

Biography of Barry Wilfahrt, CCE, IOM



Barry was named President and CEO of The Chamber Grand Forks, ND/East Grand Forks, MN in January of 2008. The Chamber focusses on relevance, advocacy for business and providing tangible value to its 1,100 Chamber members. During his time, The Chamber has also achieved financial strength and plays a lead role in key community issues at local, state and national levels. The Chamber has been part of a highly successful collaborative effort to maintain GFAFB, create an emerging UAS sector, workforce development effort, and extensive community engagement in a community visioning process focused on social offerings, openness and aesthetics and implementation of its action plan.

Barry is also personally a partner in several property developments, owns a billboard company, and has a lobbying/consulting firm. Wilfahrt continues to be the registered lobbyist for the ND and SD Professional Appraisers Association and Farm Property Managers.

From 1985 to 2005, Wilfahrt served in the dual position of President & CEO of the Watertown South Dakota Area Chamber of Commerce and Executive Director of the United Way of Watertown South Dakota. Under his leadership the Chamber and United Way increased membership and the amount of money raised 20 consecutive years and led many community initiatives including downtown redevelopment, the CVB, a revitalized economic development initiative and building of a new event and convention center to name a few.

Barry has served on more than 130 national, state and local boards over his career including the US Chamber's "Committee of 100".

Barry has a BS degree in Government from Saint John's University in Collegeville, MN and his MA degree in Urban Studies from Minnesota State University where he was the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fellowship recipient. Barry is also a graduate of the Chamber Institute for Organizational Management Program (IOM), US Chamber Academy Program and is a Certified Chamber Executive (CCE).