



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



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Partnering for Success

JANUARY 2021

Sterling Seasonal Sights and Sounds 2020



Sights & Sounds



Thank you to our sponsors:

Walmart Distribution Center #7024, The Sterling Rock Falls Community Trust, CGH Medical Center, ComEd, Loescher HVAC, Sterling Federal Bank, Rock Falls Tourism, Midland States Bank, SBM, Showplace Antiques, Jakobs Brothers Farms for your generous contributions. Our gratitude also to Northland Mall, Frantz Manufacturing, Fiesta! Tents, Tables, and Chairs, and Elaine Hand for your support of Santa on the GO. Also, many thanks to our volunteers: SHS Key Club, SHS National Honor Society, NCCHS BLIND, NCCHS Key Club, NCCHS National Honor Society, RFHS BLIND, RFHS Jr. Optimists, Kiwanis Club of Sterling, Sterling Noon Rotary, Sauk Serves, Sauk Valley Bank Donate 8, Sterling Rock Falls Family YMCA, SVACC Ambassadors, Sterling Public Library, Whiteside County 4H, Fulton BLIND, Woodlawn Arts Academy, the Jakobs family, Sacred Heart Youth Group, Exclusive Window Tinting, Genesee Hillbillies 4H Club, Jordan Creek Farms, LSSI, Whiteside County Sheriff, and the Salvation Army.



**MASK UP
SAUK VALLEY!**

Protect & Respect Our Community

- WEAR A MASK • WASH YOUR HANDS
- STAY 6 FEET APART • STAY HOME WHEN SICK

#maskupsaukvalley #strongertogether #cover-clean-contact-confine

January

January 6 Executive Board
January 8 HBLC
January 12 Board
January 14 Ambassadors
January 19 Ag
January 20 PWN

Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Directors & Staff

Executive Committee

President: Lance Buser
First Vice President: Claudia Sauer
Second Vice President: Sheila Martinez
Treasurer: Brian Hawkins
Past President: Mike Loos

Board of Directors

Terms Ends January 31, 2021

Brian Hawkins, Hawkins-Cassens Insurance
David Knie, Knie Appliance & T.V.
Tim Determan, Pinney Printing
Steve Munson, The Medicine Shoppe
Lance Buser, Walmart D.C. #7024
Ryan Olson, Ward Murray Pace & Johnson

Term Ends January 31, 2022

Jim Cesarek, RE/MAX Sauk Valley
Claudia Sauer, CGH Medical Center
Rebecca Munoz-Ripley, YWCA of the Sauk Valley
Josh Johnson, Whiteside Area Career Center
Jon Mandrell, Sauk Valley Community College

Term Ends January 31, 2023

Mike Loos, Edward Jones Investments
Sheila Martinez, U.S. Bank
Rick Turnroth, Turnroth Sign Company
Pam Fluck, Sauk Valley Bank

Staff

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

A Message from the Director

Welcome to 2021!

While 2020 was a year that proved very challenging, uncertain, frustrating, and overwhelming, it was also a year that showed how resilient, innovative, caring, hopeful, and united the Sauk Valley is.

I am proud and grateful to work for this organization and I was able to see on a daily basis how YOU - as members of our chamber - worked to support this community and each other.

For many of our members, the challenges continue into 2021, as we work to figure out how to make our businesses and organizations rebound from this awful pandemic.

Our commitment to you, is that as COVID-19 continues to impact individuals, families, businesses, education, healthcare, and our communities, the SVACC is will continue to work to provide resources, information, activities, and relevant educational/training opportunities. We will continue to be a voice at the local, state, and national levels to advocate for our members and this community. We will continue to collaborate with educational institutions and the business community to promote workforce development initiatives.

The guiding principals of the SVACC are to be a catalyst for business growth, a convener for leaders and influencers, and a champion for stronger communities, and we will continue to use these principals to guide us into 2021.

Enjoy the Day!



Member Update January 2021

NEW MEMBERS

Northside Nutrition
406 Ave G
Sterling
(847) 778-6936

MEMBER RENEWALS

Avonlea Cottage
Bartini's
BEST, Inc.
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Cora Physical Therapy Sauk Valley
Duncan Land and Auction
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
Jack Spencer State Farm Insurance
Key Builders INC
Live Better Chiropractic, PC
Mary Kay Cosmetics, Sandy Fritz

Richter Ranch Designs
Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation
Siefken, Russ & Carol
Smoked on 3rd BBQ Bistro & Catering
The Butcher Shop
Thompson Truck & Trailer
Wal-Mart D.C. #7024
Whiteside Area Career Center

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!

Investing over \$1000 in Dues

CGH Medical Center
Community State Bank
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 Members

Allstate Insurance Agency
Amazing Grace of Sterling
Green Bee Energy Efficiency
Happy Tails Humane Society
Illinois American Water
James S Ferris, DDS, PC
Lance's Plumbing
LK Design Source
Mattox Insurance Agency
Moore Monument & Granite Co
Sterling Rock Falls Child Care
The Spa At Central Park
Wiggins Communication Technology

110% Club Members

Cassens Drainage
Central Heating & Cooling
Compeer Financial
Folsom's Bakery
Hawkins-Cassens Insurance, LLC
Imprintable Memories
Kiwanis Club of Sterling
Mertes & Mertes

New Millenium Directories
Rock River Lumber & Grain
Rock River Ready Mix
Rosemeyer Management Group
Sauk Valley Foodbank
Scholl Insurance Agency
Schuneman Insurance Agency
Showplace Antiques & Treasures
Simply Hair Studios

St. Mary's School
Sterling Chevrolet
Sterling Commercial Roofing
Sterling Optimist Club
The Cornerstone Agency, Inc.
Wendler Engineering Services, Inc.
Willy's Restaurant

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The SVACC is proud of our commitment to supporting workforce development and career pathway exploration through a variety of scholarships offered to students in the Sauk Valley.

The SVACC offers scholarships in 3 career pathways.
Applications are available now for the 2021-2022 school year.

Business/Human Relations: The Charles Farnham Scholarship.

This scholarship is dedicated to an individual who was very active with the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Farnham's professional background and employment focus was in industrial relations at Northwestern Steel and Wire where he was a Vice President. The Farnham application is a one-year, \$1000.00 scholarship. Applicants for this Scholarship must attend Sterling High School, Rock Falls High School, or Newman Central Catholic High School. Two scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1,000.00 each.
Click [here](#) for more information, or to apply.

Agriculture/Ag Related Pathways: The Agribusiness Committee Ag Scholarship.

The SVACC Agribusiness Scholarships are available for any student attending high school in the Whiteside Area Career Center service area and pursuing a career pathway in the field of agriculture.

The Agri-Business Committee will award **several** scholarships for each of the following categories:

- A minimum of \$1,500.00 in scholarships to a student attending an accredited 4-year college or university. This application is for a one-year scholarship.
- A minimum of \$750.00 in scholarships to a student attending Sauk Valley Community College. This application is for a one-year scholarship.
- A minimum of \$750.00 in scholarship to a student attending an accredited community college or 2-year college. This application is for a one-year scholarship

Click [here](#) for more information, or to apply.

Manufacturing Pathway: The SVACC Manufacturing Scholarship.

This scholarship is open to students who are current seniors in a WACC high school, a current student at Sauk Valley Community College or Morrison Institute of Technology, or a current resident of the Sauk Valley area who will be attending SVCC or MIT and pursuing a career in a manufacturing related field. This application is for a one-year, \$500.00 scholarship.

Several scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$500.00 each.

Click [here](#) for more information, or to apply.

**Congratulations to
Arthur's Garden Deli
for receiving the Customer Service Award!**
2312 E Lincolnway, Sterling
(815) 625-5566



2021 Annual Meeting & Dinner

April 22, 2021



McCormick
EVENT CENTER

Holiday Donations

The SVACC ambassadors made donations to 5 local NFP chamber members, to support the amazing work they do.



Twin Cities Homeless Shelter (PADS)
twincitiespads.org



Rock River Hospice & Home
hospicerockriver.org



YWCA of the Sauk Valley
ywsauk.org



St. Vincent DePaul Society
svdpsaukvalley.org



Sauk Valley Food Bank
saukvalleyfoodbank.org

Chamber Ambassadors

Allie Johnston – University of Illinois Extension
Amy Tessman – Frary Lumber
Angie Delhotal— Sauk Valley College Foundation
Angie Smith – Hawkins-Cassens Insurance Agency
Cassandra Salmon – Sauk Valley Bank
Chandra Meyer – Re/Max Sauk Valley
Christina Bystry—House in the Country
Jon Byar – Midland States Bank

Justin Wiggins—Wiggins Computing, LLC
Karen Voss – Rock River Hospice and Home
Mary White – Community State Bank
Nick Krumbholz – Sterling Federal Bank
Nicole Bollman - CGH Medical Center
Pam Fluck – Sauk Valley Bank
Roy Dern – State Farm
Sheila Martinez – U.S. Bank
Sherry DeWalt – CGH Health Foundation

The SVACC Ambassadors serve as the public relations group of the chamber. This professional business group works within the chamber membership serving as a liaison between members and the community. They assist chamber staff in welcoming new members of the SVACC and connecting with current members of the SVACC, by representing their companies and the chamber at various events throughout the year such as; Business After Hours, Ribbon Cuttings, Customer Service Awards, and more.

In addition to their work as an Ambassador, these folks are an incredible group of people who show their commitment to the Sauk Valley by getting involved in clubs and organizations that are important to them. This group believes that giving their time and talent is important and for that- we thank them. I would call this group of ambassadors “Change Agents” – as they impact change by getting involved and working to be part of solutions and making this community a better place to live. This year, we will be highlighting each ambassador and a Service Club, or Not for Profit organization that they are involved in.

Hello, I’m Jon Byar, a SVACC Ambassador and also a Salvation Army advisory board member. Our local Salvation Army location serves the Sauk Valley area in many important capacities. Under the leadership of Captains David and Laura Amick, they serve our less fortunate population who have immediate and long term needs.

The Salvation Army is typically known for their red kettles and angel trees during the Christmas season. However they serve our Sauk Valley community year round through various social and outreach programs. One important mission of the Salvation Army is to find permanent solutions to assist those in need. The Pathway of Hope program creates pathways to assist those individuals who wish to find permanent employment, life skills counseling, and financial budgeting, in order for them to lead a comfortable life.

Yes, the Salvation Army does conduct weekly church services and food distribution at their location in Sterling, but they provide much more for the Sauk Valley. They also respond to local disasters with their food truck and have programs to empower our local youth and much more. To learn more about our local Salvation Army, please review their website: www.tsasterling.org or contact them by phone at 815-625-1622.

Lastly I wanted to share a couple of photos of myself and my 92 year old dad ringing the bells. My dad rang bells for over 30 years and instilled upon me the importance of giving back to our community and to volunteer!



Written by: Grace Jakobs — Milledgeville High School

I could easily talk about my experience thus far in CEO and all the reasons why I decided to join. I'm sure you've heard it all; the communication skills, a look into the business world, and all of the above. Of course, all of that is true I give my props to CEO for already helping me grow as a person in such a short time! The first week of CEO my facilitator, Le, talked about vulnerability. I was in my seat scared out of my mind that I would have to share my deepest darkest secret with 21 unfamiliar students. Thankfully, Le reassured us that we were not going to just spill our guts in front of the class then and there. Even with nerves shaking me to my core, I still felt a sense of reassurance knowing that emotions were welcome in the classroom. For the longest time I was taught and conditioned that my emotions and school have to be separated. Once I step into a school setting any kind of sadness, anger, frustration I have gets pushed down and saved for later. As if it is leftover spaghetti my mom made, that was made to feed 10+ people, knowing there is only three of us eating... When I walked into CEO, and one of the first few things we talked about was vulnerability I wasn't sure of how to react. My immediate reaction was, "No," that was the only word that appeared in my head. All other thoughts disappeared, and I wanted to close myself away. I realized that maybe this one time, I shouldn't shut down and become a shell of a person. I signed up for this class because I wanted to be able to actually feel like I was a part of something bigger than myself and the part I play to have a real meaning. If I chose in that very moment to react as I normally do and close myself off to the class, I would've gained nothing. CEO is about more than just the tours, speakers, and connections. It is about the impact it leaves on each and every one of the students. Just from my personal experience five months in, I have grown in so many different ways. There are certain parts of me that I didn't even think CEO would impact, but it did. This class has helped me become a more well-rounded person and the year isn't even over. Every day in CEO I feel like I am doing something that is meaningful, and it motivates me to get out of bed every day. I can only imagine how much more I will grow in these upcoming months!

Written by: Jesse Arians, Sterling High School

It has been a long journey so far in the CEO class. We have had so many speakers, and we have been to so many places while maneuvering around the world wide pandemic. I personally have enjoyed meeting business owners in my town and learning new things. Most of the speakers relayed one common piece of advice, in my opinion, one of the most important lessons to be taken from this class. They told us to choose a job that you are passionate about. If you do not have passion for what you are doing, you will not take as much care and time in your final product or service. However, by putting your full care and attention into it, you can provide a great product and service for all to enjoy.

Our class has done a lot in the past month with Savory CEO. We've finally finished our menu. We will be offering 5 casseroles and 2 soups. They are cheesy broccoli and rice casserole, million-dollar chicken casserole, lasagna, tater tot casserole, mac and cheese casserole, chili, and chicken tortilla soup. We successfully did a trial run of making the casseroles. We made 28 tater tot casseroles for Gary Sandrock and his church group at New Life Lutheran, which delivered the casseroles to families in need. We are currently pre-selling them, and plan on distributing them toward the end of January.

Government Affairs Update



U.S. Chamber CEO Commends Passage of Pandemic Package

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Chamber of Commerce CEO Thomas J. Donohue issued the following statement on the passage of pandemic relief legislation.

“The Chamber applauds a truly bipartisan compromise that finally puts the American people and businesses ahead of partisan squabbling. We commend the Congressional leadership and the bipartisan senators and representatives whose actions led to this achievement. Together, they have illustrated how we can break partisan gridlock in the new Congress next year.

“The package includes aid for small businesses and nonprofits, extension of unemployment programs, funding for schools and day care centers, and resources to support vaccinations before the end of the year. It will help small businesses and Americans contend with the devastating economic impact of the pandemic, which, of course, has tragically taken more than 300,000 Americans this year.

“It’s regrettable that the Portman-Manchin legislation that included state and local aid temporary aid, and targeted liability protections for businesses, schools, and nonprofits that follow public health guidelines, did not also pass with bipartisan support. These key provisions would have enhanced our nation’s ability to stage a broad-based economic recovery in 2021. The Chamber will urge the new Congress and administration to support local and state aid and targeted liability protections in legislation in the new year.”

Details:

As part of the end-of-year pandemic relief package, Congress has passed several changes to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and created a “Second Draw” PPP for small businesses who have exhausted their initial loan. Other changes impact eligibility for initial PPP loans, the loan forgiveness process, and the tax treatment of PPP loans. Congress has also made changes to other programs – including Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL Program), the Employee Retention Tax Credit, a Venue Grant program, and SBA loan programs –that will benefit small businesses. Here’s everything small business owners need to know now: <https://www.uschamber.com/report/guide-small-business-covid-19-emergency-loans>



The Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program continues to meet virtually.

On December 2 the class met with Dixon Mayor, Li Arellano; Sterling City Manager, Scott Shumard; Dixon City Manager, Dan Langloss; and Rock Falls Mayor, Bill Wescott who shared their views on community issues, the impact of COVID-19 on the area, and planning for 2021.

Rachel Rodgers and Tim Eggert from Shaw Media, presented on the Open Meetings Act and its importance in government.

On December 16, Steve Nunez, President of Pennsylvania Highlands Community College discussed the importance of Strategic planning to any organization and tips on how to effectively complete a strategic plan.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic the participants in this program continue to be engaged and committed to strengthening their leadership skills and professional development.

Guest Editorial

Time to Move Forward, United



*By Keri Olson
CEO, United Way of Whiteside County*

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted Whiteside County in ways we could never have imagined. It has been enough to make people wonder how we can move forward. But the answer is simple. We will move forward - because we must. We will do so the only way possible: United.

At United Way of Whiteside County, “Live United” isn’t a slogan — it’s a call to action that comes to life every day as people give what they can, volunteer their time and lift up their voices to help meet the needs of their struggling neighbors and build a better, stronger community for all of us.

The United Way annual campaign season may be in the rearview mirror, but our work continues, and it has never been more important for us to come together. Follow our efforts in 2021 as we fund 23 local nonprofits, serve thousands of summer meals, provide the 211 helpline, give away 20,000 free books, and stand united to help stabilize our community. Please join us in this mission. There are ample opportunities for action, for getting involved in tangible ways. Donate; volunteer; and speak up.

The only direction is forward. The only way is UNITED.



WASH UP SAUK VALLEY!

Protect & Respect Our Community

- WEAR A MASK
- WASH YOUR HANDS
- STAY 6 FEET APART
- STAY HOME WHEN SICK

#maskupsaukvalley #strongertogether #cover-clean-contact-confine



SVACC PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK
INVITES YOU TO:

HOW TO CONTROL YOUR CALENDAR & SKYROCKET YOUR PRODUCTIVITY

Presented by Megan Sumrell
Time Management & Productivity Coach



In this transformational session, you will learn how to:

- Implement time blocking to increase productivity
- Create a process for monthly, weekly and daily plans
- Establish daily habits to grow their business

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10
11:45 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

This event will be offered in person & virtual. Subject to change.
Registration opens Feb. 1 at saukvalleyareachamber.com

McKenna Floor Coverings



Retirement Planning Today®

An Educational Course for Adults – Ages 50 to 70

Hosted by the



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

LOCATION

Champs Banquet Venue
9 East 3rd Street | Sterling, IL 61081

Tuesdays

Feb. 9 & 16
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

OR

Thursdays

Feb. 11 & 18
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

This course consists of two 3-hour sessions.

ATTEND THIS COURSE & LEARN HOW TO:

- Create a plan to retire early
- Integrate your finances with your goals and values
- Use the new SECURE Act tax law changes to your advantage
- Properly allocate your assets within your employer retirement plan
- Use five investment strategies to help minimize risks and maximize returns
- Ask the right questions when evaluating insurance coverage



WAYS TO REGISTER

COURSE ID: **OJV1T1**

PHONE

217-626-4320

Call us today with questions or to register. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover.

REGISTER ONLINE

www.rsvp.courses

Register and pay on our secure site.

\$49
Registration

Includes:

- Attendance with spouse, partner or guest
- Take-home course textbook
- Optional one-on-one consultation

Advanced registrations is required.

Your Instructor:

Your instructor is Regan Shipp, CPA of Rosemeyer Management Group. Regan is an Investment Advisor Representative of RMG Wealth Management, LLC. Member FINRA/SIPC.

Our Location:

2002 E. 5th St. | Suite C | Sterling, IL 61081

Questions:

If you have any questions, Regan may be reached by phone at 815-857-8080 or by email at regan@rosemeyermg.com

Coronavirus (COVID-19) precautions will be taken

Order form

Accepting Orders Through
January 15th

First and last name: _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

Pick up information: Please be on the lookout for our remind app/text notification, so we can get information to you easily throughout the months of December and January. Also, you can check the CEO website for finalized dates, times, and where to pick up. The pick up day will be in late January!

Name of Food	Quantity	Total
<i>Total Price:</i>		

Savory CEO

Menu and Order Form



WACC CEO®

CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL
OPPORTUNITIES

Casseroles

\$20 for one **9x13**



Cheesy Broccoli & Rice (9x13)

This casserole includes a tasty combination of cooked rice, broccoli, cream of mushroom soup, finely chopped onion, sprinkled with with a variety of spices and topped with cheddar cheese.



Lasagna (8x8)

Homemade Lasagna is a classic, delicious dinner that every family should have in their recipe rotation. Tender sheets of pasta, a cheese filling, and a rich meaty tomato sauce makes this the perfect meal!



Million Dollar Chicken (9x13)

This Million Dollar Chicken Casserole lives up to its name. This creamy dish includes cooked chicken and several cheeses mixed with cream of chicken soup. Finally, it's topped with crushed Ritz crackers and a dash of seasoning.



Tater Tot (9x13)

This classic casserole has a layer of ground beef and mixed vegetables along with cream of mushroom soup, topped off with everyone's favorite ingredient... later tots.



Baked Mac & Cheese (9x13)

Not only does this delicious dish consist of two kinds of cheeses, but it's also topped with panko crumbs. A casserole the whole family is bound to love.

Soups

\$12 for 1 quart



Chicken Tortilla

This flavor packed soup contains perfectly roasted chicken and a ton of veggies topped with spices.



Chili

This classic recipe combines beef and beans with robust tomato sauce and spices to create a meal you'll love.