



2009 Annual Meeting and Dinner Monday, January 26, 2009

Alerus Center 5:30pm ~ Social 6:15pm ~ Dinner & Program

Please join us as

- ♦ Jerry Youngberg, 2008 Board Chair officially passes the gavel to 2009 Board Chair, Rick Duquette
- ♦ A recap of the year is given and the 2009 program of work is announced
 - ♦ The prestigious Henry Havig Award Winner is announced
 - ♦ Special Entertainment by Jarrod Schell

\$45/person or reserve a table of 8 for \$324

-Dinner-

Petit Pain Rolls ~ Creamy Cucumber Salad ~ River's Edge Rib-Eye ~ Redskin Mashed Potatoes ~ Green Beans Amandine ~ Raspberry Chocolate Mousse

2009Relevance, Advocacy, Value

\$45/person or reserve a table of 8 for \$324

To reserve your tickets, contact The Chamber at 772-7271, info@gochamber.org or online at www.gochamber.org,

Cancellations not made 3 business days prior to event will be billed.

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Officers

Chair: Rick Duquette

City of Grand Forks

Chair-Elect: Barb Schultz

Ideal Aerosmith, Inc.

Past Chair: Jerry Youngberg

First Realty of GFF

Secretary: Scott Roche

Great Plains Financial Group

Chris Semrau

Ralph Engelstad Arena

Thane Bergh

American Federal Bank

Barry Wilfahrt

The Chamber - GF/EGF

Directors

Pat Berger - United Way of GF/EGF

Andy Byron - United Valley Bank

Jim Galloway - JLG Architects

Kristi Hall-Jiran - CVIC

Kent Hanson - NCTC

Jeff Jaspersen - Canad Inns

Curt Kreun - GF City Council

Sonia Lajimodiere - The Lighting Gallery

Bryan Lee - Gateway Storage

Monica Musich - Valley Dairy Stores

Linda Pierce - Cray Homes & Real Estate

Jim Richter - EGF EDHA

Tim Saylor - Altru Health System

Steve Swanson - AE2S

Klaus Thiessen - GF Regional EDC

Greg Weisenstein - UND

Sr. Military Advisor to the Board

Colonel John Michel - GFAFB

Chamber Update

Northwest Minnesota Intergovernmental Retreat Set for January 30th

The Chamber is sponsoring an intergovernmental retreat on January 30th. The event will be held at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

State Senator LeRoy Stumpf, State Representative Bernie Lieder and US Representative Collin Peterson have been invited to participate along with East Grand Forks, Polk County and East Grand Forks School District officials.

With so many budget issues facing Minnesota we expect some very good discussion. You are welcome to join us in Mahanomen for this retreat.

To sign up for the half day retreat, contact the chamber office at 701-772-7271 or info@gochamber.org.

Chamber Supports Landfill Location

At a public hearing hosted by the North Dakota Department of Health last month, Chamber President Barry Wilfahrt testified in favor of the Rye Township landfill location.

According to Wilfahrt, "from a chamber of commerce perspective the location is

important because of its relative proximity to our two communities. Every mile you truck garbage adds labor, fuel and equipment costs, about half of which is paid for by business."

Chamber Board Members Steve Swanson, AE2S and Scott Roche, Investment Centers of America, along with East Grand Forks Council President, Dick Grassel, also spoke in favor of the proposed Rye Township location.

Legislative Forums to Start January 24th

Grand Forks Counties 15 legislators have been invited to participate in Saturday Forums again this legislative session. The forums will be held in the Council Chambers of Grand Forks City Hall and are set for :

Saturday, January 24
Saturday, February 14
Saturday, March 14
Saturday, March 28
Saturday, April 11

All forums begin at 9:30am and end at 11:00am. The public is invited to attend and ask questions of your legislators. Legislators will provide a brief overview followed by questions and answers from the audience. Attending these forums is a great way to become informed and involved.

Base Enhancement Committee Formed

Earlier today Grand Forks Mayor Michael Brown and County Commissioner John Schmisek announced the formation of a Base Enhancement Community Initiative. The purpose of this committee will be to put forth a unified front on base enhancement with the department of defense, federal and civil agencies and the general public.

According to 2008 Chamber Board Chairman, Jerry Youngberg; "formation of this overarching group has been a goal of the chamber all year." "The Chamber, along with others, have been working behind the scenes for months to help coordinate the effort to bring all of the groups working on the future of the base together in one unified group so a concerted joint effort can be made to seek new opportunities for the base." Youngberg will also take over as the Chamber's Military Affairs Committee Chairman in 2009.

Looking ahead, the immediate committee priority will be encouraging and supporting the growth of the UAS mission, including training, research and development, the encouragement and development of complementary and compatible uses for parts of the base infrastructure and space by non military entities. The long range priority will be to make sure the next generation tanker, the KCX, continues as a part of the GFAFB future.

Many of these opportunities are contingent on the availability of airspace for UAS training. The process of designating this airspace began last fall with environmental scoping meetings and will be a top priority.

Representing The Chamber on the group will be President, Barry Wilfahrt. Incoming Chamber Board Chairman, Rick Duquette will also be on the committee as City Administrator.

Chamber Update

Welcome New Members

Heartland Paper

Arlin Fetting
2890 30th Street North
Grand Forks, ND 58203
www.heartland-paper.com

Raizins – Dance Club

Arlen Rygg
P.O. Box 5114
Grand Forks, ND
(701)741-2678

Mr. Sandless - Flooring

Tom Karel
859 7th Ave NE
Thompson, ND 58278
(701)757-2040



Spalon Tamaagi

The Ambassadors held a ribbon cutting at the Open House celebration at new chamber member, Spalon Tamaagi.

Ribbon Cuttings

Staff

Barry Wilfahrt
President/CEO
barry@gochamber.org

Lisa Swanson
Vice President of Operations
lisas@gochamber.org

Cathy Andringa
Membership Relations Director
cathya@gochamber.org

Corrina Sachno
Program Coordinator
corrinas@gochamber.org

Carla Younce
Finance Director
carlay@gochamber.org

Jennifer Walsh
Administrative Assistant
info@gochamber.org
202 N. 3rd Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203
PO Box 315
East Grand Forks, MN 56721

(701)772-7271
(701)772-9238 Fax

info@gochamber.org
www.gochamber.org

Mission Statement

"The Chamber of Commerce creates an environment that encourages business success while enhancing the quality of life in our region."

2009 Board of Directors for Your Chamber

We would like to welcome the returning and new members of the Board of Directors for your chamber for 2009.

Your 2009 Executive Committee:



Rick Duquette
Board Chair
City of GF



Barb Schultz
Chair Elect
Ideal Aerosmith



Jerry Youngberg
Past Chair
1st Realty of GGF



Scott Roche
Secretary
Great Plains
Financial



Chris Semrau
Vice Chair
REA



Thane Bergh
Vice Chair
American
Federal Bank



Barry Wilfahrt
Chamber President/
CEO

Your 2009 Board of Directors:



Pat Berger
United Way of
GGF



Andy Byron
United Valley
Bank



Jim Galloway
JLG
Architects



Kristi Hall-Jiran
CVIC



Kent Hansen
NCTC



Jeff Jaspersen
Canad Inns



Curt Kreun
GF City Council



Sonia Lajimodiere
The Lighting
Gallery



Bryan Lee
Gateway
Storage



Monica Musich
Valley Dairy
Stores



Linda Pierce
Crary Homes &
Real Estate



Jim Richter
EGF Ec. Dev. &
Housing Auth.



Tim Saylor
Altru Health
System



Steve Swanson
AE2S



Klaus Thiessen
GF Region
EDC



Greg Weisenstein
UND



Col John Michel
Sr. Military Advisor to the Board
GFAFB Commander

Thank You for Renewing Your Membership

The following businesses know the value of their Chamber Membership and have renewed their membership in The Chamber - GF/EGF. Please visit these businesses for your purchasing needs.

1st Realty - Jerry Youngberg
AAA ND, Grand Forks Branch
Aaltos, Canad Inns
Aatrix Software
Ace Hardware
Advance Electric, Inc.
Advanced Business Methods
Ag Country
Agri Valley
Alerus Financial
Altru Health Foundation
American Federal Bank
American Federal Bank - GF
American Tire South
Americas Best Value Inn
Anderson, J.A. DDS
Applebee's - EGF
Axis Clinic, P. C.
BacTee Systems, Inc.
Baukol Builders, Inc.
Bergstrom Electric, Inc.
Best Buy Co., Inc.
BetaSeed
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of ND
Blue Stone Photography
Border States Electric Supply Co.
Bosh Enterprises
Brady, Martz & Associate, P.C.
Bremer Bank
Bridgeford, Charles. DDS
Britton Transport, Inc.
Bun Lounge
CF Industries
C.L. Linfoot Company
Camrud, Maddock, Olson & Larson Ltd.
Canad Inns
Cancer Center of North Dakota
Career Options
Carter MacDonagh, P.L.L.P.
CD Communications
Central Michigan University
Choice Financial, S. Washington
Choice Financial Group
Citizens Community Credit Union
City of East Grand Forks
Cole Paper Company
Comfort Keepers
Community Bank of the Red River Valley - 10th Ave.
Community Bank of the Red River Valley - Columbia Rd.
Community Bank of the Red River Valley - EGF
Conlin's Furniture
Construction Engineers
Country Inn & Suites
CPS, Ltd. Engineering/Land Surveying
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch
Dakota Carrier Network
Dakota Food Equipment
Dakota Supply Group
Danks, Keith
Daydreams Specialties
Deaton's Mailing Systems, Inc.
Dennie's Delivery, Inc.
Development Homes, Inc.
Dianne Mondry
Dr. Maxine Rasmussen
Drees Farming Association
Drees, Risky & Vallager, Ltd.
Driscoll's Auto Service
EAPC Architects Engineers
East Grand Floral
Economic Development & Housing Authority
EdwardJones - Mark Larsen
EdwardJones - Matt Odenbach
Erlandson, Steve DDS
Evergreen Insurance
Fert -L-Lawn
First Class Mortgage
First Liberty Federal Credit Union-GFAFB
First Liberty Federal Credit Union
Forks Equipment
Forks Lath & Plaster
Forum Communications Printing
Forx Rental & Mini Stor-All
Friends of the Campbell Library
Garden Valley Telephone Company
Gerloff, Greg
GF Abstract & Title Company
GF Clinic Pharmacy
GF county Agencies
GF Foundation for Education, Inc.
GF Regional Airport Authority
GF Welding & Machine Co.
GFK Flight Support
Girl Scouts-Dakota Horizons
Grand Cities Mall
Great Clips for Hair - UND
Greater Grand Forks Fair & Exhibition Inc.
Greenberg Realty - Stacey Galstad
Happy Harry's Bottle Shops-Gateway Dr.
Happy Harry's Bottle Shops - 32nd Ave.
Heyer Engineering P.C.
Hilton Garden Inn, Grand Forks/UND
HOAK Media
Holiday Inn Express
I.C.S., Inc.
Independent School District 3595
Innes Construction Company
J&G Landscaping
J.S. Home Inspection
Jenny Craig Weight Loss Centre
Job Service ND
Joe Black's
Keith's Lock & Key Shop
Kentucky Fried Chicken
L & M Meats & Sausages
Lakes & Prairie Child Care Resource & Referral
Laser Systems
Leighton Broadcasting
Lighting Gallery, Inc.
LM Glasfiber, Inc.
Lunseth Plumbing & Heating
Marco Inc.
McDonald, James S. DDS
McDonald's Gateway Drive
McDonald's S. Washington
McFarlane Sheet Metal
McKinnon Company
Merry Maids
Midcontinent Communications
Modern Auto Body, Inc.
Mutch Oil Co. of GF, Inc.
Nord, John DDS
Noridian Mutual Insurance Company
North Dakota Ballet Company
North Dakota Eye Clinic
Northern Bag & Box Company
Northern Plumbing Supply
Northwood Park Townhomes
Odney/Lignite Energy Council
Pepsi Americas, Inc.
Petccetera Animal Clinic
Polar Communications
Prairie Public
Premium Waters, Inc.
Priority Title, LLC
Pro Transport & Leasing, Inc.
PS Doors
R&R Contracting, Inc.
Red River Auto
Red River Farm Network
Red River State Recreation Area
Riddle's Jewelry
River Cinema 12
RML Trading, LLC
Robinson Excavating
Ryan Potato Company
Scott's Express, Inc.
Scott's Music Stores, Inc.
Senske & Son Transfer
Sertoma Club of Greater Grand Forks
Settle Inn
Simonson Lumber & Hardware
St. Vincent De Paul
Stamart Truck Stop
State Farm Insurance - Gary Belanus
State Farm Insurance - Kevin Kouba
Steamatic Total Cleaning & Restoration
Stone's Mobile Radio, Inc.
Super One Foods
Super Target
Swingen Construction Company
Taco Johns
The Exponent
Thompsons USA Limited
Titan Machinery
Toshiba Business Systems
Toucan International Market
Tubs of Fun
Turfworks LLC
US Food Service - GFG Division
Valley Bone & Joint Clinic
Valley Memorial Homes
Valley Oral & Facial Surgery
Vigen Construction Inc.
Vilandre Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing
Village Family Service Center
Wakefield Hearing Center
Waste Management
Webster, Foster, and Weston
Wells Fargo Bank
Whalen's Moving & Storage
Xcel Energy
YMCA Family Center
Zimney, Foster, P.C.

Welcome to 2009!



I hope your holidays were a special time for all of you. This is going to be an exciting year for our Chamber of Commerce, and I am very honored to have the opportunity to be your Chair. I am also honored to be working with many returning and new Board of Directors. Thank you for your commitment. I look forward to working with each one of you. I also want to thank our Committee Chairs as they continue to provide leader-

ship and guidance to our Chamber. Finally, I look forward to working with our exceptional Chamber President and staff. What a fantastic group of people! We are very blessed to have them.

A couple of months ago we had our Chamber Planning meeting and it was a special day for me. I had the chance to meet many of you and to hear what is important to you in our Chamber of Commerce. We also had the chance to sit back and think for a while about where we want to go, what our priorities are, and what makes sense for us as a community. The Chamber President, the Board of Directors and I will be sharing those priorities and our plan of action for you in the next few weeks. These plans will continue to place the Chamber in a leadership role on key issues affecting the Chamber membership and our region.

Again, I look forward to the upcoming year and working with each of you. We have challenges, but we also have the Chamber team in place that can meet those challenges. Being a Chamber member means each one of you are part of that team.

*-Rick Duquette
Board Chair*

Trips to St. Paul and Bismarck Planned



Once again our region has a tremendous amount at stake during the upcoming legislative sessions, both in St Paul and in Bismarck.

Minnesota Event – The Chamber will once again lead a delegation to the annual meeting of the Minnesota Chamber in March and meet with Senator Stumpf and Representative Leider in St Paul to talk about issues of importance to East Grand Forks, Northland

College and the business community.

North Dakota Event – The Chamber will begin a new tradition in 2009. The Chamber will organize Grand Forks Day at the Legislature in March. The date has not been finalized but plans include a meeting with Governor Hoeven, Chancellor Goetz along with the Commissioners of Commerce and Transportation. The day will be designed so participants can make it a one day trip, heading to Bismarck in the morning and returning to Grand Forks late in the day.

With budget cuts in Minnesota we have much to protect while in the budget surplus in North Dakota will mean great opportunity for UND, the community in general and the potential for property tax relief.

*-Barry Wilfahrt
President/CEO*

BBB January Small Business Advice: Don't Believe Every Award You Receive

Small business owners are always looking for ways to set themselves apart from their competitors and awards and recognition from a third-party are a great way for a company to differentiate itself from the competition. Unfortunately, Better Business Bureau warns, some "awards" are all about making money – rather than acknowledging outstanding companies – and small business owners need to be on the lookout for vanity award scams.

All too frequently vanity pitches for "Who's Who"-type publications, biographies or nominations for awards or special memberships have a catch to them. In some cases, honorees who receive such e-mails, letters and calls are not chosen by a select committee, as they are often told, but are plucked off mailing lists or have had their e-mail addresses harvested from Web sites.

"There are many legitimate awards given out every year—such as local and national BBB Torch Awards—that small business owners can be proud of," said Barb Grieman, interim president of the BBB of MN and ND. "But some awards, which seem to have merely pulled recipients out of the phone book, offer praise that is ultimately empty and not worth the plaque the company's name is etched on."

BBB Continued on pg 12

We provide a Suite of Managed Services to increase performance and profitability.

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Warren, MN 56762
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www.invisimax.com

A Month in Pictures



December Business After Hours - RML Trading at Eagles Crest



Leadership Graduation at the Holiday Inn



Leadership Graduation at the Holiday Inn



December Business After Hours - RML Trading at Eagles Crest

A Month in Pictures



MAC Breakfast at the Canad Inns



December Business After Hours - RML Trading at Eagles Crest



Leadership Graduation at the Holiday Inn



December Business After Hours - RML Trading at Eagles Crest



Leadership Graduation at the Holiday Inn

Business Briefs

Alerus Financial Promotes and Hires

Alerus Financial is proud to announce the addition of **Kelly Foley** to their IT team as Business Information Analyst.



Foley is responsible for generating reports and providing data analysis of information.

Prior to joining Alerus, Foley worked as a Network Administrator at Vaaler Insurance for 18

years. She holds a Business Administration degree from the University of North Dakota where she majored in information management. She and her husband, Daryl, live in Grand Forks with their two children.

Joshua Parrill has joined Alerus Financial as an Auditor II at its Banksouth location on Columbia Road.



Parrill is responsible for the development and execution of internal audits for the functional areas of Alerus Financial and communicating findings to the appropriate persons. Additionally, he assists with

company-wide projects and leading internal audits on behalf of the audit department.

Parrill joins Alerus with 6 years experience in the financial industry. Previously, he was a bank compliance auditor for Eide Bailly, LLP. Parrill holds a Bachelor of Business & Public Administration degree from the University of North Dakota where he majored in financial management and minored in information systems. He is a coach for the Grand Forks Special Olympics and lives in East Grand Forks with his wife, Emily.



Alerus Financial is please to welcome **Dan Waind** as Lead Personal Banker at its Express location in downtown Grand Forks.

Waind is responsible for leading the sales activities of the branch to include coaching and mentoring employees. He maintains in-depth knowledge of all retail

products and services, and expands the customer base through cross selling and referral techniques.

Previously, Waind worked as a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the entrepreneurship program at the University of North Dakota. He graduated from UND with a Masters of Business Administration where he focused on entrepreneurial finance and also received a Bachelors of Business Administration with a double major in entrepreneurship and marketing. Waind is on the Board of Trustees for the Dakota Venture Group and lives in Grand Forks

Alerus Financial is pleased to announce the promotion of **Marianne Rivard** to Deposit Operations Supervisor.



Previously a Deposit Operations Specialist, Rivard is now responsible for the daily operations of the deposit operations team. Additionally, she maintains IRS reporting and compliance, serves

as a project resource for new products or enhancements, and provides customer support.

Rivard has more than 25 years of banking experience, 22 of those with Alerus. She is a graduate of the North Dakota School of Banking and certified as an Accredited ACH Professional. She and her husband, Dale, live in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. They have four grown children.

Lisa Pulst has accepted additional responsibilities at Alerus Financial to include managing the administrative services team.



Pulst will continue to lead the records department in addition to now leading the administrative services team including word processing, photocopy, and mail services.

Pulst joined Alerus in 2000. She attended Mayville State where she majored in computers and mathematics. In 2006, Pulst received a Records Management Certificate from the University of North Dakota. She and her husband, Kevin, live in Grand Forks with their two sons.

AE2S Hires New Staff

AE2S (Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.) has hired **Melissa Cassanelli** as a Special Projects Engineer in its Grand Forks, ND office. A Crookston, MN native, Mrs. Cassanelli earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of North Dakota. Previous to joining AE2S, she was an Energy Manager at the Grand Forks Air Force Base. Prior to working for the Air Force, she was employed by the Army Corps of Engineers as a Student Engineer where she worked on the Grand Forks Flood Control Project.



At AE2S, Mrs. Cassanelli will be responsible for monitoring environmental regulatory developments, providing content for AE2S' informational newsletters *The Update* and

The Source, assisting with the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, and supporting a variety of other technical and financial projects.

AE2S has hired **Nikki Jehs** as an Accounting Clerk in its Grand Forks office. Ms. Jehs' addition will allow AE2S to meet the expanded accounting needs of the company as it grows to meet the increasing demand for AE2S' services. AE2S specializes in water, wastewater, stormwater, municipal, geomatics, instrumentation and controls, and financial services in the Upper Midwest. AE2S has offices located in Grand Forks, Bismarck, Fargo, and Williston, ND; Minneapolis and Moorhead, MN; and Great Falls, MT.



Ms. Jehs is a native of Grand Forks. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of North Dakota. Previous to joining AE2S, she worked as an Accountant at Franchise

Concepts Unlimited. At AE2S, she will handle Accounts Payable, as well as assisting with payroll and various accounting projects.

AE2S has hired **Jay Bushy, PE** as a Project Engineer in its Grand Forks office. Originally from East Grand Forks, MN, Mr. Bushy earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the



University of North Dakota. Prior to joining AE2S, Mr. Bushy was Project Engineer for the US Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District in its Grand Forks Resident Office.

At the Corps, he worked on the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Flood Control Project, which included the Riverside Dam, English Coulee Diversion, and Grand Forks Phase 3 and 4 Levees.

Mr. Bushy has more than 15 years of engineering experience, including civil and municipal engineering, as well as specific experience working on large flood control projects. At AE2S, he will be initially working on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project for the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District.



AE2S has hired **Mark Lambrecht, PE** as a Senior Project Manager in its Grand Forks office. He is a former Partner and Project Manager at CPS, Ltd and served as Senior Project Engineer, as well as Assistant

Director of Public Works, for the City of Grand Forks. He has more than 30 years of experience with civil engineering projects, specializing in municipal engineering and land development.

At AE2S, he will initially be working on City-Wide Street Improvements for the City of Rugby, ND and Wastewater Lift Station Improvements for the City of Cavalier, ND.

Originally from Grafton, ND, Mr. Lambrecht earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of North Dakota. He is registered as a Professional Engineer in North Dakota and Minnesota, and as a Professional Land Surveyor in North Dakota. He is joining AE2S' Geomatics group, which encompasses municipal engineering, surveying, mapping, and GIS. He will be responsible for assisting clients with municipal and development projects.

Altru Welcomes Dr. Zeller

Altru Health System, Grand Forks, ND – Altru Clinic-Crookston welcomes **Dr. Darrell Zeller, Ob/Gyn**, to the community.



Dr. Zeller currently provides services at Altru Clinic-Main in Grand Forks, and will now be delivering those services to Altru Clinic-Crookston on a visiting basis. He is a medical school graduate of the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Zeller has over 30 years of experience and is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology. He is a member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists as well as the Society of Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery.

WSN Welcomes Brenna

Wideth Smith Nolting recently welcomed **Heidi Brenna** to its Grand Forks architectural team. In her position as project manager, Brenna's responsibilities include project management, project design, specifications, estimates, client development, and contributions to further develop the firm's architectural practice.



Brenna has six years of experience in a variety of projects including office, commercial, justice, multi-family residential, building renovation, historic preservation, downtown redevelopment, and religious facilities.

New Officers for NDAHRA

A new slate of officers will head the Northeastern Dakota Area Human Resource Association (NDAHRA), Grand Forks, ND in 2009. The Chapter is an affiliate of the Society of Human Resource Management, SHRM. The new officers include:

- President - **Tami Haugen**, Black Gold
- Vice President - **Kelsey Roth**, Amazon.com
- Secretary - **Deb Abar**, Altru
- Treasurer - **Kim Anderson**, Community Bank
- Membership/Recruiting Director - **Stacy Schlieman**, The Ralph
- Certification Director - **Angela Cook**, Acme Electric
- Legislative/Special Projects - **Britani Becklund**, Amazon.com
- College Relations Chair - **Susanne Straus**, UND Alumni Association
- Workforce Readiness Director - **Kathy**

Jones, UND Management Department Diversity Advocate - **Michele Thiel**, SEI
SHRM Foundation Representative - **Jan Lukach**, Ecolab
Newsletter/Web Page Director - **Gwen Olson**, Bremer Bank
Past President/Member-At-Large - **Michelle Burt**, Minnkota Power

NDHARA meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Speedway Restaurant (email tamih@blackgoldpotato.com for more information). NDAHRA was established to serve human resource professionals throughout northeastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

Bremer Promotes Ripley

Bremer Bank announces the promotion of **Sadie Ripley** to a business banker in Grand Forks. Ripley was previously a retail relationship manager at Bremer in Grand Forks.



Prior to joining Bremer in 2004, Ripley worked at Red River Valley Community Action serving as a market express coordinator and a safe community's coordinator. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of North Dakota. Ripley is an active volunteer with Safe Kids Grand Forks as a coalition member and certified child passenger safety technician.

Marco Hires Boutwell

Marco has recently hired **Jason Boutwell** as an account manager for its expanding Fargo and Grand Forks offices.



Boutwell has been with Ottawa, Canada-based Mitel Networks for the past seven years as a regional sales manager. He was a consistent member of the President's Club and led Mitel U.S. in total revenue achievement four times, including three of the past four years. A North Dakota State University alumnus, Boutwell will focus on providing Marco's clients in Eastern North Dakota and Northwest Minnesota with Mitel voice communication solutions to enhance their business performance.

A Chamber & SCORE Brown Bag Seminar

Health and Wellness In The Workplace

Steps to Building a Healthier You at Work!

*Do you often feel fatigued?

*Do you ever experience
tightness in your neck and
shoulders?

*Are your hands sore at the
end of a workday?

*Do you feel as if you can
never get all of your work
done?



A growing body of literature suggests that there is much we can do to enhance productivity, prevent work-related injury, and improve our overall health. Discover simple steps to beginning a healthier you in the workplace! Topics Areas Covered: Workplace exercise, stress management, evaluating your workstation.

This brown bag is presented by:
**Dr. LaVonne Fox, OTR/L & Dr. Anne M. Haskins,
OTR/L**

Drs. Fox & Haskins are assistant professors in the Department of Occupational Therapy at UND with experience teaching in the area of work-place health.

**Wednesday, January 21, 2009
11:30am – 1pm
The Chamber
Lunch is provided
\$15/members ... \$25/ non-members**

To register, contact The Chamber at 772-7271 or
info@gochamber.org.

Reservation deadline is January 20th.
Seating is limited, sign up soon.

*Reservations not cancelled 3 business days prior to the
event will be billed.*

40,000+ Webpage Views in One Month!

www.gochamber.org lists all our Chamber members and people are finding you there! Some of the categories visited and number of views received from December 4th to January 4th were:

Abstractor/Architects/Engineers	2105
Hotels & Motels	1421
Restaurants	1026
Realtors	984
Contractors & Construction	981
Financial Institutions	886
Non Profit Organizations	795
Automotive Supplies & Service	765
Agriculture/agribusiness	751
Attorneys	746
Insurance Agencies	739

More Ways Your Chamber Is Working For You:

**Member Referrals Made By
The Chamber In 2008:**

771

Total for December: 40

**Certificates of Origin Signed
By The Chamber In 2008:**

12

Total for December: 0

**New Resident Packets
Distributed By The Chamber
In 2008:**

239

Total for December: 2



Thursday, January 22, 2009
4:45pm - 7:00pm

Hosted by Hilton Garden Inn

Hosted by:



Free Admission

Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres & Beverages ~ Great Door Prizes ~ Progressive cash drawing is at \$1300! ~ NO RSVP Needed

The Hilton Garden Inn invites all Chamber Members and employees to their exciting Business After Hours event. Stop in...enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities while you are there. 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!

Business After Hours is a great time to network, catch up with friends, coworkers and clients in a fun and casual way. Spread the word and plan to attend the next Business After Hours.

Nominations Now Being Accepted for the Annual Athena and Athena Young Professional Award

The ATHENA Award actively supports and celebrates the ATHENA mission of supporting, developing and honoring women leaders, inspiring women to achieve their full potential—creating balance in leadership worldwide. The ATHENA Award honors individuals who strive toward the highest levels of



personal and professional accomplishment, who excel in their chosen field, devote time and energy to their community in a meaningful way, and forge paths of leadership for other women to follow.

The ATHENA Young Professional Award honors emerging leaders who strive toward the highest levels of personal and professional accomplishment, who excel in their chosen field, devote time and energy to their community in a meaningful way, and serve as a role model for young women.

Nomination deadline is Tuesday, March 3rd at 4:30pm. Please drop-off or mail nomination forms to The Chamber, 202 N. 3rd St., Grand Forks, ND 58203.

For more information, please email Corrina at corrinas@gochamber.org or call 772-7271. You can also visit the

ATHENA website, www.athenafoundation.org. Nomination forms are also available for download on The Chamber's website, www.gochamber.org

The ATHENA and ATHENA Young Professional Awards will be presented on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at Rydell GM Auto Center. Social~5:30pm, Program~6:15pm. Registration is \$15/person.



2007 Award winner, Lillian Elsinga, 2008 YP Award winner, Dr. Lavonne Fox, Connie Mondry-Rydell Auto Center and 2008 Award Winner, Bonnie Peterson at last year's awards reception.

January 2009 Chamber Calendar

Jan 1st

Closed New Year's Day

Jan 5th

10:30am Ribbon Cutting (H & R Block)

Jan 9th

7:30am Past Board Chairs (COC)

Jan 13th

7:30am Agribusiness (AAltos)

Jan 14th

7:30am BGEA (COC)

12:00pm Adult Leadership (TBD)

Jan 15th

12:00pm Finance (COC)

Jan 16th

8:00am Executive Committee Meeting (COC)

Jan 20th

11:30am Ambassador Meeting (Suite 49)

4:30pm CATS Committee Meeting (COC)

Jan 21st

11:30am Brown Bag (COC)

12:00pm Athena Meeting (Blue Moose)

Jan 22nd

8:00am MAC Meeting (COC)

4:30pm BAH (Hilton Garden Inn)

Jan 23rd

7:30am BOD Meeting (COC)

Jan 26th

5:30pm Annual Dinner (Alerus Center)

BBB Continued from pg 5

BBB serving Alaska, Oregon and Western Washington reports that local businesses have been receiving e-mails claiming the company has won the "Best of..." award for businesses in their community. Business owners are told that a plaque has been created to mark the honor and is available for \$80.00. The company, US Local Business Association, has a Washington, DC, address that appears to be a drop box, and according to their Web site, the only way to contact the company is through Web e-mail. No phone number is listed. When asked by the Portland *Oregonian* newspaper how it chooses recipients for its awards, US Local Business Administration representatives would not provide any details. Business owners in other states such as Maryland, Indiana and Arizona also report being contacted by US Local Business Association personnel.

To distinguish a reputable biographical directory or business award from those of little or no value, BBB offers the following advice:

Always check the organization out with BBB first.

BBB Reliability Reports are available for free at www.thefirstbbb.org and provide information on the number of complaints the business has received, as well as whether attempts were made to resolve any problems.

Keep an eye out for red flags.

Some signs of a scam include receiving an award that you didn't apply for and if the award Web site lacks phone numbers, an address and other basic details on the organization giving the award.

Don't be afraid to ask questions.

An organization offering a reputable award will not hesitate to answer in-depth questions about their program including how many businesses are honored every year, how honorees are chosen and exactly why specific businesses were chosen.

Know what you're paying for.

With less than scrupulous awards schemes, the company is typically trying to make money by peddling books or plaques.

While having to spend money in order to receive an award can be a red flag, it isn't always the sign of a scam. In some cases businesses must pay a fee in order to submit an entry to an awards program. If the company is to be honored at a gala event, there are usually sponsorship opportunities—such as purchasing a table for attendees—to help offset the cost of the event.

For more small business advice you can trust, and more information about the ND and MN BBB, visit www.thefirstbbb.org.

Thank you to our 2009 Annual Dinner and Meeting Sponsors!

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