2017 Plan of Action

Embrace Change, Drive Growth
2017 Chamber Leadership

Executive Committee

Matt Walkowiak
Ground Round
Board Chair

Ron Galstad
Galstad, Jensen & McCann, PA
Chair Elect/Treasurer

John Oncken
True North Equip.
Past Chair

Josh Brown
Thompson-Schafer
Insurance Agency
Vice Chair

Kelsey Fisk
Altru Health System
Vice Chair

Paula Anderson
Sterling Carpet One
Vice Chair

Board of Directors

Barry Wilfahrt
The Chamber - GF/EGF
Presidents/CEO

Tom DiLorenzo
UND

Shanna Field
Wintrust Mortgage

Rachel Gornowicz
Countrywide Sanitation

Pete Haga
City of Grand Forks

Jason Heintz
Scheels

Kellee Fisk
Altru Health System

Paula Anderson
Sterling Carpet One

Vice Chair

Tom Rosendahl
Dakota Supply Group

Tony Telken
Lithia Ford Lincoln

Col. Rodney Lewis
GFAFB Commander

Sr. Military Advisor

Scott Telle
Ad Monkeys

Klaus Thiessen
Grand Forks Region EDC

Laurie Tweten
Coldwell Banker

Guy Useldinger
Southern Estates, Inc.

Dave Zavoral
RJ Zavoral & Son’s, Inc.

Col. Rodney Lewis
GFAFB Commander

Sr. Military Advisor

Member Services

• Member Traffic Catcher Sites on The Chamber website
• Website information and listing in the business directory (www.gochamber.org)
• Google Map of members on website
• The Chamber on-line monthly “The Voice” newsletter
• The Chamber App for iPhone and Android
• Community Profile book and member directory listings
• Member listing in yearly GF Herald Chamber Tabloid
• Community maps
• Member referrals
• Business Briefs section of newsletter
• Member to Member E-mail - weekly
• The Chamber Express advertising packets
• Certificate of Origin seals
• Chamber Facebook, Twitter and social media opportunities

The Chamber is the premiere Networking and Business Information Resource in the GF/EGF Area

The Chamber will continue to be the leader in bringing business people together to make valuable contacts that help grow and enhance your client base and business.

We inform our members on important business and community information.

“The Chamber’s workforce committee has been supportive of helping integrate New Americans as a partial solution to the workforce shortage in our region. The committee understands the opportunities that New Americans can bring to the community and has shared ideas.”

Cynthia Shabb - Executive Director Global Friends Coalition

Business After Hours at the Lighting Gallery
Member Networking, Events and Training Opportunities
- The Chamber Annual Meeting & Dinner - January
- GF Mayor’s State of the City Luncheon - February
- EGF Mayor’s State of the City Luncheon - March
- Annual Chamber Golf Classic - June
- Wake Up to UND - September
- Northland State of the College - October
- State of the Base Breakfast – November
- Ag Appreciation Banquet - November
- Eggstravaganza - December
- Business After Hours - Monthly
- Brown Bag Seminars - Monthly
- Membership Round Tables - 2 per year
- Leadership training program - Aug. - Dec.
- Business related training opportunities - Spring/Fall
- The Chamber Shark Tank - April
- Operation Thank You visit to membership - July
- Participation in the more than 100 chamber programs and events
- Membership visit program to members in their place of business
- Business related training opportunities - Spring/Fall

The Chamber meets the needs of our Diverse Business Community and over 1075 Members through the work of our Standing Committees

5000 business people networked at Chamber events in 2016

Chamber Committees: Purpose and 2017 Priorities

Agribusiness Committee
- Chair: Rick Robinson, Bremer Bank. Chair Elect: Carah Hart, RR Farm Network
- Purpose: Promote agriculture and its importance to the region.
- Goals:
  - Continue to grow annual Farm Appreciation Banquet.
  - Work on Ag Education in the community.
  - Research and develop policy positions on ag issues
  - Host City to Farm Tour.

Member Recognition
- Henry Havig Award - January
- Mike Maidenberg Emerging Leader Award - December
- Ambassador of the Quarter
- Business Briefs Section of Newsletter - Monthly
- Facebook Posts and Updates - Regularly

Promote
We promote our members, the business community and the GF/EGF region.
"The Chamber has provided many opportunities for us to promote our business. From traditional advertising, websites & social media, to referrals and chamber events such as the annual golf tournaments, we’ve utilized it all."

Dave and Shari Isaak ~ Owners of Expressway Suites

Promote
We promote our members, the business community and the GF/EGF region.
"I have made many valuable business connections at chamber events like Business After Hours. I would recommend anyone in business to participate in chamber activities. It will help their bottom line."

Matt Fischer ~ Probitas Promotions

This has long been the hallmark of The Chamber as it has continually provided value-added services to its members throughout its 111 year history.

NCTC President Bona at State of the College Luncheon

Dave and Shari Isaak ~ Owners of Expressway Suites

Ribbon Cutting at Spicy Pie
Ambassadors Committee

Chair: Kathy Snider, US Bank
Purpose: To be the welcoming arm of the Chamber and promote the Chamber membership.
Goals:
- Welcome new chamber members and businesses with ribbon cutting ceremonies.
- Assist with registration and greeting at chamber events.
- Invite Ambassadors in 2017 Membership Drive.
- Conduct Operation “Thank You” campaign designed to thank membership.

Business Government Education Alliance Committee (BGEA)

Co-Chairs: Todd Feland, GF City and Janelle Mulroy, Brady Martz & Associates
Purpose: Bring business, government, and education leaders together to address issues and share information of importance for the successful development and positive growth of the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks region.
Goals:
- Host monthly meetings on topics of keen interest and importance to the community.
- Report outcome of meetings to the membership.
- Evaluate BGEA membership and build on focused relevant programs.

Facilities Committee

Chair: Mark Peterson, Peterson Construction Co.
Purpose: Update and manage the current Chamber-owned facility at 202 N. 3rd Street
Goals:
- Continue to work on the facility plan.
- Keep the rental space occupied.
- Look at various long-term upgrade solutions for the park, develop a funding plan and make the upgrades.

Government Affairs Committee

Co-Chairs: Dane Ferguson, Ferguson Books and More! and Garth Rydland, Valley Memorial Homes
Purpose: Provide leadership, information, and advocacy that will enhance the economic environment and represent the interests of the local business community.
Goals:
- Develop cooperative relationships with organizations to establish and nurture positive relationships at the local, state, and national levels. The Chamber will be an advocate for the free enterprise system.

Business Government Education Alliance Committee (BGEA)

Minnesota Goals:
- Lead an annual business/community delegation to the legislature to meet with elected officials and key decision makers on issues impacting the GF/EGF Region.
- Organize EGF Intergovernmental Retreat in February.
- Work with MN State Chamber to provide input on issues of importance to the local business community.
- Work with MN State Chamber, Greater MN Coalition, and Boarder Cities Coalition to provide input on issues of importance to the local business community. Assist in communicating their platforms back to local elected officials.
- Support the EGF Legislative Team agenda.

North Dakota Goals:
- Lead annual business/community delegation to the legislature to meet with elected officials and key decision makers on issues impacting the GF/EGF Region.
- Conduct Legislative Forums on Saturdays during the ND Legislative Sessions.
- Work with ND State Chamber to provide input on issues of importance to the local business community.
- Assist in communicating their platforms back to local elected officials.
- Support the GF Legislative Team agenda.

Overall Goals:
- Be in contact with the congressional delegation on key issues impacting the GF/EGF Region. Coordinate listening sessions with business leaders and congressional leaders.
- Be visible and active in local city, school and county decision making that potentially impacts the business community.
- Host a joint GF/EGF City Council meeting to identify opportunities for the communities to work more closely together.
- Host annual Eggs and Issues breakfast.

Advocate

We advocate for our members and our business climate at the city, state, and federal levels.

“I like The Chamber’s hustle. They have been there at every step in the Grand Sky Development Process. Their state and federal legislative contacts and strategy have been very helpful.”

Tom Swoyer - Grand Sky Development Company

Advocate

We advocate for our members and our business climate at the city, state, and federal levels.

“The Chamber helped get the East Grand Forks business loan program changed to help businesses like mine who do business outside of our immediate area. This saved my business money.”

Dean W. Greuel - Stennes Granite Co
Small Business Committee

Co-Chairs: Erin Zasada, Zimney Foster P.C. and Michael Helt, Alerus
Purpose: Provide value to The Chamber member small businesses through educational programming and other small business services. Work with SBA, SCORE and other small business programs to carry out this purpose.

Goals:
• Continue to offer monthly Brown Bag seminars on a variety of pertinent topics to small businesses in the GF/EGF region.
• Offer one half-day small business education opportunity.

If you are interested in joining any of our committees or just want more information about them, please contact us at 701-772-7271 or info@gochamber.org

Educate
We provide education opportunities for your business and employees.
"I really appreciate The Chamber’s Brown Bag Seminars! They not only give me great insight and ideas for improving my business, but they are also affordable! I’m always excited to see what the topic is each month and what I can put to good use."
Jenny Kuhns ~ Northend Dairy Queen

Herald Advisory Committee
Chair: Bruce Gjovig, UND Center for Innovation
Purpose: Meet periodically with representatives of The Grand Forks Herald to discuss how business is represented and its issues communicated in the publication.
Goals:
• Meet quarterly with the Herald editorial board to talk about the Herald’s coverage of business issues.
• Assist the GF Herald in identifying business-related stories of interest to the community.

Leadership Committee
Chair: Gwen Klawon, UND College of Engineering & Mines
Purpose: Continue to respond to the need for future leaders by conducting an annual leadership training program.
Goals:
• Conduct the 32nd annual personal growth and professional development training program.
• Continue to successfully graduate 43 participants.
• Identify new ways to encourage the more than 1100 graduates of the program to become involved in the community.
• Continue to work with the Community Foundation to award the Mike Maidenberg Emerging Leader Award.

Military Affairs Committee (MAC)
Co-Chairs: Donna Wolfe-Sholes, Greenberg Realty and Brig. Gen. (retired) Al Palmer
Purpose: Foster a strong relationship between the GF/EGF communities and the military units in our region and help provide community support for future missions.
Goals:
• Facilitate improved communication between military and non-military groups.
• Coordinate military and military family support/community connection.
• Support GF Airforce Base future missions and realignment activities (BRC, BRIC).
• Continue the Golden Eagle funding program for the many military support activities.

Connect
We provide opportunities for businesses to connect with other businesses.
"I attend as many Chamber events as I can. I find them very worthwhile as it provides me the opportunity to network with fellow business owners and discuss those things that impact us all. I almost always come away with something useful. Chamber events also help me connect with people I would have no other way to reach."
Jeff Barta ~ Achieve Therapy & Fitness

750 business people served on committees, task forces and special projects in 2016

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• Offer one half-day small business education opportunity.

Past Board Chairs Committee
Chair: John Oncken, True North Equipment
Purpose: Serve in an advisory capacity to chamber leadership and staff.

Agribusiness Committee meeting at Ramada Inn
Chamber Staff

Barry Wilfahrt
President/CEO
barry@gopchamber.org

Kimberly Strom
Program/Event Director
kimberly@gopchamber.org

Emberly Lietz
Membership Director
emberly@gopchamber.org

Autumn Barfield
Finance Director
autumnb@gopchamber.org

Gina Freitag
Communications Coordinator
 Gina@gopchamber.org

Rena DeSautel
Administrative Coordinator
info@gopchamber.org

“It’s what we do. The Chamber of Commerce does what most people think just happens. While you are busy managing your business, The Chamber is working on issues important to maintaining a healthy community.”

Barry Wilfahrt ~ President/CEO

Connect with us on Social Media

Military Affairs Committee
Golf Tournament

EGF Mayor, Lynn Stauss's Retirement Event

Agribusiness “City to Farm” Tour at American Crystal Sugar

The Chamber’s “Shark Tank” Sharks
GF Legislative Priority Committee
A coalition of The Chamber, The GF Region EDC, The City of GF, GF County, UND and other entities as necessary.

**Purpose:** To identify key infrastructure and policy needs and work with elected officials at the state and local level to promote the Grand Forks legislative agenda.

**2017 Legislative Priorities:**
- Support UND’s Legislative Agenda
- Support funding for Water Treatment Plant
- Support funding for Grand Sky Development
- Support funding for Base Retention
- Support funding for UAS Test Site
- Support funding for Airport Aprons

**Team Grand Forks Members:**
- Barry Wilfahrt, Chamber
- Todd Feland, GF City
- Pete Haga, GF City
- Tom Ford, GF City
- Peter Johnson, UND
- Dane Ferguson, Chamber
- Susan Caraher, UND
- Ken Vein, GF City
- Garth Ryland, Chamber
- Bret Weber, GF City
- Keith Lund, EDC
- Ryan Reisinger, GFK

EGF Intergovernmental Committee
A coalition of The Chamber, The EGF EDHA, The City of EGF, NCTC and Polk County.

**Purpose:** To identify key infrastructure and policy needs and work with elected officials at the state and local level to promote the East Grand Forks legislative agenda.

**2017 Legislative Priorities:**
- Support sales tax for “Save Our Pool” project funding.
- Support bonding for the interconnect project.
- Support the Greater MN Cities agenda.
- Increase awareness of NW MN needs among legislators statewide.

**Team Grand Forks Members:**
- Barry Wilfahrt, Chamber
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- Pete Haga, GF City
- Tom Ford, GF City
- Peter Johnson, UND
- Dane Ferguson, Chamber
- Susan Caraher, UND
- Ken Vein, GF City
- Garth Ryland, Chamber
- Bret Weber, GF City
- Keith Lund, EDC
- Ryan Reisinger, GFK

**Strategic Partnerships strengthen our ability to Impact the Communities we live in**
The Chamber recognizes that it is most effective when it works closely and in cooperation with other organizations in the community.

**BRIC (Base Realignment Impact Committee)**
**BRC (Base Retention Committee)**

A coalition of The Chamber, The GF Region EDC, The City of GF, GF County, UND and other entities as necessary.

**Purpose:** To identify key infrastructure and policy needs and work with elected officials at the state and local level to promote the Grand Forks legislative agenda.

**2017 Legislative Priorities:**
- Support UND’s Legislative Agenda
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- Susan Caraher, UND
- Ken Vein, GF City
- Garth Ryland, Chamber
- Bret Weber, GF City
- Keith Lund, EDC
- Ryan Reisinger, GFK

Klaus Thiessen, Grand Forks Region EDC
Barry Wilfahrt, The Chamber GF/EGF

**NV and ME in “The Forks”**
Makin’ a great place to live by engaging talent, energy and resources.
The NV and ME (NV360/Community Visioning Action Team) is a partnership between The Chamber and the Community Foundation.

**Purpose:** The NV and ME Action Team will work to ensure implementation of the various aspects of the Community Visioning (NV360) results.

**Goals:**
- Serve as a catalyst to ensure the results of the NV360 Community Visioning process are implemented.
- Pursue and assist in pursuing funding sources for implementing the NV360 results.

**NV & Me Action Team Members:**
- Co-Chair: Barry Wilfahrt, The Chamber GF/EGF
- Co-Chair: Kristi Mishler, Community Foundation
- Curt Kreun, district 42, ND Senator
- Bruce Gjovig, UND Center for Innovation
- Mark Olstad, Choice Financial, EGF City Council
- Pete Haga, City of Grand Forks
- Mara Jiran, Valley Community Health Centers
- GF Mayor, Michael Brown at State of the City Event
- Donna Wolfe Sholes and Al Palmer accepting the Minuteman Award

Brick Cashing, Grand Forks Region EDC
Barry Wilfahrt, The Chamber GF/EGF
Purpose: To develop strategies to increase workforce availability for area employers.

Goals:
- Tell the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks story. Gather and coordinate new resident and potential new resident materials and develop a cohesive message and package. Implement this using existing and new communication methods.
- Develop a comprehensive “Move-To-Grand Forks” web site with all of the information someone considering a move to our region would want to know.
- Increase employer and post-secondary engagement (Career Conversations Event) connecting employers to students.
- Provide opportunities to directly expose regional high school students to career opportunities in the Upper Red River Valley – Career Expo.

UND Advisory Committee Members:
Steve Burian – AE2S
Dwight Thompson – Altru
Matt Walkowiak – Ground Round
Mark Kennedy – UND
Barry Wilfahrt – The Chamber/GF
Ray Holmberg – State Senator
Todd Feland – City of Grand Forks
Dana Sande – UND/GF City Council

2016
John Oncken
2015
Kristi Magnuson Nelson
2014
Chris Wolf
2013
Jeff Wilson
2012
Chris Semrau
2011
Jim Galloway
2010
Barb Schultz
2009
Rick Duquette
2008
Jerry Youngberg
2007
Kristi Hall Jiran
2006
Rich Becker
2005
Rich Becker/Joanne Otto
2004
Phil Gisi – EGF
Dave Molmen – GF
2003
Mike Pokryzinski – EGF
Judi Paukert – GF
2002
Mike Pokryzinski – EGF
Darrell Larson – GF
2001
Dr. Steve Gander – EGF
Dave McFarlane – GF
2000
Terry Hecht – EGF
Bob Peabody – GF
1999
Duane Finney – EGF
Don Fisk – GF
1998
Wally Rodgers – EGF
Dr. Robert Boyd – GF
1997
Terry Atkins – EGF
Jack Carroll – GF
1996
Cheryl Gaddie – EGF
Lonnie Laffen – GF
1995
Cindy O’Keefe – EGF
Randy Newman – GF
1994
Craig Buckalew – EGF
Greg Gerloff – GF
1993
Steve Worva – EGF
Ralph J. Noll – GF
1992
Bob Bydalski – EGF
Dr. James E. Gjerset – GF
1991
Jack Robertson – EGF
Bruce Rampelberg – GF
1990
Bob Rosenberg – EGF
Bob Kerr – GF
1989
Jeff Westrum – EGF
Don Larsen – GF
1988
Johnn Sayler – EGF
Marlan Heigeson – GF
1987
Gerard Neil – EGF
Ralph Campbell – GF
1986
Gerard Neil – EGF
John Marshall – GF
1985
Paul Stadem, DDS – EGF
R.J. Fiala – GF
1984
Richard Wiley – EGF
Jean Kiesau – GF
1983
Steve Gorman – EGF
James Dalglish – GF
1982
Steve Gorman – EGF
Bob Vaaler – GF
1981
Robert E. Peabody – EGF
Jim Staabsburg – GF
1980
Robert E. Peabody – EGF
Clair Rowe – GF
1979
Dean F. Mitzel – EGF
Paul J. Bridston – GF
1978
Kenneth Couette – EGF
George Unruh, Jr. – GF
1977
Raymond German – EGF
Curt Magnuson – GF
1976
Francis Mireault – EGF
Dick Wold – GF
1975
John F. Ellison – EGF
John Norby – GF
1974
Marvin K. Devig – EGF
Justin Hoberg – GF
1973
Maury Finney – EGF
David Kessler – GF
1972
George Mack – EGF
David Vaaler – GF
1971
Arvy J. Larson – EGF
Jerome M. Dunkle, Jr. – GF
1970
Arvy J. Larson – EGF
Ed Lander – GF
1969
John J. Gaddie – EGF
N.C. Olsson – GF
1968
Alber Boushey – EGF
Chuck Goodman – GF
1967
Lee Dunlevy – EGF
Ralph Roth – GF
1966
Lars Stennes – EGF
Don Lindgren – GF
1965
John P. Bushee – EGF
John A. McDonald – GF
1964
Leonard Zimmer – EGF
Bob Lander – GF
1963
Emil Rycharz – EGF
Edward Olson – GF
1962
John P. Bushee – EGF
T.P. McElroy, Jr. – GF
1961
Leonard Dirsell – EGF
R.W. Blaine – GF
1960
Earl Levasseur – EGF
James Rice – GF
1959
Leo Dunlevy – EGF
G.E. Satrom – GF
1958
Lee Everett – EGF
H.T. Gustafson – GF
1957
Michael K. Gorman – EGF
Gordon Callais – GF
1955 – 1956
H.R. Magnuson – GF
1955
Henry A. Hansen – GF
1954
T.L. Degnan – GF
1953
Ronald N Davies – GF
1952
Armfin F. Rohde – GF
1950
H.R. Magnuson – GF

Past Chamber Board Chairs

UND President, Mark Kennedy at Wake up to UND
Our Mission
We create an environment that encourages business success while enhancing the quality of life in our region.

202 North 3rd Street • Grand Forks, ND 58203
701-772-7271
info@gochamber.org
www.gochamber.org
www.facebook.com/thechambergfgf
www.twitter.com/thechambergfgf