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Sauk Valley Area

# Partnering for Success

Midland

# Business After

## Hours

TO CELEBRATE MIDLAND'S NEW LOCATION!

**Thursday, April 20** 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Midland Bank - new location 4404 E. Lincolnway, Sterling

> and stop by for their Open House Week April 17-April 22

> > Midland States Bank is Member FDIC.

SIGN UP BY SEPTEMBER 1 SVCC.EDU/IMPACT

## **April Meetings**

- April 6 Executive Board
- April 13 Ambassadors
- April 11 Board of Directors
- April 20 HBLC
- April 18 Ag

#### Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Directors & Staff

#### **Executive Committee**

President: Dr. Jon Mandrell First Vice President: Pam Fluck Second Vice President: Tim Determan Treasurer: Geoff Wright Past President: Lance Buser

#### Term Ends January 31, 2024

Dave Knie, Knie Appliance & TV Tim Determan, Pinney Printing Steve Munson, Retired, The Medicine Shoppe Lance Buser, Wal-Mart DC #7024 Ryan Olson, Ward Murray Pace & Johnson Violet Nava, Sauk Valley Bank

#### Term Ends January 31, 2025

Alejandro Rivera, RE/MAX Sauk Valley Geoff Wright, CGH Medical Center Josh Johnson, Whiteside Area Career Center Dr. Jon Mandrell, SVCC Rebecca Munoz-Ripley, YWCA

#### Term Ends January 31, 2025

Pam Fluck, Self Help Enterprises Sandi Cavazos, US Bank Katie Whitehead, HALO Branded Solutions Kristina Kaecker, Kunes RV

#### Staff

Executive Director—Kris Noble Marketing Coordinator— Dallas Knack Financial Specialist/Office Manager—Bailey Dorner

## A Message from the Director

Advocacy—What is it, how do we do it, and why?

One of our strategic objectives is to protect the interest of our members and one of the ways we do this is through advocacy at the local, state, and national levels.

But really, what does that mean in the Chamber world? Advocacy is defined as "any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others." So for us, advocacy is twofold:

\*providing information and resources to ensure that you are aware of things that might be happening at the local, state and national level that will impact you. \*to be the voice for our members' businesses,

organization, and clubs that serve the Sauk Valley.

Our job is to make sure you have the opportunity to share your ideas, concerns, thoughts, and suggestion with our elected officials and partner groups such as the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the United State Chamber of Commerce. Events such as the Candidate Forum, Walking Tours with our Representatives, and helping you make connections with our elected officials, are examples of how we work to advocate for our members.

We also organize and implement workshops and discussions on topics relevant to our members. One of which is coming up on April 11 when we will host a Legislative Update with the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the United States Chamber of Commerce. I invite you to attend to learn more about legislative issues impacting the Sauk Valley.

Topics will include:

- \* State issues:
- HB 3129- requiring employers to post pay scale and benefits when hiring.
- HB 2547 Requirements and Restrictions for companies that have quotas for production workers.

\*Federal topics:

- Federal Issues: Banking Updates
- FTC Rule and Noncompete changes
- DOL and definition of an Independent Contractor vs Employee

To register for this event <u>click here</u>. And as always, thank you for your investment in the SVACC!

Enjoy the day,

Ship

## **Investor Update April 2023**

#### **NEW INVESTORS**

Build-A-Pet Clubhouse 815-632-3186 502 1st Ave Sterling

#### **INVESTOR RENEWALS**

Air Play Espresso & Bakery Bardier & Ramirez Real Estate Big Brothers Big Sisters Bonnell Industries CGH Medical Center Champs Banquet Venue Crescent Electric Supply effectv Faith Baptist Church Fifth Third Bank First Christian Church of Sterling First Congregational Church Win Stoller Illinois State Senator 815-677-9445 121 E First St Dixon

Folsom's Bakery Harvest Time Bible Church Holiday Inn Express & Suites Hueber/Dekalb Feeds Jim Prescott's BBQ Shop Ken Nelson Auto Group Kiwanis Club of Sterling McFalls Berge & Associates NAMI Sauk Area Saint Vincent DePaul Society Sauk Valley Law Group LLC Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Sterling NAPA Auto Parts Dream Shop LLC 801-616-9584

Sterling Noon Rotary Sterling Optimist Club The Fitting Room Timber Lake Playhouse Village Profile

We would like to give special recognition to the following groups who provide extra support to the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce. This extra effort and support is truly appreciated. If you have the opportunity to express your sincere appreciation to these members, please do so!

#### Over \$1000 Invested

Central Bank Illinois CGH Medical Center Community State Bank E.D. Etnyre & Co Farmers National Bank - Morrison Midland States Bank Sauk Valley Bank Select Employees Credit Union Sterling Federal Bank US Bank Wahl Clipper Corp. Wal-Mart DC #7024 Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson

#### 150% Club

Bushel Basket Candle Co. Candlelight Inn Helm Civil Hill's Electric Motor Service, Inc. Illinois American Water Lance's Plumbing Lee Ogle Transportation System LK Design Source Loescher HVAC Mattox Insurance Agency Moore Monument & Granite Co NICIL RE/MAX Sauk Valley Rock River Hospice & Home Sawdust N Dreamz Select Employees Credit Union Sterling Rock Falls Child Care Sterling Township T-Mobile United Craftsmen, Ltd.

#### <u>110% Club</u>

1st Gateway Credit Union Astec Mobile Screens Inc Bardier & Ramirez Real Estate Bollman Auto Center Compeer Financial Dennis Electric of Tampico Hawkins-Cassens Insurance James S. Ferris DDS, PC Jim Prescott's BBQ Shop Johnson Oil Company Kelly's Restaurant Kiwanis Club of Sterling Marv Lofgren & Sons Contractors Mertes & Mertes NAMI Sauk Area New Millenium Directories Rock River Lumber & Grain Rock River Ready Mix Scholl Insurance Agency Servicemaster Showplace Antiques & Treasures St. Mary's School St. Vincent DePaul Sterling Chevrolet Wendler Engineering Services Winter Construction

## **Chamber Ambassadors**

Allie Johnston – University of Illinois Extension Angie Delhotal — Sauk Valley College Foundation Arnulfo Valdivia—Sauk Valley Bank Cassandra Salmon – YWCA Chandra Meyer – Re/Max Sauk Valley Christina Bystry — House in the Country Janell Loos — Heritage Woods Jennifer Alvarez — Surf Internet Karen Voss – Morningside of Sterling

Mary White – Community State Bank Nicole Bollman - CGH Medical Center Pam Fluck – Self Help Enterprises Rene Betts—Plotner Insurance Consultants Sheila Martinez – U.S. Bank Sherry DeWalt – CGH Health Foundation Skip Dettman—LSSI Stepheni Chandler. Hughes Resources Tygen Bausman—Sterling Federal Bank

### Ambassador Spotlight— Nicole Bollman, CGH Medical Center

Hi! I am Nicole Bollman, Marketing Specialist for CGH Medical Center. I have enjoyed being a Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce (SVACC) Ambassador since 2006. I love being involved with our local business community – meeting new businesses, celebrating exceptional customer service, and promoting members of the SVACC to friends and family. I have volunteered for many years being active in several of the committees and met many great people while serving in this role.



I am co-chair of the Professional Women's Network committee, along with Charlotte Dunne, Illinois American Water. I have been involved with this group since it started in .... I love planning meetings and events to provide professional women in the area the opportunity to meet, network, and learn useful skills to benefit their lives – both professionally and personally.

I have been with CGH Marketing since 2010. I work with the Marketing team on various marketing projects, including radio spots, interviews, and many community events. I enjoy promoting the hospital, physicians, and all the great healthcare services CGH has to offer. Find out more at cghmc.com

My husband Jeremy and I have two busy boys, Jeremiah, 12, and Jadon, 6. We are in the process of moving to our own farmette and plan to raise chickens. We are active in our local church, Turning Point CITI Church, in Dixon (where we met in 1998). I love being outdoors with my boys, campfire cooking, and making amazing gourmet coffee.

#### Congratulations to Sophie's Cafe for receiving the Customer Service Award!

Sophie's Café Rock Falls location was nominated for providing friendly and prompt service every morning. Visit them in Rock Falls and Sterling.





## **Ribbon Cuttings**



State Representative District 74 Brad Fritts 815-561-3690



Mattox Insurance Agency 208 E. Third St., Sterling 815-626-5751

> The Rusty Fox Alehouse and Wine Bar 1 E. Third St., Sterling (815) 787-8369





Whoop Your Axe 2317 E Lincolnway Suite C, Sterling (815) 213-7493

Servo Pro of Sterling and Cliton 2315 16th St. NW, Sterling 815-440-9122





Whiteside County Healthier Communities Partnership (815) 564-8040

NICIL 412 Locust St., Sterling (815) 625-7860



## **Business After Hours**

March 16 | hosted by Surf Internet at The Rusty Fox

Thank you to those who joined our first Business After Hours of 2023. It was a great turnout full of networking. Join us for the next BAH at Midland States Bank on Thursday, April 20.



## Workforce Development

Kris Noble, SVACC and Rebecca Koerner, Sterling Public Schools, will be cofacilitating a webinar hosted by Illinois Education Success Network on April 17th. This session aims to bridge the gap between students and the education sector with employers and businesses. If your business or organization is looking to implement a workforce development strategy in your organization, this free webinar is a great place to start!

Register <u>here</u> for the webinar.

#### **Member Spotlight**

Thanks, Sauk Valley, for welcoming us to the area. Though we are new to this area, we have been in business for over 20 years and have a storefront both here in Rock Falls and in Rockford. We are your local computer and IT company; and our mission statement is clear and easy: "Take care of our customer and the rest will work itself out". We have done just that for the last 20 years and will continue to do so if we are open. What that statement means is easy for us; We treat our customers and their finances with respect and help them to make the best decision regarding their



technology needs. We are very happy that our business still grows by word of mouth every day because that means we are doing something good by our customers and community!

What we do: This is hard to define because every day is something new! What we do best is Computers and Computer repair, as it has been our core business. But, over the years, this has expanded along with our customers' needs. We now do almost everything connected to the internet from VOIP phone systems for business or residential, to surveillance cameras for commercial and residential. We also fix many electronics as well as selling new computers, laptops, and sound systems. We stock a large selection of parts and cabling for all your electronic needs and do special orders. Stop in to see our store and say hi.



We'd love to meet you. The biggest difference between us and online or the big box store is customer service. We are and will always remain focused on putting the customer first. PCTech2U, making computers and electronics work for YOU since 2002! We'd love the chance to service your electronic needs and earn your business.

## **Government Affairs**

#### Gov. Pritzker Announces \$175 Million Available in B2B Grants for Restaurants, Hotels and Creative Arts Businesses

CHICAGO — Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) today announced \$175 million in available grant funding through the Back to Business (B2B) program. Following state recovery for businesses totaling nearly \$1.5 billion, the latest American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) -funded opportunity is designed to provide additional support for the hardest-hit sectors, including restaurants (B2B Restaurants), hotels (B2B Hotels), and businesses or organizations in the creative arts sector (B2B Arts). To provide hands-on support and raise awareness about the program, the State has mobilized a network of more than 100 community navigators across Illinois.

	B2B Restaurants	B2B Hotels	B2B Arts	
Funding Available	\$50 million	\$75 million	\$50 million	
Award Range	\$5,000-\$50,000?	Up to \$1,500 per room	\$5,000-\$250,000	
Impact of Receiving Prior Award	Ineligible if business received any prior state relief funding (B2B, BIG, RRF) or more than 10K in local funding. Businesses who received federal funds, such as PPP <u>are eligible.</u>	Amount of state or local grants received deducted from overall award amount.	Grant based only on 2021 losses for businesses that received prior state relief funding (BIG or B2B).	
Spending Guidelines	Flexible spending to support losses	80% for payroll related costs; 20% flexible spending	Flexible spending to support losses	
Examples of Eligible Businesses (for the full eligibility list and guidelines please visit Illinois.gov/B2B)	Restaurants Taverns Bars Caterers Breweries Wineries Food Trucks	Hotels Motels Inns Lodging sites	Performing and presenting arts Theaters Museums Cultural heritage organizations	

<u>Applications are open</u> from April 5 through May 10, 2023 and awards are expected to be made several weeks after the deadline date. All eligible applicants will receive a grant as long as the business meets eligibility requirements and submits proper documentation and attestations.



The candidate forum for Sterling Mayor and School Board had a great turnout. **Election day is April 4**, make sure your voice is heard by casting your ballot!

## Candidate Forum

March 21



On March 1, 2023, the Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program began the morning with an eye-opening, powerful Q & A with a panel of leaders in local education: Mimi Hicks, CGH Helping Hands Daycare Director; Lindsey Stumpenhorst, Challand Middle School principal, Ron McCord, Superintendent, Rock Falls District 301; and Sarah McFarlane, Program Director of Adult Education, SVCC. After the panel, Joshua Johnson, Whiteside Area Career Center Director, gave the cohort a comprehensive tour of the incredible career and technical programs available to area students. After a Q & A with Jpohnson, WACC's Culinary Arts students provided an impressive luncheon.

Steve Nunez, President of Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, met with the cohort to explore the concepts of strategic planning and organizational mission and vision statements. Amanda Wike, Executive Director of the Lee/Ogle United Way and former SVCLP member, discussed how, using Nunez's session from 2022 as a springboard, she and her organization created a solid mission statement to focus their efforts. Students also practiced for their "Call to Action" by sharing new learning on a leadership topic of interest. We then discussed local opportunities for leadership engagement as we enjoyed a delicious lunch from Palmyra Pub & Eatery of Dixon.

## **Guest Editorial**

By Emily Witt, Director, NICIL

The Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living (NICIL) was established in 1985 and serves the counties of Lee, Whiteside, Carroll, Jo Daviess, and Ogle. NICIL is a non-profit, non-residential Center for Independent Living that supports people with disabilities by helping them gain the skills, knowledge, and resources they need to live as independently as they choose. NICIL currently employs six team members, led by Director Emily Witt. Over 51% of NICIL's team and its Board of Directors identify as persons with disabilities who use their own experiences to provide compassion and peer support.

Our core program is designed to work with the person on the goals they want to achieve - whether it's learning how to budget, moving out on their own, applying for a job, advocating for themselves or a loved one, or finding a caregiver to help in the home, NICIL provides support and education during the process.

We work with our communities to learn of their services and connect people to the right resources. We bring the voices of people with disabilities to the table of discussion and advocate for increased access and inclusion for all. Our mission is to empower people with disabilities by supporting the individual and their community with the skills and knowledge to live independently. Northwestern









Illinois Center for Independent Living Join Sauk Valley, Illinois, and US Chambers of Commerce for a Lunch & Learn on April 11. Learn about legislative updates and how they apply to you and business owners. Register by **April 4** at bit.ly/3DH9WYO



**Clark Kaecher** VP of Government Affairs, Illinois Chamber of Commerce



**Ryan Gleason,** Manager of the Great Lakes Region, U.S. Chamber of Commerce **Tuesday, April 11, 2023** 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sterling Federal Bank 110 E. 4th St., Sterling

\$25 members\$30 non-membersLunch provided by Angelo'sRegistration required by April 4

#### **Register online at bit.ly/3DH9WYO** Or by calling 815-625-2400.

#### Professional Women's Network Event

PWN hosted its Spring 2023 luncheon on March 22, 2023, at Wesley United Methodist Church. Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Susan Carlson from Sinnissippi Centers, presented on Preventing Burnout; How to Effectively Manage Stress and Anxiety. About 50 individuals attended the event and enjoyed a taco bar provided by Creative Cuisine.

Carlson shared that burnout is from prolonged stress and can lead to depression. Stress can also lead to anxiety. It comes from the invisible load that individuals carry even with the modern inventions of things like the washing machine, we still carry a lot on our plates.

In a poll from the audience, about half identified what this looks like for them – work, family/kids, imposter syndrome, planning, managing the house, etc. 45% of those surveyed said either, "I'm so tired" or "I'm exhausted".

Carlson then presented some ways to prevent burnout, starting with doing an emotional/physical wellness check-in. How am I actually doing? Communicate with our supports on what we need help with to lighten or share the load. Prioritizing ourselves and really doing it.

She defined buzz words like:

- Mindfulness - bringing yourself back to the present moment by asking yourself: What is happening right now? Where are you physically at in the moment?

- Self-care – anything that helps you recharge. This is different for everyone. But she encouraged us to schedule the time to make this happen.

She concluded that it is ok to ask for help and to get professional help when we need it. Overall this was a great event!

PWN was created to facilitate more interaction and networking among Sauk Valley area female professionals. The next meeting, which is open to all SVACC members, is May 17 at noon at the SVACC office (211 Locust St.) Our next event will be our summer networking event in late July. More details to come. For more information or to join PWN, please call 815-625-2400 or email knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com







#### Written by: Payten Newman, Sterling High School

When joining CEO, I knew immediately what I was going to do for the Trade show, it was the entire reason for my joining. I had to alter my business quite a few different times through a lot of internal trial and error trying to figure out what would work the best. I originally wanted to make lattes and other

espresso drinks. But that wouldn't have worked because I don't have a consistent water source while at my mall trade show booth. Eventually, I landed on selling coffee beans, and Queen Bean was born.

The whole process of creating our businesses has been so rewarding. First, we had to figure out what we were doing, which came easier to some than others. Some are still figuring out what to do for their business, which is okay. In CEO we want our business to first be successful but also to be something we can pride ourselves on.

So figuring out the perfect business is important. Next we had to write a business plan to explain and show what our business is all about and how it works. We had multiple people go over this plan and work out as many problems and kinks as possible before we presented it to the bankers. Once that process was done we presented our plans to the bankers and talked about details and answered any questions the they had. Finally, we got our money for our businesses and now the next step is getting all of the items we need. Then the fun part comes and we get to design and decorate our booth for the trade show.

As mentioned, this entire process was so rewarding. The help we had along the way was amazing, just to see how many people were willing and wanting to help was very heartwarming and gave me a lot of confidence. So thank you, not only to the people who helped us but to the people who plan to support us in the future and at the trade show. So be one of those people and support Queen Bean and get some freshly ground coffee!

See you April 26 and 27 at Northland Mall.

#### Written by: Rhiannon Allison, Rock Falls High School

A few years ago, I never could have even imagined myself willingly speaking in front of large crowds or approaching strangers. Growing up I was very shy and didn't enjoy meeting or talking to new people, but now, I love it. I am so eager to meet someone new and learn about them and what they do in their life. CEO gives me the opportunity to expand my knowledge in so many different areas whether it is business owners, government officials, past CEO students, and more. I absolutely love waking up in the morning and having a new experience each day. I used to dread getting up for school, but now it is something I look forward to. CEO is so engaging, interesting, and interactive that it would be impossible not to be excited to go to class. I am incredibly lucky to be in CEO as it has been the best experience of my high school career and something I will never forget.

Currently, the CEO 2023 class is working on our individual businesses. My business is Dough-n-Go, where I hand make and sell edible cookie dough bites. So far, we have completed our business plans, loan request pitches, and more. The next steps include putting it all together. The tradeshow is in one month and we have a lot to do, but I have no doubt that our class will succeed. We have put in hours and hours of hard work to get where we are and I am incredibly proud of everyone. I cannot wait to see how everything turns out. Come support and visit us at Northland Mall on April 26th & 27th!!



## Sophie's Café — Rock Falls

Salad Bar is open every day 10 a.m.—1 p.m. All You Can Eat Dine-In (TO GO options available)

Chipotle Chicken, Basil Chicken, and Plain Chicken Breast add-ons available!

\*Rock Falls location only





## ELECT GONZALO REYES STERLING

SCHOOL BOARD



## Qualifications

Elected to three terms to SPS Board of Education

Retired, Highly Qualified, award-winning teacher in public & private schools

Taught locally for 32 years

Community Activist in Education/Twin Cities Educational Scholarship

## Goals

Teacher shortage/recruitment Grow Your Own - Sterling Public Schools University

**VOTE BY APRIL 4TH** 

Current Superintendent Retirement/Previous Experience with Superintendent Searches

Changing the method of election of Sterling Public Schools

Explore changing the policy of sports facility usage

Greater transparency videotaping meetings, broadcasting several times a month, and teacher recruitment



\*The SVACC does not endorse any candidate



SVACC 57th Annual Golf Outing Registration and Sponsorship



#### Friday, June 9, 2023 | Deer Valley Golf Course

Proceeds are used to fund the Charles Farnham Business Scholarship and chamber operations.

Registration/Lunch 11:30am Shotgun Start 12:30pm Awards 5:00pm



\*All Packages Include: 18 holes with cart, green fees, lunch and signage on your sponsored hole. All sponsors will be noted in the event program with your business logo.

HOLE SPONSOR ONLY: Full Hole \$275.00 1/2 Hole \$175.00	Putting Contest HAWKINS-CASSENS INSURANCE 2321 E Lincolnway, Sterling • (815) 625-7474 • www.hci-agency.com			<b>GOLF ONLY:</b> \$80.00 Per Golfer \$320.00 Foursome	
Golfers' Information: Company Name: Contact Name: Phone: Email: Golfer 1: Golfer 1: Golfer 2: Golfer 3: Golfer 4:		Birdie Package Birdie Package Par Package Caddy Package Golf Only (\$80.00/golfer)/ list number of golfers		□ Invoice Me □ Check Enclosed □ Credit Card □Visa □ M/C Name on Card: Signature: Card Number: Expiration Date:/ CVC: Register online:	
Please return form by June 3 SVACC - 211 Locust Street, Sterling, IL 61081 Phone: 815-625-2400   Fax: 815-625-9361 Email: office@saukvalleyareachamber.com		1/2 Hole Sponsor Only	saukvalleyareachamber.com/golf-outing		



## from the Illinois Chamber of Commerce & the US Chamber of Commerce



**Clark Kaecher** VP of Government Affairs, Illinois Chamber of Commerce

**Ryan Gleason,** Manager of the Great Lakes Region, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

## Tuesday, April 11, 2023

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\$25 members\$30 non-membersLunch provided by Angelo'sRegistration required by April 4

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#### LEARN MORE ABOUT LEGISLATIVE UPDATES AND HOW THEY APPLY TO YOU & YOUR BUSINESS







## SAUKVALLEYAREACHAMBER.COM



#### CLINTON LUMBERKINGS BASEBALL CLUB

www.lumberkings.com

## Sauk Valley Day

We are excited to announce "Sauk Valley Day" here at NelsonCorp Field in Clinton, Iowa. Sauk Valley Day is set for **Sunday July 23, 2023.** This is a great way to publicize your business to the rest of the LumberKings fan base at an extremely affordable cost.

For \$100 you will receive the following benefits:

- **100** General Admission tickets, with your business' name for you to distribute at your own discretion.
- The option of setting up a vendor booth to distribute flyers, coupons, door prizes, raffle prizes, and other company marked items before, during, and after the game.

The tickets are a great way to reward loyal customers and also hard working employees.

Food and drink vouchers can be purchased with these tickets as well. Food vouchers include a one of the following: hamburger, hotdog, bratwurst, or pulled pork sandwich; plus a bag of chips, and a bottled beverage.

## "Sauk Valley Day" Sunday July 23<sup>rd</sup> - Gates open at 1:00pm - Game at 2:00 pm

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to participate, please do not hesitate to reach out via e-mail or a phone call. I look forward to hearing from and working with you for "Sauk Valley Day" in 2023!



Sincerely,

Jake Fratzke

Director of Operations (563) 242-0727 x 106 jakefratzke@lumberkings.com

> Want to become a season long partner with the LumberKings? Send me an email and I will elaborate about our advertisement opportunities for this season!