



THE Voice

March 2024

www.gochamber.org

For over 50 years the Chamber has offered Brown Bags

Why are they successful? The focus at brown bags is on practical real world advice from experts not the academic or theoretical approach. Participants walk away with information and action steps they can put to work in their small business or organization right away which is why they are so popular.



Pictured 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, Kaleb Dschaak, CEO Fenworks, Sandi Luck, Founder/CEO Bully Brew Coffee, ND Coffee Roastery, Owner of Board Room.

CHAMBER NEWS

Chamber Receives \$250,000 Base Retention Grant

The Chamber was awarded a \$250,000 base retention grant by the State of North Dakota. The Mayor's Base Retention Committee will determine the strategy and specific use of the funds for base retention efforts. At a high level the funds will be used for:

1. Strategic Advising on defense missions and base infrastructure
2. Advocacy and Awareness on missions and infrastructure
3. Quality of Life Issues

Members of the Mayor's Base Retention Committee are:

Brandon Bochenski, Grand Forks Mayor

Dave Engen, Grand Forks County Commissioner

Senator Scott Meyer, Chamber MAC Committee CoChair

Bruce Gjovig, US Air Force Civic Leader

Barry Wilfahrt, Chamber CEO and US Air Force Air Combat Command Civic Leader

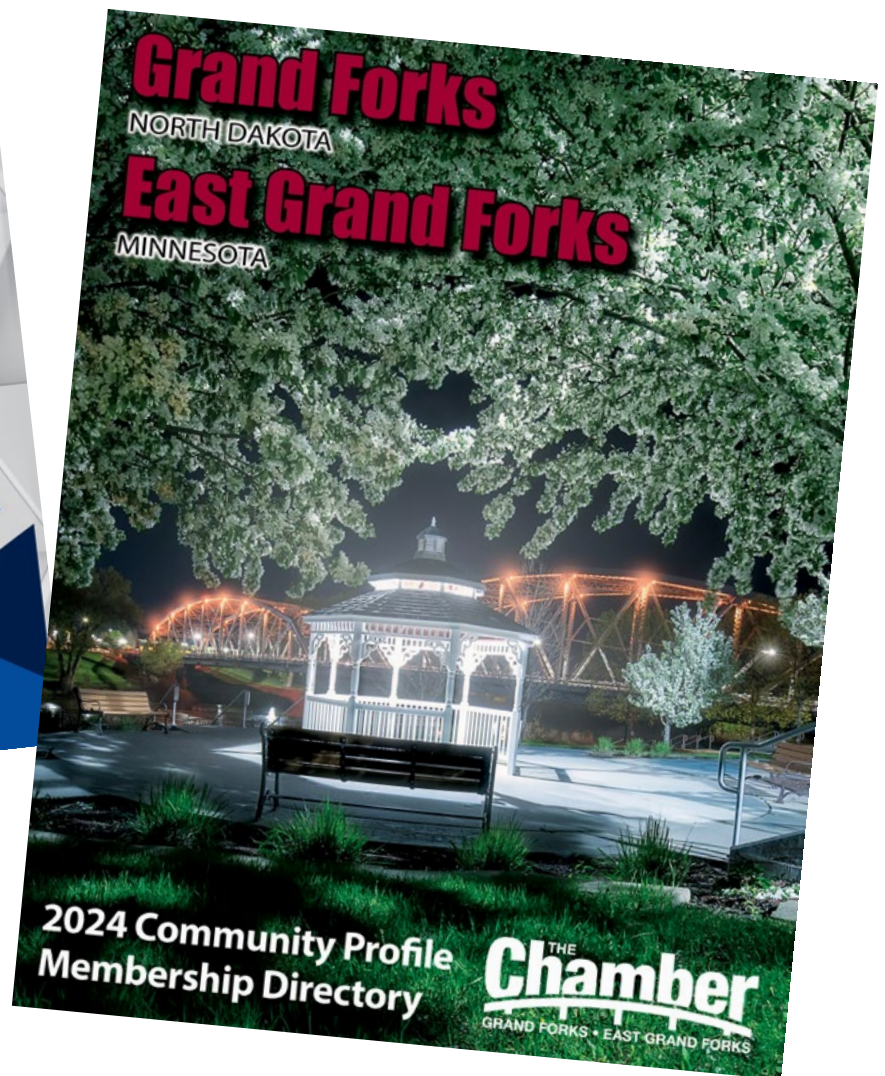
The grant will be administered through the ND Department of Commerce.



CHAMBER NEWS

2024 Membership Directory and Plan of Action

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 701-772-7271 or info@gochamber.org to send to potential candidates for employment outside our region!

CHAMBER NEWS

Air Service Expansion Committee Update

The Mayor's Air Service Committee is currently making progress on assessing potential future air carriers to augment current air service options. Once the consulting firm finishes its report the Chamber has asked for an opportunity for the report to be presented to area employers for their input and reaction. The Chamber's Past Board Chairs will also hear the report once it is concluded.

In the meantime, businesses are encouraged to fly local whenever possible. Currently 53% of passengers in the Grand Forks catchment area take flights out of other airports. Like all businesses its "use it or lose." So fly GFK.



East Grand Forks Update

First, Mayor Steve Gander; City Administrator, Reid Huttunen; EDA Director Paul Gorte and Chamber President Barry Wilfahrt are meeting weekly to work on specific growth opportunities for East Grand Forks. From vacant buildings, vacant lots, etc. everything is being looked at. Contact are being made and we are doing everything we can to keep EGF growing and thriving. Every week each of us has homework to get done before the next week's meeting. If you are aware of an opportunity, we should be pursuing please let one of us know.

Second, watch for a series of three articles in the East Grand Forks Exponent and in Chamber social media in March on the current strengths and weakness of the current East Grand Forks economy, some opportunities for East Grand Forks and also how policy decisions in St Paul are impacting the East Grand Forks business community.

Finally, the analysis on the feasibility of various bridge locations and what needs to specifically happen for each location is moving forward. Both Counties and Cities are working together on this analysis which is the next step to building a 4th bridge between our two cities.



CHAMBER NEWS

UAS Committee Update



Tommy Kenville,
ISight Drone Services
CoChair

Michael Fridolfs,
Northrop
Grumman Corp.
CoChair



The UAS Committee met in February and reviewed the raw data from the focus groups including raw SWOT analysis date in other words every comment that was made. They also reviewed the prioritized suggested goals from each of the other.

MN Legislative Session is Underway

The MN legislative session is just getting underway. The DFL controlled legislature has promised no additional tax increases on business this session, however there will also be no rollback on the many new regulations and programs passed in 2023 session. Your local Chamber is part of the MN Chamber Federation of local chambers fighting for business in MN. According to Chamber President, Barry Wilfahrt "The Legislature has to understand that policy changes are having consequences on MN business growth and sustainability." Businesses are encouraged to contact legislators they know especially in the Twin Cities metro area.

Have Coffee with Chamber President



Barry Wilfahrt,
Chamber President
and CEO

Drop me an email. I would love to stop by your business for a visit. Just email me at barry@gochamber.org and I am happy to come to your business to visit about what is all going on at the Chamber and also hear about what's going on in your business.

Discover Your Leadership Mantra

Key Highlights:

1. Discover your leadership mantra. One size does not fit all.
2. Join us and learn about taking intelligent risk, tolerating mistakes, respecting boundaries, and most importantly having the right people in place to make the right choices.
3. Come and find out about safety, courtesy, show, and efficiency. How perception trumps intent.

Our speaker, seasoned in diverse business domains, will share knowledge and experiences.

Our session will conclude with a Q&A.

Featured Speaker:



Joe Cozart
Consultant, OpXUAS

Accumulation of valuable expertise and profound background in corporate management, nonprofit organizations, raising private capital, event planning, as well as marketing and branding, acquired from my significant experience at 3M and Disney, has enabled me to leverage my comprehensive skill set.

Wednesday, March 20, 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

Agile Accounting Solutions

Kayla Schlueter

kayla@agileaccountingsolutions.com

www.agileaccountingsolutions.com

We empower small and midsize businesses with authenticity and respect. Whether it is reviewing financials, QuickBooks training/support, or handing the bookkeeping, we meet our clients where they are at and work with them to achieve their goals.

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Link to Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/agileaccountingsolutions/>

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- Expert guidance to find the best plans for your company/employees
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Contact us today by
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more information

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Allegiant
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GFK
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KING'S WALK GOLF COURSE

AMBASSADOR Special

Become a member by April 1, 2024 & you'll receive 10% off at the Pro Shop & Eagle's Crest Grill all season, plus a free gift!

WOMEN *for* PHILANTHROPY

First Lady Kathryn Burgum

April 18 | 11:30 - 1 p.m.
Gorecki Alumni Center

go.UNDalumni.org/wfp

THE ORIGINAL
HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

2024 WORLD TOUR

ALERUS CENTER

GRAND FORKS, ND | **APR 1**

Presented By

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

February 1, To February 29, 2024

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

Achieve Therapy & Fitness

Acme Rents (Tailgate)

ACME TOOLS

Advanced Ag Services LLC

Aflac District Office

Aflac District Office

Aflac District Office

Aflac District Office

Aflac District Office

Aflac District Office

AgCountry Farm Credit Services

Alzheimer's Association MN - ND

American Family Insurance-Larson and Associates Agency, LLC

AmeriPride

Becker Marketing Consultants

Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND

Bob's Oil and Gas LLC

Campbell, Tom

CHS Ag Services-Warren

City of East Grand Forks

Columbia Mall

Crary Real Estate-Linda Pierce

Dahlstrom Motors

Dakota Commercial & Development, Inc

Doherty Staffing Solutions

Ethos Home Care & Hospice

Federated Insurance-Adam Shaugabay

First Class Mortgage

Grand Forks Clinic

Grand Forks Senior Center

Home of Economy

Hugo's Retail Support Center

iHeart Media

Krampade LLC

Kuhl Properties

Labradorly Marketing

Leisureland RV

Mayo Manufacturing

Networking Specialists, Inc.

Northern Valley Federal Credit Union

Outsider Entertainment

PS GARAGE DOORS

Red River Farm Network

River Towne Properties, Inc.

RiverView Clinic

Robin Hood Business Services

Russell Hons Photography

Ski & Bike Shop

Terracon Consultants, Inc.

Texas Roadhouse

The Bun Lounge

Thermal Air

Thrifty White Pharmacy #081

Tire One Auto Center

Up North Window Cleaning

Valvoline Instant Oil Change

Valvoline Instant Oil Change

WDAZ TV

Xcel Energy

SAND STEEL BUILDING CO.

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

Metal Building Construction
Steel Fabrication
Millwright Services



EXPAND YOUR BUSINESS



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MEET THE PEOPLE WHO ARE LIGNITE

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The Chamber E-Promotion

**CLICK HERE TO
ADVERTISE**



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 Northside Cafe. 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** to schedule a ribbon cutting event.



Pictured are employees of United Way and Chamber Ambassadors

United Way

1013 N 5th St, Grand Forks, ND 58203



Pictured are employees of Alerus, city officials, The Chamber along with Chamber Ambassadors

Alerus Corporate Center

401 DeMers Ave, Grand Forks, ND 58201



2024 Membership Drive

April 9 - May 14

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 Janelle at janellew@gochamber.org or 701-772-7271

MEMBER NEWS

Brady Martz & Associates CEO Todd Van Dusen Announces Intention to Retire

Top 100 nationally ranked accounting firm Brady Martz & Associates today announced that CEO Todd Van Dusen intends to retire in 2024.

"I'm proud of what we've accomplished at Brady Martz and of the incredibly talented and committed people I work with every day," said Van Dusen. "Together, we have reimagined financial and business advisory services, and worked to improve the financial health of our clients and communities. It has been a privilege to spend the past 30 plus years serving both. However, I'd now like to devote more time to my passions outside the workplace. I remain committed to working closely with the Board and my successor, Stacy DuToit, for a smooth transition."

After Van Dusen notified the Board of his intentions, the process to determine Brady Martz's next CEO was initiated culminating with a vote of the full shareholder group. Current Chief Operating Officer (COO) Stacy DuToit has been elected to serve as the Firm's next CEO. DuToit will assume the role effective October 1, 2024.

Board Chairperson Perry Mattson said, "Todd has made an extraordinarily positive and lasting impact on Brady Martz and our people. His decision to retire marks the end of a remarkable run that has seen impressive accomplishments in establishing Brady Martz as a trusted brand. Todd has delivered for our shareholders, team members, clients, and communities. On behalf of the entire Board, I want to thank him for his service and commitment to supporting a smooth transition."

Van Dusen joined Brady Martz in January 1989 as an intern and then spent the next 20 years of his career in client service. During his tenure, he's had the opportunity to work in various areas of the accounting industry such as audit, tax, and business valuation. Additionally, he's served in several leadership roles including Market Segment Lead for the Minot office and Board Member. Under Van Dusen's leadership, Brady Martz has grown to nearly 400 team members, including more than 50 shareholders, and serves communities in North Dakota, Minnesota, and South Dakota. He is a member of the North Dakota CPA Society (NDCPAS), American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), and Minot State University Alumni Association.

Founded in 1927, Brady Martz has been providing exceptional client service for nearly a century. Headquartered in Grand Forks, the firm has nine offices throughout North Dakota, Minnesota, and South Dakota. Brady Martz is proud to offer advisory, audit & assurance, and tax services to clients in a wide variety of industries. For more information, visit [bradymartz.com](https://www.bradymartz.com).

MEMBER NEWS

All Embracing Home Care Welcomes Brenda Serrano as the New Director of Education/Marketing



Brenda Serrano

Brenda will join our team at All Embracing Home Care. As Director of Education/Marketing Brenda will be responsible for tracking the education process of the Care Mangers.

Brenda finds passion in helping those that need assistance while ensuring they are treated with dignity and respect. Her past work experience includes the aging and disabled population while employed in the healthcare industry.



She has 2 sons, who are her pride and joy, along with 2 pets; 1 cat and 1 dog. She enjoys puzzles, family time, watching documentaries, learning anything new and innovative. She also loves to cook all kinds of food and try new recipes!

We pride ourselves on "Lovin' on Your Loved Ones." As the needs of our community grow, so do we. We help people of all ages live as independently as possible, without compromising their health and safety. We are a professional in-home care company servicing the Red River Valley, and we specialize in providing customized nonmedical care for senior citizens and individuals with special needs. Our goal is to enable our clients to live comfortably in surroundings which are familiar to them. To find out more information about All Embracing Home Care, visit: allembracinghomecare.com or give them a call today: 701-330-8373.

Bridging the aquatics gap in Grand Forks

UND, GF School District present plan for local swim activities, in anticipation of Hyslop pool's closure in 2025

While much of the Hyslop Sports Center will be coming offline at the end of this year to make way for the building's eventual demolition, UND officials intend to keep the Hyslop's pool portion operational for a few months longer.

It's an important part of an overall community stop-gap solution to ensure year-round public access to recreational and competitive indoor pools over the next several years – between the time the Hyslop pool permanently goes away and a new multiuse indoor recreational facility and proposed competitive pool will open in the spring of 2027, south of the Alerus Center.

For several years, UND and Grand Forks School District leaders have been working with community partners to develop the plan. Here's what they intend to do:

MEMBER NEWS

Bridging the aquatics gap in Grand Forks, continued from pg 14



This historical photo shows one of the many swim meets the Hyslop pool has hosted through the years. Image courtesy of UND Athletics.

- The Hyslop pool at UND will remain operational through March 2025 (the end of the 2024-25 swimming/diving season). With both local high schools' pools currently not in use, Grand Forks swimming/diving teams already are using Hyslop pool as their interim home. The Hyslop pool will also continue to serve as a place for swimming lessons and other public recreational aquatics activities until the conclusion of the 2024-25 swimming/diving season.
- UND intends to permanently close and raze the Hyslop pool following the 2024-25 swimming/diving season. This work will be the final sequence of a larger project to tear down the entire Hyslop Sports Center to make way for a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education building.
- All aquatics activities at Hyslop pool will then shift to Central High School's indoor pool, which will be reopened until the end of 2026-27 swimming/diving season.
- Then the new multiuse facility and proposed pool will take on public recreational and competitive aquatics activities, once it comes online in the spring of 2027.

The Grand Cities have been blessed, over the years, with year-round access to indoor public pools, thanks to quality-of-life commitments from the University, School District and other community partners.

In recent years, however, it has become harder to consistently operate and maintain some of the area's aging indoor pools – such as those at Red River and Central high schools, and the Hyslop pool – as costly mechanical and infrastructure issues have hastened the end of the pools' useful lifespans.

"That's why the University, School District and other community partners have been discussing ways we can work together to ensure recreational swimming and diving opportunities continue unabated until a permanent community aquatics solution is in place," said UND President Andrew Armacost.

Terry Brenner, Grand Forks School District superintendent, said UND and the School District intend to follow the plan and timeline as long as it's deemed safe for the public to be in their aquatics facilities.

"This plan is a strong indication of the collaborative spirit that exists in our community," Brenner said.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Hosted by **First Community Credit Union**

3351 32nd Ave S., Grand Forks, ND

Thursday, March 21, 2024 - 4:45pm ~ 7:00pm

First Community Credit Union 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
(Golf Basket and UND Basket details to follow)**

Progressive cash drawing is at \$1000.

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

You might even win **\$1000** 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 21, 2024 at Business After Hours!

Thank you to Acme Equipment 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

Barry Wilfahrt

President/CEO

barry@gochamber.org

Kimberly Strom

Vice President of Operations

kimberlys@gochamber.org

Janelle Wald

Vice President of Membership Engagement and Development

janellew@gochamber.org

Tina Fetsch

Marketing and Communications Director

info@gochamber.org

tfetsch@gochamber.org

