2018
Plan of Action
Embrace Change, Drive Growth
Real VALUE for your membership

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

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 - April
- 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
- Leadership training program - Aug. - Dec.
- Business related training opportunities - Spring/Fall
- The Chamber Shark Tank - May
- 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

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
- Ambassador of the Year

Connect with us on Social Media

Your Chamber Working For You
Your Premiere Networking and Business Information Resource

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.

“\textit{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.}”

\textit{Cynthia Shabb} - Executive Director Global Friends Coalition
We promote our members, the business community and the GF/EGF region

Business After Hours

5000 business people networked at Chamber events in 2017

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

This has long been the hallmark of The Chamber as it has continually provided value-added services to its members throughout its 112 year history.

“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
750 business people served on committees, task forces and special projects in 2017

“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
“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
**Agribusiness Committee**

**Co-Chair:** Carah Hart, RR Farm Network and Brandon Heider, Frandsen Bank  
**Purpose:** Promote agriculture and its importance to the region.  
**Goals:**  
- Bring awareness to the public and city leadership about the importance of agriculture in the Grand Forks Region.  
- Network Agribusiness and Ag Producers of all ages  
- Review Ag Policy and Explore Value Added agriculture opportunities

**Ambassadors Committee**

**Chair:** Stacey Brorson, BeMobile Verizon, Young Living Essential Oils  
**Chair Elect:** Nancy Nelson, UND Career Services  
**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.  
- Involve Ambassadors in 2018 Membership Drive.  
- Conduct Operation “Thank You” campaign designed to thank membership.  
- Start a “Diplomats” group aimed at helping our members take advantage of the many Chamber membership benefits.

**Business Government Education Alliance Committee (BGEA)**

**Co-Chairs:** Todd Feland, GF City and Tyson Zeltinger, Bank of North Dakota  
**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. Be a catalyst for change.  
- 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. (Chamber Depot Building)  
- Keep The Chamber office rental space occupied.  
- Complete the Chamber Park renovation.
Government Affairs Committee

Co-Chairs: Garth Rydland, Valley Memorial Homes and Stacey Dahl, Minnkota Power Cooperative

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.

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.
- Lead 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 annual Eggs and Issues breakfast.
- Interface with the US Chamber “Committee of 100” which our CEO serves on.
Herald Advisory Committee

**Chair:** Bruce Gjovig  
**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 33rd annual personal growth and professional development training program.  
- Continue to successfully graduate 40 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:** Brig. Gen. (retired) Al Palmer and Matt Dunlevy, SkySkopes  
**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.

State of the Base
Small Business Committee

Co-Chairs: Erin Zasada, Zimney Foster P.C. and Josh Klug, US Bank

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.

Past Board Chairs Committee

Chair: Matt Walkowiak, Ground Round Grill & Bar

Purpose: Serve in an advisory capacity to chamber leadership and staff.

Chamber Staff

Barry Wilfahrt
President/CEO
barry@gochamber.org

Kimberly Strom
Vice President of Operations
kimberlys@gochamber.org

Emberly Lietz
Membership Director
emberlyl@gochamber.org

Annette Glomstad
Finance Director
annetteg@gochamber.org

Tina Neil
Communications Director
info@gochamber.org

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
BRIC (Base Realignment Impact Committee)

BRC (Base Retention Committee)
A partnership of the City of Grand Forks, Grand Forks County, The Grand Forks Region EDC, UND and The Chamber. The nine members of BRIC are all members of The Chamber.

Mission: Work to retain and enhance Grand Forks Air Force Base.
Vision: A fully operating base of the future with multiple long term relevant missions. A base near capacity with new infrastructure, many personnel well positioned for future BRAC rounds. A base with alternative uses incorporated into the overall base plan including the Grand Sky UAS Business Park.

Goals:
- Support and enhance all current ACC missions and pursue new missions and capabilities.
- To the extent possible “BRAC proof” GFAFB.
- Support Grand Sky and other economic diversification opportunities for the Grand Forks Region.

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, Mishler Consulting
Curt Kreun, District 42, ND Senator
Bruce Gjovig
Mark Olstad, Choice Financial, EGF City Council
Pete Haga, City of Grand Forks
Mara Jiran, Valley Community Health Centers
Becca Bahnmiiller, Community Foundation of GF/EGF

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.
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.

Develop 2019 Legislative Priorities

Team Grand Forks Members:
Barry Wilfahrt - Chamber
Pete Haga - GF City
Tom DiLarenzo - UND
Ken Vein - GF City
Bret Weber - GF City
Ryan Reisinger - GF Airport
Todd Feland - GF City
Tom Ford - GF City
Stacey Dahl - Chamber
Garth Rydland - Chamber
Keith Lund - EDC

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.

2018 Legislative Priorities:
• Support bonding for Northland Community & Tech. College
• Support the Greater MN Cities agenda.
• Increase awareness of NW MN needs among legislators statewide.

Workforce Development Committee
A coalition of the Chamber, EDC, Job Service and Area Human Resource Professionals

Purpose: To develop strategies to increase workforce availability for area employers.

Goals:
• Convene the GF region HR directors to talk about what is working and what we do even better collectively.

Chamber Partnership with UND and NCTC
The Chamber partners with the University of North Dakota and NCTC in many areas in support of both UND and NCTC’s Strategic Plans including: internships, career conversations, Coulee to Columbia, start-up community projects, and connecting students to area employers through service learning opportunities.

New, in 2018, The Chamber and UND Career Services will partner to employ an intern who will meet with local employers to set up new internships for UND students at area businesses.

Chamber Partnership with the Grand Forks Region EDC and EGF EDA
The Chamber and the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation partner on many things with each group taking the lead role where appropriate: Housing, Airport Infrastructure Development, Workforce Initiatives, Grand Forks is Cooler, and many other projects and programs.

The EGF EDA and The Chamber continue to meet on a regular basis and continue to do the annual “GROW MN” business visits.

The Chamber, EDC, EDA and City Administrators meet several times a year to talk about how the two communities can collaborate more in the name of efficiency.

The Chamber and Grand Forks Region EDC partner to bring business leaders and local issues to the ND Governor and Lt. Governor.
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<td>Matt Walkowiak</td>
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One, Two, Three, Four, Five Stars.

Yes, The Chamber GF/EGF is 5-Star Accredited by the US Chamber of Commerce for its sound policies, effective organizational procedures, and positive impact on the community. Your local chamber is one of just 112 chambers from the more than 7,000 chambers’ nationally to receive the highest possible accreditation; 5-Stars.

Accreditation validates a chamber as having programs that benefit their local economy and for positively influencing action in their community and proves it has strong programing and operations in nine separate areas: Governance, Finance, Human Resources, Government Affairs, Program Development, Technology, Communications, Facilities and Benchmarking.

The accomplishment is a tribute to the efforts of the more than 1,000 Chamber volunteers and Chamber staff.

Our Mission

We create an environment that encourages business success while enhancing the quality of life in our region.