

## **Biography of Barry Wilfahrt, CCE, IOM**

(Certified Chamber Executive by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives and graduate of the US Chamber of Commerce Institute of Organizational Management)



Barry was named President and CEO of The Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand Forks in January of 2008. The Chamber focusses on relevance, advocacy for business and providing tangible value to its 1,000 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.. In addition to a variety of Chamber Boards and Committees, Barry serves on many local boards including the Community Foundation, Economic Development Corporation, Base Realignment Impact Committee (BRIC), CDBG, Altru Health Systems Advisory Board, East Grand Forks EDHA, the Greater Minnesota Partnership, North Dakota Chamber of Commerce Executive Directors Board, Greater North Dakota Policy Advisory Board and several others. He is also an honorary commander to Grand Forks Air Force Base.

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

From 1985 to 2005, Barry 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. Before moving to Watertown he served as the Chamber Executive in Crookston, MN.

Barry has served on more than 130 national, state and local volunteer boards over his career.

Barry has a BS degree in Government from Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota and his MA degree in Urban Studies with a city management emphasis from Minnesota State University. 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).