





www.gochamber.org

Meeting with U.S. Customs & Border Protection





The Chamber hosted US Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Rodney Scott along with US Senator John

The Chamber hosted Senator John Hoeven and senior leadership from U.S. Customs & Border Protection for a discussion on cross-border trade and travel. Key topics included:

- The decline in Canadian traffic and its impact on the Grand Forks economy.
- Border crossing hours and their effect on smaller northern communities.
- Increased commercial trade at the Emerson crossing and efforts to streamline processes.

Cross-border connectivity remains a vital issue for our region's economy, and the Chamber will continue advocating for efficient, business-friendly solutions.

Governor Armstrong Meets with Community Leaders

North Dakota Governor Kelly Armstrong visited The Chamber to meet with business, education, and community leaders, along with several local legislators. We thank Governor Armstrong for engaging directly with Grand Forks leaders to discuss opportunities for our region's future growth.



North Dakota Governor, Kelly Armstrong, was at The Chamber to meet with several key business and institutional leaders from Grand Forks, as well as several of our local legislators. Thank you, Governor Armstrong, for taking time for our local leaders and making a difference for our future!

General Adrian Spain Takes Command at Air Combat Command

Chamber President & CEO Barry Wilfahrt attended the Change of Command ceremony where General Adrian Spain succeeded General Ken Wilsbach as Commander of Air Combat Command, which includes GFAFB.

While General Wilsbach retires, it is rumored he may be considered for the position of U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff later this year. These relationships at the highest levels of the Air Force are essential to securing new missions for GFAFB and ensuring our airmen remain supported and well-represented.



Pictured General Adrian Spain Change of Comman Ceremony.

Chamber Volunteers Visit Members

Last month, Chamber volunteers visited nearly 300 of our 1,100 members as part of "Operation Thank You." Volunteers delivered a brochure highlighting the Chamber's recent accomplishments along with a small token of appreciation. These visits are a reminder that the Chamber is working every day, often behind the scenes, to support our members and strengthen the business community.



NIL Task Force Kickoff Event a Success

The Chamber's Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) Task Force hosted its kickoff event to raise awareness and support for UND Athletics. With NIL, student-athletes can earn income through endorsements, sponsorships, and social media—helping them build personal brands and allowing UND to remain competitive in recruitment.

UND Coaches Dane Jackson (Hockey) and Eric Schmidt (Football) joined 1883 Collective leaders Jonathan Holth and Matt Bonzer, UND Athletic Director Bill Chaves, and UND President Andrew Armacost to discuss the impact of NIL.

Key takeaway: Most NIL funding helps studentathletes cover basic living expenses, making this about equity and opportunity—not just visibility. The Chamber is proud to work with the business community to ensure UND Athletics remains strong for years to come.



For more information, contact the 1883 Collective, the UND Foundation, or Fighting Hawk Sports Partnerships.





Pictured fron left to right, UND President Andrew Armacost, FB head coach Eric Schmidt, FB player, Javance Tupou'ata-Johnson, Hockey player Ben Strinden, Hockey head coach Dane Jackson, UND A.D. Bill Chaves, At the podium: REA GM Jody Hodgson.

Career & Technical Education Center Opens



Career & Technical Education Center Ribbon Cutting.

The opening of the Career & Technical Education (CTE) Center in Grand Forks marks a major milestone in preparing students for careers in the skilled trades.

The Chamber played a key role in helping raise \$11 million in local business contributions toward the Center, in addition to a \$25,000 direct investment.

Director Eric Ripley shared the urgent need for technical training:

- 425,000+ IT workers needed nationwide.
- 60,000 unfilled auto technician jobs.
- 22,000 open HVAC positions.
- 250,000+ construction openings.
- Widespread shortages in hospitality, healthcare, manufacturing, and more.

The new CTE Center will help fill these gaps by providing hands-on career training for Grand Forks County students for decades to come.





Bakken Natural Gas Pipeline Progress

Efforts are moving forward to expand natural gas infrastructure from the Bakken region to eastern North Dakota. The proposed pipeline would follow the I-94 corridor, with strong local advocacy for a lateral line to bring natural gas directly to Grand Forks.



Access to this resource is critical for supporting agriculture, data centers, and Grand Sky development opportunities. The Chamber, City of Grand Forks, EDC, and local legislative leaders continue working to ensure the project benefits our region.



In today's fast-paced business world, staying connected is more important than ever. DCN's broadband solutions ensure that your business runs smoothly. At DCN, uptime isn't just a promise, it's a *guarantee*.

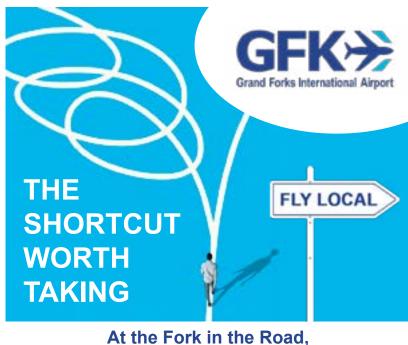
Let's talk about how we can partner to strengthen your business.



DCN800-814-3333







Choose Smarter • Choose GFK



Every trip starts with a choice: drive hours to a distant, crowded airport—or take the smarter, smoother route right here in Grand Forks. Flying from Grand Forks International Airport (GFK) isn't just easier. It's better.



▲ DELTA



Top TEN Chamber Membership Benefits

- 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.
- Credibility Make a statement that you are committed to the future of the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks region.
- **5.** Leadership Development The Chamber offers learning and professional development opportunities to help you run a smarter, more profitable business.
- Community Commitment Community involvement benefits you and the community and shows your commitment to helping our region grow.
- Referrals The Chamber's referrals of our members are a great return on your investment.

- **O.** Publicity and Exposure Publicity and heightened name recognition as a Chamber Member shows your customers and potential customers who you are.
- Marketing & Advertising Targeted and affordable advertising offered by The Chamber help you promote your business effectively on a small budget.
- 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.
- 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.

Cybersecurity Survival Guide for Businesses of Any Size

No matter the size of your business, cybersecurity should be a priority. This seminar will break down the essential topics every organization needs to know — including the end of life for Microsoft Server, Desktop, and Office products, as well as what that means for your business.

We'll also highlight practical security updates and strategies that can make a real difference, especially for small and mid-sized businesses without a full in-house I.T. team.

Protecting your data, your customers, and your reputation has never been more important. Don't miss this chance to learn how to stay ahead of the curve. Your business deserves the tools to stay secure.

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Chamber of Commerce Board Room

Bag Seminar Cham



Presented by...



Dan Durkee, Director of Network Services for Twotrees Technology

Dan Durkee is the Director of Network Services for Twotrees (formerly Connecting Point). Dan aspires to live in a world where all the passwords are strong, ransomware is held in check, and everyone has GB fiber internet service at their home and business. He has passed over 40 IT certification tests including national certification tests by Ruckus, Cisco, HP, Microsoft, Novell, Symantec, Altiris, Promethean, Kaseya, and CompTIA. He has been a hockey announcer and public speaker since 1988.

Dan's security certifications include CompTIA Security+, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) – LASO Officer (Local Agency Security Officer), CJIS – Level 4 Security Awareness Training, Florida International University - Cybersecurity Leadership and Strategy, Florida *International University – CISSP Level 1: Intro to Concepts, Techniques and Domains.*

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR SEMINAR

\$20/Member & \$30/Non Member (Includes Lunch) If you have questions, please contact the Chamber. doug@gochamber.org or 701-772-7271

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

West African Cuisine

2800 S Columbia Rd (Columbia Mall), Grand Forks, ND 58201 701-213-8699

West African Cuisine LLC serves a distinctive selection of dishes that cannot be found elsewhere in town. Our culinary creations are meticulously prepared with great attention to detail and a genuine passion for delivering exceptional flavors to our great community. Located in the Columbia Mall food court with plenty of seating for our customers' convenience. Among our most popular dishes are: Egusi, Jollof rice, Okra soup, goat meat pepper soup, Palava sauce with fufu, Cassava leaf soup, Kala, and many more to choose from.



We participate in DoorDash and we cater!

The Darkside Tattoo

1604 S Washington St, Ste. 100, Grand Forks, ND 58201 701-738-2035 www.thedarksidetattoo.com

The Darkside Tattoo is your destination for high-quality body art and professional piercings. Our award-winning artists bring decades of combined experience and specialize in 100% custom designs—collaborating with you to create artwork that's truly one-of-a-kind.

Locally owned and operated, we welcome everyone from first-time clients to seasoned collectors. Our studio is clean, comfortable, and focused on making your experience as smooth and informed as possible. Whether you're planning your first piece or your next masterpiece, we're here to guide you through the process with care and expertise.

Let our artists help you express your story—boldly, beautifully, and authentically.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

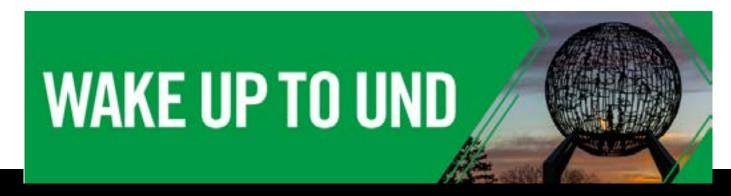
Franklin on 4th LLC

214 N 4th St, Grand Forks, ND 58203 701-772-1000 www.franklinon4th.com

Franklin on 4th offers unparalleled luxury living. Residents can enjoy views of the Greenway, Downtown, and the Red River. Franklin on 4th community members love all the amenities that are offered; a 1774 sq. ft. fitness center, a rooftop dog park with a pet spa, and an elevated patio with 2 grills, a hot tub, fireplace, fire pit, loungers and other patio seating. Additional amenities include a top-floor club room with a rooftop terrace and sauna overlooking downtown. The 3rd floor club room has ping pong, 3 TVs, a full fridge, 2 ovens, microwave, and free coffee bar that serves Starbucks coffee and other flavored water, coffee and tea. The clubroom also has a small meeting space used for work or study.

The first floor is home to a variety of businesses; Avant Hair and Skin Care Studio opened in July 2025, Halberstadt's Men's Clothing Co. is set to open September 2025, Oxford Realty and Core Collective opening in October 2025. In the near future, the building will feature a marketplace with food and drink vendors.





Wake Up to UND - Register to Attend Now!

The Chamber-GF/EGF and The University of North Dakota invite you to attend the "Wake Up to UND" breakfast program featuring UND President, Andrew Armacost. This annual breakfast is a partnership of The Chamber and the University of North Dakota and showcases UND to the Greater Grand Forks Community.

Friday, September 26, 2025

UND Memorial Ballroom

\$27/person (includes a delicious breakfast)

\$300/Reserved Table of 10 (includes a delicious breakfast)

7:15am check-in | 7:30am Breakfast and Program

Reservations are required. **Click HERE to register**. Registration deadline is September 17, 2024. Event may be sold out before the registration deadline.

Cancellations made after September 18th will be invoiced.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Hosted by Alerus Center

Location: 1200 S 42nd S, GF

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025 4:45pm ~ 7:00pm

Alerus Center invites all Chamber members and their employees to join them for their Trade Show Style Business After Hours event, taking place inside their newly renovated Conference Center!

View Alerus Center's new Conference Center spaces, Visit dozens of different business members at their booths, Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, Cash Bar Drink Ticket, Great door prizes.

Progressive cash drawing is at \$1600.

Stop by...Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities. You might even win \$1600 in our Progressive Cash drawing!

Remember, BAH is FREE for all Chamber members! Is your employer a Chamber member? That means YOU ARE TOO!

See you Thursday, Sept 11, 2025 at Business After Hours!

*Because of the nature of this event, no children under 18 may attend. Thank you to Bell Bank for hosting an eventful Business After Hours.







MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

August 2025 Renewals

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

Alerus Center Auto Massage LLC Blue Zones Project - Grand **Forks** Choice Bank - South Washington Cost Cutters Dan's Pest Control Daydreams Specialities Development Homes, Inc. Edward Jones - Financial Advisor: Bret A. Bentow Forks Chem-Dry Gayle Mischel **Grand Forks United** Republican Committee **ISight Drone Services** Johnson Controls Kelly Services

Knight Printing Midco Advertising **ND Small Business Development Centers** Overmoe & Nelson, Ltd. Paragon Chiropractic & Wellness Center Pro Land | Snow **PRO** Resources Pro Transport & Leasing, Inc. Ralph Engelstad Arena **Resource Auction UND Energy & Environmental** Research Center **US** Foods Valley Corn Maize White Drug Pharmacy Wilbur-Fllis

of U.S. adults agree that their local chamber of

for businesses.

commerce is a trusted feel that their local chamber resource and partner has an impact on growing businesses locally.

90% believe that their local chamber has an impact on growing the local economy.

say that their local chamber has an impact on addressing challenges within their community.



Multi-Platinum selling and award-winning superstar Cole Swindell will bring his 2025 headlining Happy Hour Sad Tour, to the Alerus Center on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025!

Joining the four-time ACM Award winner on his Happy Hour Sad Tour are special guest Priscilla Block and Greylan James.

Tickets are available at the Transystems Box Office or online at https://bit.ly/4j870XO



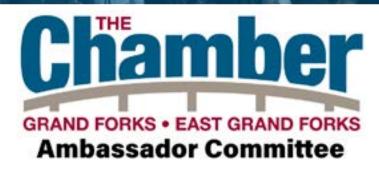


Complimentary investment review. Give us a call.



Taylor Monson, CFP* Financial Advisor 4700 S Washington St Suite A Grand Forks, ND 58201 701-772-9243

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. Through their commitment and positive representation, Ambassadors actively contribute to the success and growth of The Chamber and its members.

The Ambassadors meet on the 3rd Monday of the month.

At the August 18th Ambassador meeting, the Ambassadors enjoyed an informative lunch with a presentation about the Veterans Memorial Park from Maj. Mandy Iverson at Speedway 805.

Join the team. Become a Chamber Ambassador!

Being an Ambassador provides opportunities for you to promote your business and network while having fun and 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 Doug Iverson, doug@gochamber.org or call 701-772-7271.



2023 Community Profile/Membership Directory

2024 Community Profile Membership Directory 2026 Advertising Community Profile/ Membership Directory OPPORTUNITY

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!

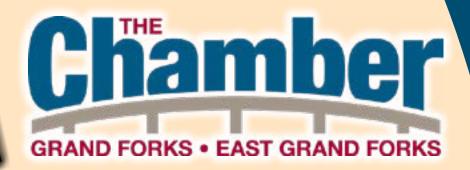
CLICK HERE TO ADVERTISE

SPACE IS LIMITED!

Click Here For More Information

or Contact Tina at the Chamber

772-7271 or e-mail: <u>tfetsch@gochamber.org</u>



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 Doug at **772-7271** or **Doug@ gochamber.org** to schedule a ribbon cutting event.

GF Senior Center

640 4th Ave S., Grand Forks, ND



Pictured are GF Senior Center Employees, guests and The Chamber Ambassadors.

Sylvan Learning of GF

1020 S. Wash., Grand Forks, ND



Pictured are employees of Sylvan Learning, along with The Chamber Ambassadors.

RIBBON CUTTING

State Farm Logan Karsky

2211 S. Wash. St., Grand Forks, ND



Pictured are State Farm Employees, guests and The Chamber Ambassadors.







Alerus senior wealth advisor Anna Larson earns Certified Private Wealth Advisor certification



Alerus is pleased to announce Anna Larson has earned the Certified Private Wealth Advisor certification from the Investments & Wealth Institute. This designation recognizes the expertise and specialized skills she provides to meet the complex needs of highnet-worth clients.

To earn CPWA certification, advisors must have at least five years of industry experience and complete a comprehensive exam covering areas including applied behavioral finance, charitable giving, estate planning, and wealth transfer. Ongoing education and adherence to a strict code of professional responsibility are

required to maintain certification.

College of Financial Services.

Anna has nearly 10 years of financial services experience, with extensive experience in retirement planning, wealth management, and benefits services. She holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and maintains Series 7 and Series 66 securities registrations. She also is licensed for life, health, and annuity insurance in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Florida. In addition to the CPWA certification, Anna holds the Retirement Income Certified ALERUS Professional designation from the American

The Chamber Leadership Program is officially underway!



We kicked things off with an Orientation at Lincoln Park, where participants had the chance to connect with one another, hear insights from past program graduates, and learn what to expect in the months ahead. The group also enjoyed some fun icebreakers to start building relationships that will grow throughout the program.

We're excited to see this year's class learn, lead, and make an impact in our community!

DCN names Heck COO



Jesse Heck

Jesse Heck has been named the Chief Operating Officer at Dakota Carrier Network (DCN).

Heck has been at DCN for 25 years. He joined the team in 2000 as a network technician. He also served as a network provisioner prior to moving into a leadership role in 2011 when he was named Director of Operations.

As COO, Heck plans, directs, and oversees activities related to outside plant, network operations, engineering, facilities, software

development, and information technology. A member of the executive team, he collaborates in the planning and formulation of organization policies and workplans and is responsible for developing a capital expenditure budget. Heck oversees and coordinates business development activities, reports network performance statistics to the CEO and Board of Governors, and leads quarterly meetings for the technical staff of Owner companies.

"Jesse has been integral to the growth of DCN," says Seth Arndorfer, CEO of DCN.

"His career has evolved through the technical side of the company, and he knows DCN's network and technology inside and out. He's successful as a leader because he has walked in those shoes and understands the challenges his team faces. This promotion is a natural next step for him and DCN is fortunate to have Jesse on our team."





Agristo Thanks Grand Forks Community for Successful 'Taste of Belgium'

This free-to-attend community event celebrated the arrival of Agristo to Grand Forks with the best of Belgian flavor and local flair.

More than 1,500 "potatoholics" welcomed Agristo, the Belgium-based potato pros, at the "Taste of Belgium" event held Aug. 25 at Grand Forks Town Square.

Under sunny skies and a warm North Dakota breeze, Agristo's Taste of Belgium drew an enthusiastic crowd

More than 1,500 "potatoholics" gathered at the Grand Forks Town Square enjoying fries, entertainment, and family-friendly activities.

to celebrate all things Belgian – and all things Agristo. Families and foodies enjoyed a vibrant mix of food vendors, spudtakular giveaways, refreshing Belgian beer, live entertainment, and family-friendly fun.

The undeniable star of the day was the irresistibly crispy, golden Agristo fries, served up hot and free – which had guests lining up with smiles and coming back for seconds (and thirds).

Attendees had the chance to hear from members of the Agristo leadership team – Kristof Wallays Chief of Global Expansion, Innovation and Sustainability; Antoon Wallays, Agristo Co-Founder; and Ruben Devos, Project Director for the project in Grand Forks and brand new Grand Forks resident – who spoke about the company's investment and commitment to the Grand Forks region.

Other speakers included Grand Forks Mayor Brandon Bochenski, Lt. Governor Michelle Strinden, North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, and Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation President and CEO Keith Lund.

Beginning the speaking portion of the event, Grand Forks Mayor Brandon Bochenski addressed the crowd:

"Today is truly about the future – it's about the future of the Grand Forks region and it's about the future of Agristo. And starting today, we're no longer going to be talking about those two separately. From now on it's our shared future and our future together."

Mayor Bochenski also expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership and the significance of the investment:

"It's been an absolute pleasure and honor to get to welcome Agristo and their leadership team. It's been more than 50 years since we've seen such a major investment in ag processing come to fruition here in Grand Forks."

Following the signing of a development agreement with the City of Grand Forks earlier in the day, Agristo is setting its sights on breaking ground for their new facility this fall with an anticipated full-operation date of early 2028. The initial investment into the facility is \$450 million, with a commitment to source locally grown potatoes and facilitate 200 permanent jobs at start, increasing to 350+ at full operation.

"When my parents and their friends started our company in the eighties, on the farm of my grandfather, we couldn't imagine that we would be standing here today. We have built this company bit by bit and entering the US market always seemed a faraway dream. But this really is the land of dreams, and we are now at a point where we can make this dream a reality" said Kristof Wallays, son of Agristo co-founder Antoon Wallays.

Agristo wrapped up its introduction events with a regional growers' meeting in Hoople, North Dakota, where more than 200 farmers gathered for a field tour and lunch presentation. The tour highlighted several potato varieties, including Fontane, a key processing potato known for its large tubers and high yields. Showcasing seed potato varieties emphasized the vital partnership between seed growers and processing potato producers – a relationship that will help ensure a strong and sustainable supply to Agristo's Grand Forks Facility.

An official ground-breaking ceremony is planned for April 2026 to commemorate the construction of the Agristo facility.

For more information about Agristo Grand Forks, visit agristo.com/grand-forks



Roughrider Athletic Hall of Fame

Red River High School is proud to introduce the new inductees to the Roughrider Athletic Hall of Fame, recognizing coaches and athletes who made a lasting impact on Red River athletics. Based on our experience with past classes, we aimed to limit this group to around 20 inductees. With that in mind, we focused on athletes from the Class of 1998 and earlier. Future Hall of Fame classes will include more athletes from 1999 and beyond, as well as those from earlier decades who have not yet been inducted.

Congratulations to the 2025 Hall of Fame Inductees:

Coaches: Tracey Heisler, Jean Roise, Tim Wynne

Athletes: Mike Compton, Mark Berge, Kelly Eickenbrock, Linda Soli, James Karner, Brian Hoffman, Scott Marquardt, Dean Rudrud, Randi Glas, Dave Kurtz, Mike Backes, Matt Mahoney, Chad Skarperud, Jill Pollard, Joe Wilson, Aaron Berndt, Becki Nyberg, Steph Wigness

The induction ceremony will be held on Saturday, September 20th at 1:00 p.m.

at Red River High School. The public is welcome to attend as we celebrate these exceptional individuals and their legacy.

For more information, contact:
Tyler Nelson
Red River High School Activities Office
tnelson300@mygfschools.org



THECHAMBER

Executive Committee

Chair: Mike McLean, JLG Architects

Chair Elect: Emily O'Brien, Dist. 42 Legislator, Bioscience Association of ND

Past Chair: Tony Hodny, H & S Electrical Services LLC

Mike Fridolfs, Northrop Grumman Corp.

Derek Holt, First Community Credit Union

Anna Rosburg, Alerus Center

Barry Wilfahrt, Chamber GF/EGF

Board of Directors

Landon Bahl, 322 Hospitality Group & Dist. 17 Legislator Matt Bredemeier, Grand Forks Subaru Kia Russel Crary, Crary Real Estate Mylo Einarson, Nodak Electric Jon Fargo, Retrax Holdings, LLC Todd Forkel, Altru Health System Tarek Howard, Auto Finance Super Center Chris Jordheim, Widseth Meloney Linder, University of North Dakota Keith Lund, GF EDC Daren Muscha, Bass Pro Shops Matt Norby, Norby's Work Perks Scott Reck, Northdale Oil Andy Schneider, Dakota Concealed/GF County Sheriff Andrew Vigen, Vigen Construction Tyler Wilson, Vilandre Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing

Chamber Staff

Barry Wilfahrt President/CEO barry@gochamber.org

Kimberly Strom
Vice President of Operations
kimberlys@gochamber.org

Tina Fetsch

Marketing and Communications Director

info@gochamber.org

tfetsch@gochamber.org

Doug IversonDirector of Membership Engagement & Development

<u>doug@gochamber.org</u>



