

April 2024



THE Voice

www.gochamber.org

State of the Base Col Monroe Addresses the Community



Pictured Col Tim Monroe

Col Monroe Announces \$246 million upgrade planned for GFAFB.

In his address Col Tim Monroe talked about a \$246 million upgrade to base facilities. This will enable the base to house and maintain aircraft from all over the world during severe weather events and natural disasters including fifth generation fighters like the F-35 and F-22.

The Col and his Chief both gave a fantastic overview of the important mission and recognized accomplishments of the airmen operating out of GFAFB. They also talked about how important the relationship with the community is.

The Chamber's MAC Committee CoChairs Greg Bowen and Scott Meyer presented the MAC's Squadron of the year award to 348 reconnaissance squadron.

The Chamber sponsored event had a record attendance of 300 people which was a sellout.



Pictured Scott Meyer and Greg Bowen, The Chambers MAC Committee CoChairs

CHAMBER NEWS

Bill Adams Appointed UAS Sector Developer for the Chamber UAS Committee.



Bill Adams

Bill will work as a consultant to begin implementation of the more than 20 goals set by the ND UAS Committee. UAS Brand awareness, a UAS Roadmap, UAS Infrastructure growth, UAS workforce, Relationship with the FAA, and growing the UAS Summit were just a few of the goals identified by the industry. The committee is comprised of mainly private sector UAS companies operating throughout the state.

East Revisits West set for July 18th and 19th

Get these dates on your calendar now. The Chamber has an action packed two days in Tioga and Williston. The trip is aimed at introducing Grand Forks Businesses to opportunities in the Baaken. This relationship building trip has been very popular in the past. Watch for a separate flyer with all the details that will be emailed out in coming weeks, but get the date set on your calendar now.



Still time to sign up for Tours and Talks

See the processes and unique operational approaches at several of the most cutting edge industries in our community. [Click here for details on the full day event set for April 12th.](#)

Go into the Shark Tank with Your Business Idea

We have all seen the popular TV Show "Shark Tank". The Chamber will feature its own version of Shark Tank on April 30th at 6:30 p.m. at the Empire Arts Center. New businesses (less than 2 years old) and individuals with a business idea are encouraged to "go into the tank" and share their business opportunity with the "sharks". Presenters will compete for cash prizes.



Do you have a new business concept?
"Go Into the Tank!"

THE CHAMBER
SHARK TANK
2024

Pizza & cash bar will be available

THE CHAMBER
SHARK TANK

THE Chamber
GRAND FORKS • EAST GRAND FORKS

Shark Tank

Tuesday, April 30, 2024
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Empire Arts Center
415 Demers Avenue, Grand Forks

Go into the Shark Tank & Win!

Participants will have 1 minute to make their pitch.
What their biggest business challenge or opportunity?
The sharks will ask a few questions and offer their advice.

CASH PRIZES!!

\$750 - 1st Place
\$500 - 2nd Place • \$250 - 3rd Place

You Are Invited Attend the Shark Tank & Learn

Watch and learn from the presentations and the interaction with the Sharks. Have fun and learn about some great business concepts.

Meet The Sharks

Matt Winjum Co-owner Rhombus Pizza
Landon Bahl Landon Bahl, Vice President & COO The Olive Ann Hotel
Tommy Kenville Owner ISight RPV Services & T-Global, Inc.
Rachel Gornowicz Owner Countrywide Sanitation

OUR SHARKS

- Diverse backgrounds
- Tremendous business sense
- Entrepreneurial experience

...and they don't bite!

Contact Barry at The Chamber with any questions and to get registered barry@gochamber.org or 772-7271.

FREE ADMISSION

SPONSORED BY:

Edgewood Healthcare
ISIGHT DRONE SERVICES

ALERUS

Countrywide Sanitation Company

Altru

RHOMBUS GUYS BREWING COMPANY

Membership Drive Set for April/May

More than 40 Chamber volunteers will hit the streets in April and May to sign up new Chamber members. Currently the Chamber is the largest business organization in the northern Valley with over 1,000 members. If you know of a business who should be a member of the Chamber contact Janelle at the chamber so the volunteers can approach them about Chamber membership.



THE CHAMBER'S ANNUAL
2024 Membership Drive
April 9 - May 14

GO FOR THE GOLD
BECOME A CHAMBER MEMBER & BE PART OF THE WINNING TEAM

Launching the Games:
April 9th at the Opening Ceremony
as Membership Drive Volunteer
Teams Choose Their Prospects!

During the drive, our volunteers will be contacting non-chamber member businesses about joining. If you know of a business our teams should visit or if you're interested in becoming a member, let Janelle know!
janellew@gochamber.org or 772-7271

Top **TEN** Chamber Membership Benefits

- 1. New Business Contacts** – Networking and new business contacts will help your business grow. With more than 100 chamber programs and events, you'll have no problem adding to your contact base.
- 2. Credibility** – Make a statement that you are committed to the future of the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks region.
- 3. Leadership Development** – The Chamber offers learning and professional development opportunities to help you run a smarter, more profitable business.
- 4. Community Commitment** – Community involvement benefits you and the community and shows your commitment to helping our region grow.
- 5. Referrals** – The Chamber's referrals of our members are a great return on your investment.
- 6. Publicity and Exposure** – Publicity and heightened name recognition as a Chamber Member shows your customers and potential customers who you are.
- 7. Marketing & Advertising** – Targeted and affordable advertising offered by The Chamber help you promote your business effectively on a small budget.
- 8. A Healthy Local Economy** – Be a part of a group that is committed to creating a strong local economy to keep our business momentum moving forward.
- 9. Gain a Voice in Government** – The Chamber is your representative on a local, regional, state and national level. With over 1100 members representing thousands of area employees, The Chamber speaks with a strong voice for our business community on issues affecting your business.
- 10. Partnership** – You will be a part of an organization whose mission is to create an environment that encourages business success while enhancing the quality of life in our region.



THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS AND THE CHAMBER INVITE YOU TO ATTEND
MAYOR GANDER'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS & LUNCHEON



Thursday, April 25, 2024
11:30am - 1:00 pm
East Grand Forks Civic Arena



\$24/person - Open seating
\$200 - Reserved Table of 8

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Reservations are required by Thursday, April 11th.
(Event may fill up prior to the registration deadline.)

Corporate Sponsors



Business Sponsors

AE2S · Bremer Bank · C & H Insurance · First Community Credit Union
Nelson Auto · River Cinema 15 · Xcel Energy

BUFFET LUNCH CATERED BY
HUGO'S

CHICKEN MORNAY
GARLIC MASHED POTATOES
HONEY GLAZED CARROTS
DINNER ROLL WITH BUTTER
BOTTLED WATER

TECHNOLOGY PROVIDED BY:





Lessons in Leadership

Join us for an interactive session that explores the myriad of applications with Leadership. Delve into UND legends, leadership traits, and advice for young leaders.

Don't miss this opportunity! This will be a conversational session at the end where there will be a chance for a question and answer period. Bring your questions.

Featured Speaker:



Jody Hodgson
General Manager, Ralph Engelstad

Jody Hodgson General Manager, Ralph Engelstad Arena is a graduate of Brandon University in Brandon, Man. in business, with his master's in sports management from the U.S. Sports Academy in Daphne, Ala. He credits much of his success to leaders who have helped him along the way. He began his career working for a number of minor league teams and franchises, ending up at the Tacoma Dome in Tacoma, Wash. He left to manage one of the most special venues in America "The Ralph".

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 - 11:30am-1:00pm

The Chamber Board Room

\$20/person - Member (Includes Lunch)

\$30/person - Non-Member (Includes Lunch)

Registration Information

Limited seats available. Sign up today!

Registrations for this seminar are available online only.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Grand Cities Celebrate Jesus

Joe Chine, Coordinator

Sofine2258@outlook.com

Grand Cities Celebrate Jesus -

“Celebrate the Name of Jesus in Unity and Love”

VISION

- To see churches, leaders and businesses unite in the “Name of Jesus Christ” and work together to impact their city with praise, prayer, and celebration throughout the year.

PRIMARY FOCUS

- Celebrate Jesus among churches, families, youth, children, and people of all ages in the Grand Cities.

TEAM

- Organizational Team (23 plus) of pastors, Christian leaders, and followers for Jesus Christ from the Grand Cities, neighboring communities, and other organizations, who volunteer their time, talents, and resources to honor JESUS.

HISTORY

- Celebrate Jesus (also March for Jesus) is a National/International day to Celebrate Jesus in “love and unity” outside the walls of buildings and churches in local communities.

-This is the 4th year for the Celebration in the Grand Cities.

For Additional Information:

Joe Chine/sofine2258@outlook.com/218-791-3182

Website/grandcitiesmarchforjesus.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/>

MarchForJesusGrandForks

701 BBQ

Andy and Jill Elsberry, Owners

701bbq@gmail.com

<https://701-bbq.com/>

Smoked on-site our food truck is more than just a place to grab lunch. It is a place to try out top-notch BBQ dishes that are slow-smoked with pride right on the back porch. We specialize in brisket, pulled pork, and smoked turkey breast but we are always trying something new on the menu as a daily feature. When we set up for a public event we never know how much traffic we will get. We do our best to smoke the right amount of meat but when it's gone... it's gone. Our popular items tend to sell out fast! We bring great food to locations all over North Dakota! Our home city is Grand Forks so that's where you'll most likely find us. Also, available for event catering!

Legacy Medical

Jill Wilson

jill.wilson@legacymedical.com

<http://legacymedical.com/>

Legacy Medical is an independent medical practice offering the full scope of primary care to patients of all ages. Through convenient access to healthcare services, we focus on helping patients heal during illnesses and achieve wellness through regular and routine visits.

While we provide care for a wide range of conditions, we also refer patients to area specialty providers to ensure the continuity of care. We look forward to providing you and your whole family with comprehensive care across every stage of your lives.

Let Legacy Medical be a part of your life-long healthcare experience. Please get in touch with us today to schedule an appointment with one of our providers.



Member²Member
The Chamber E-Promotion

**CLICK HERE TO
ADVERTISE**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Legal Services of North Dakota

Allison Anderson

aanderson@legalassist.org

Legal Services of North Dakota is a non-profit organization, providing legal assistance in a variety of matters to low-income and elderly North Dakotans. Legal Services of North Dakota is a grantee of the Legal Services Corporation and provides free legal assistance to low-income or elderly individuals. Legal Services of North Dakota does NOT charge clients for legal services.

Income Guidelines

Generally 125% of poverty, but higher income limits, or no income limits depending on the type of case or client age.

Citizenship or Immigration Status

For help, you must be a U.S. citizen or provide proof of your immigration status if your case is accepted.

Ages Served

We serve all ages but have separate assistance lines depending on your age.

Under age 60:

Call toll-free 1-800-634-5263

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
between 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CST.

Age 60+:

Call toll-free 1-866-621-9886

Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CST. Friday, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. CST.

Accessibility

Wheelchair Accessible: All locations are accessible for those in wheelchairs.

Hearing Impaired: Our 800 numbers are equipped with phone relay.

Areas Served

The state of North Dakota. There are multiple offices available to visit.

BEK Communications

Keith Johs

keithj@bektel.coop

About BEK Communications Cooperative
BEK Communications Cooperative, founded in 1952, is a communications services company headquartered in Steele, North Dakota. In the last 71 years, the company has grown to include branch offices in Bismarck and Valley City and now serves more than 12,000 customers. BEK provides fiber-based voice, Gigabit broadband, and IP television services; cloud-based security, automation, surveillance, voice, and storage services; and hospital and business communications solutions in North Dakota. The company also provides statewide sports broadcasting and national news reports on the BEK TV Network, and television content across North Dakota through KNDB, KNDM, and KNGF.

BEK emphasizes their fast, friendly, local service experience and a broad portfolio of high-quality communications, enterprise, broadcasting, and advertising services.

Sonyx Solutions!

Matt Soares

sonyxsolutions360@gmail.com

Fencing done right!

We're your local fencing professionals, dedicated to quality and making our customers happy. Our services Include:

Ornamental Fencing

Chain Link Fencing

Wood Fencing

Vinyl Fencing

With a lifetime workmanship warranty and financing options available, we make fencing easy and affordable.

Does your business rely on the internet?

How much money do you lose when your internet goes down?

Carrier diversity – having two different service providers – ensures you always have internet access and reduces costs while increasing flexibility.

Since 1996, Dakota Carrier Network has been a dedicated internet provider, guaranteeing 99.999% uptime. As part of your team, we're here when you need us.

Want to learn more?

Call us at 800-814-3333 or drop us a note at dakotacarrier.com/gfegfchamber.



Carrier Ethernet • Cloud Services • Co-location & Data Center • Cybersecurity Solutions • Dedicated Internet • Data Storage & Recovery • Private Line • SD-WAN • Wavelength Services

DCN
dakotacarrier.com



GOLF MORE
in '24

JOIN A KING'S WALK LEAGUE AND COMMIT TO PLAYING MORE GOLF THIS SUMMER!

KINGSWALK.ORG | 701.787.5464



WOMEN *for* PHILANTHROPY

First Lady Kathryn Burgum

April 18 | 11:30 - 1 p.m.
Gorecki Alumni Center

go.UNDalumni.org/wfp



CHRIS STAPLETON'S ALL AMERICAN ROAD SHOW



WITH SPECIAL GUESTS:

ALLEN STONE

THE WAR AND TREATY

APRIL 4 - GRAND FORKS, ND - ALERUS CENTER **LIVE NATION**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

March 1, To March 31, 2024

The following businesses know the value of their Chamber Membership and have renewed their membership in The Chamber GF/EGF.

A & L Potato Co. Inc.	Ideal Aerosmith Inc.
Acme Rents (Heavy Equipment)	Marco
Ad Monkeys	Midwestern Masonry Inc.
Anytime Fitness	NAV Innovators
Aurora Dialysis	Northern Plains UAS Test Site
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices	Northern Roots Boutique
Family Realty	Northern Valley Youth Orchestras
Bluepeak Broadband	Olive Barrel
Capital Resource Management	Pampered Chef - Brenda Kovar
Compass Leadership Advisors	Plains Chiropractic & Acupuncture
Easter Seals Goodwill ND, Inc.	PlayIt!
Erickson Financial Advisors	Pro Transport & Leasing, Inc.
Farmers Union Insurance Vik/Kadlec/Eggl	ReadiTech IT Solutions
Agency	Relate Care Clinic
Forks Freightliner	SCORE - Grand Forks
Forx Builders Association	Service Credit Union
German Wealth	St. Michael's Catholic School
Gf Bin Cleaners	Steffes Company - Grand Forks
Grand Cities Mall	The Toasted Frog
Grand Forks County	TIAA-Scott Roche
Gregory J. Norman Funeral Chapel	Trustone Wealth Management
HELIX wine & bites	Turtle River State Park/ND Parks &
Heritage Highland I	Recreation
Heritage Highland II	Tyler Nagel Agency LLC
High Plains Water	UND TRIO Programs



SAND STEEL BUILDING CO.

Emerado, ND
701-594-4435
www.sandsteelbuilding.com

Metal Building Construction
Steel Fabrication
Millwright Services



1 FIRST INTERNATIONAL BANK & TRUST
Member FDIC
live first®

GROW WITH CONFIDENCE

FIBT.com

BUSINESS BANKING | CREDIT CARDS | TREASURY MANAGEMENT |
LOANS | PAYROLL | MORE



MEET THE PEOPLE WHO ARE LIGNITE

I AM LIGNITE

PLAN YOUR WINTER GETAWAY TODAY!

Fly Local, Fly GFK



www.delta.com



www.allegiantair.com



www.gfkairport.com

Contact us today by
visiting our website for
more information

Delta
www.delta.com

Allegiant
www.allegiantair.com

GFK
www.gfkairport.com/

AMBASSADORS MEETING

The Chamber Ambassadors extend a warm welcome to new businesses, actively participate in celebrating grand openings and special events, and engage in various Chamber activities.

The Chamber Ambassadors play a crucial role in fostering a vibrant business community by actively encouraging and supporting new and fellow members. Their mission is centered around creating opportunities for businesses to thrive while simultaneously contributing to the community's well-being.

Their dedication involves promoting the Chamber to potential members, highlighting the benefits of membership, and showcasing the community as an excellent place to live and do business. Ambassadors commit to attending monthly meetings and participating in diverse events throughout the year, such as Ribbon Cuttings, Business After Hours, and Chamber activities. The qualifications for an Ambassador include embodying a positive and engaged spirit, enjoying interactions with new people, demonstrating enthusiasm, flexibility, and integrity, and possessing the ability to work effectively as both a team player and a team builder. Through their commitment and positive representation, Ambassadors actively contribute to the success and growth of the Chamber and its members.



The Chamber Ambassador meet on the 3rd Monday of the month. Last month the Committee held their monthly meeting by having a social at The Office Pub & Grub. It's evident that the Ambassadors play a crucial role in supporting the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Community.

Thank you to everyone on the Ambassador Committee for their dedication and efforts in making a positive impact on the community.

Join the team. Become a Chamber Ambassador!

Being an Ambassador provides opportunities for you to promote your business, and network while doing something great for your community!
(Your business must be a current Chamber member to participate)

If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador please contact Tina, info@gochamber.org or call 701-772-7271.

MEMBER NEWS

JLG Promotes Two, Hires One to National Sports Studio

JLG Architects has announced three strategic moves to expand the footprint of its national Sports Studio. A new hire and two principal promotions bolster the firm's depth of expertise in multi-sport and mixed-use entertainment venues, community recreation centers, and ice facilities.



Ryan Rademacher

JLG Architects has welcomed Ryan Rademacher AIA, Principal, to the firm's national Sports Studio team. Rademacher, formerly of MG McGrath, brings 23 years of architectural experience, with specialized expertise in Virtual Design & Construction, complex and high-performing facades, and strategic operations planning. He will set and implement the strategic vision for the design of sports and community recreational facilities, including management of the technical development of system design.

Rademacher joins JLG's team of nearly 200 employee-owners and the firm's award-winning Sports Studio led by Tom Betti, AIA, NCARB, Principal Architect, along with Adam Barnett, AIA, Principal Architect, and Adam Davidson, AIA, LEED AP, Principal Architect.

"We're excited to welcome Ryan as a Principal in our Sports Studio. He brings a wealth of business development and project management expertise," said Betti. "Ryan is a passionate architect who will help build and maintain client relationships to ensure their vision and needs are met. He's a proven leader of people, process, and projects, and brings to our Sports Studio innovation, growth, and high-performance design."

Adam Davidson Promoted to Principal Architect

Adam Davidson, a United States Army Combat Veteran and Registered Architect in North Dakota, Oregon, Minnesota, and South Dakota, was promoted to Principal Architect. Davidson has led JLG's project teams and collegiate clients since 2016, completing some of the firm's most significant sports projects, including Augustana University's Midco Arena in Sioux Falls, SD, Colorado College's Ed Robson Arena, and Xstream Arena in Coralville, IA. Davidson is currently leading the Athletics Event Center at Dakota State University in Madison, SD. The Athletic Events Center will feature upgrades to the football field, esports arena, a new soccer field, and relocated track & field. The facility is part of the larger Athletics Master Plan completed by JLG, which consolidates all sports programs into one district.



Adam Davidson

"Adam continually brings strong leadership with a detail-oriented approach to sports architecture – he's able to channel critical analysis invaluable to the fan, campus, and student-athlete experience."

Tom Betti, AIA, NCARB, Principal Architect – JLG Sports Studio Leader

MEMBER NEWS



Adam Barnett

Adam Barnett Promoted to Principal Architect

Adam Barnett, AIA, Recreation & Sports Specialist, has also been promoted to Principal Architect. With 15 years of experience, Barnett spearheads the firm's community and recreation projects, leveraging recreation facility studies, sports and rec programming, and community growth trends. A Registered Architect in Minnesota and North Dakota, Barnett has been part of the region's most successful rec centers, including White Bear Lake Sports Center in White Bear Lake, MN, Prairie Lakes Wellness Center in Watertown, SD, Rough Rider Events Center in Watford City, ND, and the award-winning Frogtown Community Center in St. Paul, MN. He is currently leading the design of the Runestone Community Center addition in Alexandria, MN. This addition looks to maximize the City of Alexandria's opportunities for concerts, curling, figure skating, graduations, hockey, open skating, seminars, and trade shows.

"Adam is a true leader and visionary in the community sport and recreation market," said Betti. "He balances a technical understanding of how a sports complex operates efficiently, with a 'sweat equity' design sensibility for design solutions that engage and excite."

"I'm excited for what's to come – this leadership team and the young energy that we're bringing to the Sports Studio is going to be a game-changer. It will be fun to see where that energy can take us and how much our Studio grows."

Adam Barnett, AIA, Principal Architect, JLG Recreation Specialist



*Barry Wilfahrt,
Chamber President
and CEO*

Have Coffee with Chamber President

Drop me an email. I would love to stop by your business for a visit. Just email me at barry@gochamber.org and I am happy to come to your business to visit about what is all going on at the Chamber and also hear about what's going on in your business.

MEMBER NEWS

Northland Community & Technical College nursing instructor wins Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award



Karen Znajda

Northland Community and Technical College recently achieved national recognition for excellence in higher education. In February, Karen Znajda, a nursing instructor at Northland, was informed that she would receive the Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) for her outstanding teaching contributions. The award will be presented at the upcoming AACC annual conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

The annual award is named after former AACC President and CEO Dale P. Parnell. It was established in 2018 as a way to recognize teaching professionals

who make a significant impact on student success through the skills and innovations they bring to the classroom. Specifically, award winners demonstrate a passion for the students in the classroom and a willingness to support their students both inside and outside the classroom.

For two decades, Znajda has gone beyond her job description to ensure her students succeed in academics and are well-prepared for the demanding healthcare field.

“Karen is most deserving of the Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award,” said Dr. Sandy Kiddoo, president of Northland Community & Technical College. “She has shown dedication to her students, the college, and her profession. The entire region has benefited from her excellent teaching skills, as her students have successfully filled highly in-demand nursing positions throughout the area. As a community college, it is our mission to support our local economies, and Karen has played a central role in helping Northland fulfill that mission for over two decades.”

Znajda has been teaching full-time for the Northland nursing program since 2004. She teaches classes both on campus and online, as well as in the skills lab for the Practical Nursing Program and the Registered Nursing program. Her extensive experience in the nursing field allows her to make a significant impact in the classroom.

“I am deeply honored and humbled by this national recognition,” said Znajda. “Teaching nursing students has been a rewarding experience, and I feel privileged to witness their growth and dedication as they pursue their educational goals in Practical Nursing, Registered Nursing, and beyond. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here at Northland, and I consider myself fortunate to be able to bring my passion for nursing into the classroom. My ultimate goal is to inspire and encourage my students to achieve their full potential in the nursing field. It is my pleasure to work with such wonderful students who have gone on to excel in their nursing careers. For me, teaching is not just a job, it is a passion, and the success of Northland nurses is my reward.”

MEMBER NEWS

Anne Carlsen Welcomes Two New Operations Managers to Drive Early Intervention Services

Anne Carlsen, a leading provider of early intervention services, is proud to announce the appointment of two new Operations Managers, Courtney Montgomery and Shera Brandvold, to its operations in the East Region.

Courtney Montgomery, based in Fargo, ND, brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her new role as East Region EI Operations Manager. With a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from the University of North Dakota and 10 years of service at Anne Carlsen Early Intervention, Courtney has demonstrated unwavering commitment to supporting the individuals served by Anne Carlsen. In her new role, she will provide leadership and management oversight for Anne Carlsen Early Intervention services in southeast ND (Region 5), collaborating closely with the East Region Vice President and other Operations Managers.

Shera Brandvold joins Anne Carlsen as the East Region EI Operations Manager based in Grand Forks. With a Master of Science in Social Work from the University of North Dakota and over 20 years of clinical and leadership experience, Shera brings a wealth of expertise to her new position. Her background includes serving as a Training Coordinator at UND-CFSTC and as the regional Director of Foster Care Services with PATH. In her role, Shera will oversee Anne Carlsen Early Intervention services in northeast ND (Region 4), working closely with the East Region Vice President and fellow Operations Managers.

These appointments mark a significant step forward for Anne Carlsen in its mission to provide exceptional early intervention services to children and families across North Dakota.

About Anne Carlsen Center: Anne Carlsen is a non-profit organization providing individuals with development disabilities or delays with services and supports for over 80 years. Anne Carlsen has positioned itself on the cutting edge of innovation with unique programs, creative therapies and advanced assistive technologies that provide life-changing programming to those served. While rooted in Jamestown, our services have grown to have statewide impact with additional service locations in Fargo/Moorhead, Valley City, Bismarck, Minot, Bottineau, Devils Lake, and Grand Forks. Learn more at annecarlsen.org.

MEMBER NEWS

Local civic leader earns USAF Distinguished Public Service medal



Bruce Gjovig

Bruce Gjovig, a member of the Air and Space Force Civic Leader Program, received the Distinguished Public Service Award (DPSA) at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland on February 27, 2024.

The award with medal was presented by the Honorable Kristyn E. Jones, acting Under Secretary of the Air Force Base, at the 2024 Air & Space Force Civic Leader Conference in Washington, D.C. Secretary Jones directs strategy and policy development, risk management, weapons acquisition, technology investments and human resource management across the U.S. Air & Space Force.

The Distinguished Public Service medal, presented on behalf of the Secretary of the Air Force, is the highest award given to non-employee civilians. The DPSA is presented to individuals who make a profound contribution to the Air Force and/or Space Force. According to Department guidelines "[t]he Secretary of the Air Force Distinguished Public Service award is awarded to private citizens not employed by the USAF, and who have personally made a profound contribution on the national level, and which represents substantial progress to the Air Force mission."

"It is a great honor to be presented the Distinguished Public Service Award," said Gjovig. "It has been wonderful to serve my nation in this way, and to serve the United States Air Force. For my service locally, I am keenly aware I share this award with the Grand Forks community in providing outstanding support to our base, our airmen, and our mission."

Gjovig has served in the Air and Space Force Civic Leader Program for eight years. The Air and Space Forces civic leaders are unpaid advisors, key communicators, and advocates on Department of the Air Force issues.

Gjovig was also recognized as a key thought leader in planning and developing Grand Sky, the nation's first drone business park and the nation's first UAS airport, which leased 217 acres on the Grand Forks AFB utilizing an Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) and Joint Use Agreement (JUA). He also sponsored the effort to develop the UAS Roadmap from 2008 to 2011 which led potential stakeholders to plan how to capitalize on the emerging UAS industry in North Dakota, including concept plans for the nation's first drone business park. Over several legislative sessions, he helped to secure \$28 million in state funding to support infrastructure development on federal land (Grand Sky) which helped attract the first two tenants for commercial UAS operations – Northrup Grumman (Global Hawks) and General Atomics (Reapers).

In 2021 and 2022, he worked with Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND) to repurpose 24 Global Hawks (Block 20s, 30s) to become Range Hawks as they retired from their ISR mission at Grand Forks AFB and Beale AFB. The planes were transferred to the Secretary of Defense Test Resources Management Center (TMRC) to be used for hypersonic missile testing out of Grand Sky, a Sky Range program to accelerate critical missile testing. This has led to major new activity at Grand Sky.

Gjovig became well known in Air Force circles for his numerous op-eds in support of the US Air Force and Space Force. He held educational sessions on developing op-eds helping other civic leaders become stronger advocates and communicators.

Bruce is CEO Emeritus of the UND Center for Innovation Foundation, retiring in 2017 after 33 years in that role. He has written eight books, the last three on innovators and entrepreneurs from North Dakota. He serves on the Mayor's Base Retention Committee, and is board member on the National Defense Industrial Association based out of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

North Dakota Museum of Art

261 Centennial Dr, Grand Forks, Grand Forks, ND

Thursday, April 18, 2024 - 4:45pm ~ 7:00pm

North Dakota Museum of Art invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun Business After Hours event!

Free Admission

**Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, drink ticket & cash bar, door prizes
Progressive cash drawing is at \$1100.**

Stop by...Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities.

You might even win **\$1100** in our Progressive Cash drawing!

We'll draw the name of one Chamber Member business. If someone from that organization is present, they win!!

Forward this message on to your friends and colleagues.

See you Thursday, April 18, 2024 at Business After Hours!

*Because of the nature of this event, no children under 18 may attend.

Thank you to First Community Credit Union for hosting an eventful Business After Hours.



THE CHAMBER

Executive Committee

Chair: Tony Hodny, H & S Electrical Services LLC

Chair Elect: Mike McLean, JLG Architects

Past Chair: Russel Crary, Crary Real Estate

Mike Fridolfs, Northrop Grumman Corp.

Kay Derry, Northern Roots Boutique

Pat Boppre, Blue Moose Bar & Grill

Barry Wilfahrt, Chamber GF/EGF

Board of Directors

Matt Bredemeier, Grand Forks Subaru Kia

Jon Fargo, Retrax Holdings, LLC

Matt Fischer, Probitas Promotions

Todd Forkel, Altru Health System

Derek Holt, First Community Credit Union

Tarek Howard, Auto Finance Super Center

Meloney Linder, University of North Dakota

Keith Lund, GF EDC

Matt Norby, Norby's Work Perks

Emily O'Brien, Bioscience Association of ND

Scott Reck, Northdale Oil

Phil Ring, McKinnon Company

Liz Savage, Hugos Family Marketplace

Andy Schneider, Dakota Concealed/GF County Sheriff

Penny Stai, River Cinema

Tyler Wilson, Vilandre Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing

Sr. Military Advisor to the Board

Col. Timothy Monroe, GFAFB

Chamber Staff

Barry Wilfahrt

President/CEO

barry@gochamber.org

Kimberly Strom

Vice President of Operations

kimberlys@gochamber.org

Janelle Wald

Vice President of Membership Engagement and Development

janellew@gochamber.org

Tina Fetsch

Marketing and Communications Director

info@gochamber.org

tfetsch@gochamber.org

