where he is majoring in Marketing with a minor in Professional Sales. He is the Director of Recruitment for Delta Tau Delta fraternity and serves as vice president of UND Men's Club Hockey. He also volunteers with I-29 Adopt-a-Highway and The Big Event in Grand Forks, ND.

MEMBER NEWS

Introducing the All Embracing Home Care Foundation: Revolutionizing Access to Quality Home Care Services

All Embracing Home Care is thrilled to announce the launch of its non-profit arm, the All Embracing Home Care Foundation. With a steadfast commitment to transforming the landscape of home care, the foundation aims to make quality services accessible to all individuals, especially those in the aging community and those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Vision for a Compassionate Future

The All Embracing Home Care Foundation envisions a world where every individual receives the highest quality of care, services, and equipment. Rooted in the belief that accessible and compassionate home care is a fundamental right, the foundation aspires to be a catalyst for positive change. By mobilizing resources, fostering strategic partnerships, and inspiring a culture of philanthropy, the foundation seeks to create a healthier and more inclusive society.

Mission and Focus Areas

The foundation's mission aligns seamlessly with its parent organization, All Embracing Home Care, focusing on:

- Ensuring accessible, compassionate, and high-quality home care services.
- Cultivating a community of generous donors and partners.
- Addressing the unique needs of individuals in the aging community and those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Engaging in collaborative efforts with local organizations, businesses, and community leaders.
- Advocating for systemic change through education, awareness campaigns, and policy advocacy.

Opportunity for Growth and Collaboration

As the foundation embarks on this transformative journey, it invites community members, organizations, businesses, and philanthropists to join hands. Opportunities for collaboration include:

- Donations and sponsorships to support vital programs and initiatives.
- Strategic partnerships to leverage collective resources and expertise.
- Community engagement initiatives to involve stakeholders in planning, execution, and evaluation.
- Advocacy efforts to address healthcare disparities and systemic challenges.

Get Involved

For more information about the All Embracing Home Care Foundation, its mission, vision, and initiatives, and to explore collaboration opportunities, please contact us at foundation@allembicinghc.com.

MEMBER NEWS

BBI International Promotes Dana Daniels to Call Center Coordinator



Dana Daniels

BBI International would like to announce the promotion of Dana Daniels to Call Center Coordinator. She will be responsible for overseeing the daily operations of our call center, managing telemarketing staff, and ensuring optimal performance and customer satisfaction, including managing directory listings for all magazines at BBI International.

Daniels joined the company in 2021 as Customer Service Representative. She has also supported BBI International at industry events through customer service and registration support.

Daniels is currently a student at Northland Community & Technical College, where she will graduate in 2025 with a degree in Accounting. She is originally from Littlefork, Minnesota.

BBI International Promotes Chloe Piekkola to Map Data and Content Coordinator



Chloe Piekkola

BBI International would like to announce the promotion of Chloe Piekkola to Map Data and Content Coordinator. She will be responsible for maintaining and updating physical and digital map databases for all product lines, ensuring accuracy and relevancy of content, and coordinating with various editorial teams to gather and validate data and requested information.

Piekkola joined the company in 2021 as Customer Service Representative and Staff Writer. She has also supported BBI International at industry events through speaker logistics support.

Piekkola is currently a student at the University of North Dakota, where she will graduate in May 2024 with a degree in Communications and a minor in Journalism. She is originally from Anoka, Minnesota.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Hosted by **Acme Equipment**

3401 Gateway Drive, Grand Forks, ND 58201

Thursday, February 15, 2024 - 4:45pm ~ 7:00pm

Acme Equipment invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun Business After Hours event!

Free Admission

**Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, drink ticket & cash bar, door prizes
Progressive cash drawing is at \$900.**

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

You might even win **\$900** in our Progressive Cash drawing!

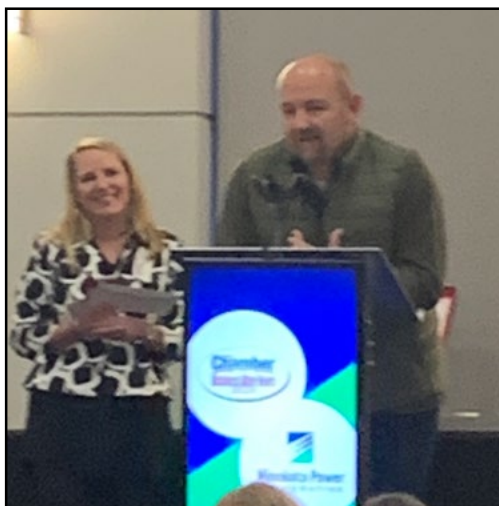
We'll draw the name of one Chamber Member business. If someone from that organization is present, they win!!

Forward this message on to your friends and colleagues.

See you Thursday, February 15 2024 at Business After Hours!

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

Thank you to Minnkota Power Cooperative for hosting an eventful Business After Hours.



THE CHAMBER

Executive Committee

Chair: Tony Hodny, H & S Electrical Services LLC

Chair Elect: Mike McLean, JLG Architects

Past Chair: Russel Crary, Crary Real Estate

Mike Fridolfs, Northrop Grumman Corp.

Kay Derry, Northern Roots Boutique

Pat Boppre, Blue Moose Bar & Grill

Barry Wilfahrt, Chamber GF/EGF

Board of Directors

Matt Bredemeier, Grand Forks Subaru Kia

Jon Fargo, Retrax Holdings, LLC

Matt Fischer, Probitas Promotions

Todd Forkel, Altru Health System

Derek Holt, First Community Credit Union

Tarek Howard, Auto Finance Super Center

Meloney Linder, University of North Dakota

Keith Lund, GF EDC

Matt Norby, Norby's Work Perks

Emily O'Brien, Bioscience Association of ND

Scott Reck, Northdale Oil

Phil Ring, McKinnon Company

Liz Savage, Hugos Family Marketplace

Andy Schneider, Dakota Concealed/GF County Sheriff

Penny Stai, River Cinema

Tyler Wilson, Vilandre Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing

Sr. Military Advisor to the Board

Col. Timothy Monroe, GFAFB

Chamber Staff

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President/CEO

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Tina Fetsch

Marketing and Communications Director

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