



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



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Partnering for Success

JULY 2021



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

36th Annual

STEAK FRY IN THE COUNTRY

**Thursday, August 5
5:30 p.m.**

**Ted Jacobs Farm
6700 Hickory Hills Rd., Rock Falls**

The Steak Fry in the Country is an opportunity for Chamber members, agri-businesses, farmers, and others to come together to raise money for scholarships, discuss agricultural issues and enjoy an evening of networking over a steak meal; provided by the SVACC Agribusiness Committee. Proceeds benefit Agriculture scholarships for local students.

\$25/ person

Tickets are available at
saukvalleyareachamber.com
or call 815-625-2400



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July

- July 1 HBLC
- July 7 Executive Board
- July 8 Ambassadors
- July 13 Board
- July 20 Ag
- July 21 PWN

Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Directors & Staff

Executive Committee

President: Lance Buser
First Vice President: Sheila Martinez
Second Vice President: Jon Mandrell
Treasurer: Pam Fluck
Past President: Mike Loos

Board of Directors

Term Ends January 31, 2022

Jim Cesarek, RE/MAX Sauk Valley
Geoff Wright, CGH Medical Center
Rebecca Munoz-Ripley, YWCA of the Sauk Valley
Josh Johnson, Whiteside Area Career Center
Dr. 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

Term Ends January 31, 2024

Dave Knie, Knie Appliance & TV
Tim Determan, Pinney Printing
Lance Buser, Wal-Mart DC #7024
Ryan Olson, Ward Murray Pace & Johnson
Amy Williamson, Holiday Inn Express & Suites
Steve Munson, Retired, The Medicine Shoppe

Staff

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

A Message from the Director

I am currently reading the book, “Things you wish you knew yesterday” written by the late Craig Lindvahl.

Craig was the founder of the CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) program. I am so impressed by the program, so when the book was released I knew I wanted to read it to learn a bit more about this man who started such an amazing program for high school students.

CEO is meant to help students connect education to business and learn about the world of entrepreneurship. Yet, the program does so much more than this. It teaches the students about life, making and building relationships, setting goals, communication, accountability, teamwork, and so much more.

I think the hidden bonus is that it also teaches the adults involved with the program. Adults that are involved in the program as investors, class speakers, mentors, advisory board members, class tours, etc. are all given the opportunity to really listen to and learn from young people. It is truly a class that is a win/win situation for all those involved.

We are so fortunate to be able to offer the CEO program through the Whiteside Area Career Center. As the WACC CEO program begins its eighth year in the Sauk Valley, I encourage you to consider getting involved. It is a great opportunity to share about your business/organization and make connections with young people in the community.

Enjoy the day,

Kris

Member Update July 2021

NEW MEMBERS

First Baptist Church of Sterling
1705 6th Ave Sterling
815-625-1288

Your CBD Store Sterling
2900 E Lincolnway #20D Sterling
815-213-7140

MEMBER RENEWALS

American Red Cross-Northwest Illinois
Astec Mobile Screens, Inc.
Blackhawk Hills Regional Council
Castor Home Nursing, Inc.
City of Sterling
ComEd
Faith Baptist Church
Grace Episcopal Church
Green Bee Energy Efficiency
Hartland Controls LLC
Ken Nelson Auto Group
Lee Ogle Transportation System

Legacy Martial Arts
Lifescape Community Services
Live Better Chiropractic, PC
Peabody's Inc.
Petersen Health Care
Poolside Pools & Spas
Republic Services
Resthave Home
Rock River Energy Services Co.
Smeltzer Insurance Agency
Sterling Schools Foundation
Winter Design, Inc.

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,

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	LK Design Source
Altran Magnetics	Mattox Insurance Agency
Amazing Grace of Sterling	Moore Monument & Granite Co
Green Bee Energy Efficiency	Smoked on 3rd
Happy Tails Humane Society	Sterling Rock Falls Child Care
Helm Civil	The Spa At Central Park
Hill's Electric Motor Service, Inc.	United Craftsmen, Ltd.
Illinois American Water	Wiggins Communication
James S Ferris, DDS, PC	Technology
Johnson Oil Company	
Lance's Plumbing	

110% Club Members

1st Gateway Credit Union	Mertes & Mertes	Simply Hair Studios
Bollman Auto Center	Mike Sprague State Farm	St. Mary's School
Cassens Drainage	New Millenium Directories	St. Vincent DePaul
Central Heating & Cooling	Reitzel Roofing Company	Sterling Chevrolet
Central Park Yoga	Rock River Lumber & Grain	Sterling Commercial Roofing
Compeer Financial	Rock River Ready Mix	Sterling Optimist Club
Dennis Electric of Tampico, Inc	Rosemeyer Management Group	Steve Munson
Folsom's Bakery	Sauk Valley Food Bank	The Cornerstone Agency, Inc.
Hawkins-Cassens Insurance, LLC	Scholl Insurance Agency	Vintage Cousins Emporium
Imprintable Memories	Servicemaster	Wendler Engineering Services, Inc.
Kiwanis Club of Sterling	Sherwin Williams Company	Willy's Restaurant
	Showplace Antiques & Treasures	

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Workforce is a hot topic right now. Employers in almost every industry need qualified employees to join their team. The challenge is two-fold: finding people to apply for the jobs that are available, and making sure that the potential employee has the skill set needed. Many employers are willing to provide training in regard to how to do the job. However, most employers share that what is needed most is employees with essential skills (also known as “soft skills”). These skills, also known as competencies, allow an individual to perform their job more successfully. The following chart is a list of Essential Employability Competencies as identified through the State of Illinois PWR act (Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Act). We believe it is critical that students be given the opportunity to learn why these skills are so important in the workplace. As part of our workforce development initiatives through the chamber, we are connecting employers/businesses to teachers and students to have conversations about these skills.

If your business or organization would like join us in these effort, please contact Kris at the SVACC. It is a great opportunity for you or your staff to give guidance to students about essential skills as well as share about your workplace.

TOP 10 CROSS-SECTOR ESSENTIAL EMPLOYABILITY COMPETENCY STATEMENTS COLLEGE & CAREER PATHWAY ENDORSEMENTS	
Teamwork & Conflict Resolution	Students can use their understanding of working cooperatively with others to complete work assignments and achieve mutual goals.
Communication	<p>Verbal: Students can use their understanding of English grammar and public speaking skills to convey an idea, express information, and be understood by others.</p> <p>Written: Students can use their understanding of standard business English to ensure that written work is clear, direct, courteous, and grammatically correct.</p> <p>Digital: Students can use their understanding of email, keyboarding, word processing, and digital media to convey work that is clear, direct, courteous, and grammatically correct.</p>
Problem Solving	Students can use their critical thinking skills to generate and evaluate solutions as they relate to the needs of the team, customer, and company.
Decision Making	Students can use their understanding of problem solving to implement and communicate solutions.
Critical Thinking	Students can use their understanding of logic and reasoning to analyze and address problems.
Adaptability & Flexibility	Students can use their understanding of workplace change and variety to be open to new ideas and handle ambiguity.
Initiative & Self-Drive	Students can use their understanding of goal setting and personal impact to achieve professional goals and understand personal impact.
Reliability & Accountability	Students can use their understanding of commitment, time management, and follow through to ensure that a professional team functions properly and meets collective goals.
Cultural Competence	Students can use their understanding of diversity and inclusion to communicate and work effectively across a multitude of cultures.
Planning & Organizing	Students can use their understanding of time management to plan effectively and accomplish assigned tasks.

Ribbon Cuttings



Surf Broadband Solutions
1109 Industrial Park Rd., Rock Falls
www.iwantfiber.today

Golf Outing June 11, 2021

Thank you to our sponsors, golfers and for Rock River GAP for hosting a fabulous tournament. Funds raised support the Charles Farnham Business Scholarship and workforce development/career pathways initiatives through the SVACC.

We are so grateful for our members and their support of this community!

Congratulations to our winners:

1st place: RRCA Accounts Management
2nd place: Regional Media
3rd place: Johnson Oil



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Chamber Ambassadors

Allie Johnston – University of Illinois Extension
Amy Tessman – Frary Lumber
Angie Delhotal— Sauk Valley College Foundation
Angie Smith – Hawkins-Cassens Insurance Agency
Becky Eberle – Sterling Federal Bank
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 – Morningside of Sterling
Mary White – Community State Bank
Melissa Ryan—Rock River Hospice & Home
Nicole Bollman - CGH Medical Center
Pam Fluck – Sauk Valley Bank
Roy Dern – State Farm
Sheila Martinez – U.S. Bank
Sherry DeWalt – CGH Health Foundation

Ambassador Spotlight

Nicole Bollman—CGH Medical Center

Nicole Bollman is a Marketing Specialist for CGH Medical Center. Since 2010, she has worked with the Marketing team at CGH on various marketing projects.



CGH primary care physicians are encouraging patients to get back to a regular health care routine. If you have been putting off your doctor's visit, now is a good time to call and schedule your check-up. If you need a primary care provider for you or a loved one, contact our CGH new patient coordinator at 815-632-5325 or visit cghmc.com/newpatient.

Nicole enjoys being a Chamber Ambassador has been actively involved since 2006. She is co-chair of the Professional Women's Network committee and loves planning events to provide professional women in the area the opportunity to meet, network, and learn useful skills to benefit their lives.

Nicole and her husband Jeremy, have two children, Jeremiah, 10, and Jadon, 4. She volunteers at her church, Turning Point CITI Church, Dixon. She loves camping and being outdoors with her boys, campfire cooking, and making amazing gourmet coffee.

Want to join the Ambassadors?!

SVACC Ambassadors serve as the public relations arm of the Chamber. They're the face of the chamber and play a crucial role in the work SVACC does. This professional business group works within the membership serving as a liaison between membership and the community. Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at different member locations.

Guest Editorial

Written by: Beth Fiorini



Whiteside County Healthier Communities Partnership (WCHCP) was established 25 years ago when a group of Whiteside County agencies came together to assess the needs in Whiteside County and initiate activities in response to those needs. WCHCP's mission "To create a healthier and safer Whiteside County" has been the foundation of the partnership as its 50 plus agencies have worked over the years to answer the identified urgent and ongoing needs and gaps in care in Whiteside County. WCHCP agencies include health, mental health, schools, the courts, law enforcement, government, businesses, religious organizations, and the area Chamber, as well as concerned community individuals.

The WCHCP was responsible for realizing the demand for and initiating the creation of the Whiteside County Community Care Clinic, Whiteside County Public Transportation, Whiteside Foodbank, Feed the Children, as well as a variety of educational and other collaborative projects. Over the next few years, WCHCP is leading a collective impact effort for the purpose of ensuring area children thrive in health, learning and life. Most specifically, we will work together to alleviate and reduce childhood trauma, which can affect a child for the rest of his/her life.

The National Institute of Mental Health defines childhood trauma as "the experience of an event by a child that is emotionally painful or distressful, which often results in lasting mental and physical effects." Children who have faced adversity need supportive relationships, adaptive skill-building and positive experiences to develop resilience so they can be successful. Childhood trauma affects a child's brain development, and unless treated affects the child's ability to cope and be productive healthy children and adults.

The basis of lifelong health and success begins early in a child's life with secure attachments with adults through responsive caring relationships. These relationships begin prenatally and continue throughout a child's life with emphasis on the first few years of development. It is crucial that not only parents, but the entire community understand how stress can impact a child's cognitive and social development.

In early 2021, WCHCP adopted the goal "to impact agency and community awareness, through education and trainings, of childhood trauma/ACES, affecting future increased positive outcomes." Since that time WCHCP has brought together and surveyed many community agencies to determine:

- 1) how each agency is presently addressing childhood trauma;
- 2) where the gaps and needs are in Whiteside County in addressing childhood trauma; and
- 3) plans to initiate actions and activities which will directly impact the children of Whiteside County, by both treating and preventing childhood trauma.

WCHCP's next steps include determining which childhood trauma projects to initiate, with a focus on:

- 1) educating parents, teachers, and the community on childhood trauma, including tools for identifying and preventing;
- 2) increasing and coordination of behavioral health treatment options for children experiencing childhood trauma; and
- 3) programs that facilitate success in childhood learning.

The best chance for Whiteside County children is that the community works together to ensure every child succeeds.

Member Spotlight

My name is Nichole Lindstrom, creator of Folkie Dot located in Sterling, Illinois. My passion is restoring furniture and making custom decorative signs. My goal is to keep solid wood furniture out of landfills and for antiques to be loved again. In 2018 Folkie Dot became a full-time home business and it's been the best ride of my life serving the Sauk Valley Area.



You can find Folkie Dot on Facebook and Instagram, where projects are shared regularly. Folkie Dot also has a website, www.Folkiedot.com, which is used as a portfolio to showcase past client work. These three platforms are how future and current clients reach out for bookings and custom sign orders.

Not only have I had the pleasure of serving the Sauk Valley area for three years but a two hour radius as well. This includes the suburbs of Chicago, Iowa City, and even the border of Wisconsin.

A lot of the pieces I work on have a story and rich sentimental value to the owner. I'm happy I get to be part of the journey to make these pieces functional and beautiful again. I hope Folkie Dot continues to inspire and gives people the creative outlet they've been searching for.

Happy treasure hunting!



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Government Affairs Update

Written by the US Department of Labor



US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ANNOUNCES PROPOSED RULEMAKING TO PROTECT TIPPED WORKERS; CLARIFY USE OF THE TIP CREDIT

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Labor today announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to limit the amount of non-tip producing work that a tipped employee can perform when an employer is taking a tip credit. The proposed rule clarifies when an employee is working in a tipped occupation and when a worker has performed such a substantial amount of non-tipped labor that an employer can no longer take a tip credit and must pay the full federal minimum wage to the worker.

The Fair Labor Standards Act allows employers with tipped workers to pay as little as \$2.13 per hour in direct wages, while taking a credit against the tips earned by the employee to make up the balance of the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.

The proposed rule also clarifies that an employer may only take a tip credit when tipped employees perform labor that is part of their tipped occupation. Work considered part of the tipped occupation includes labor that produces tips and labor that directly supports tip-producing work, so long as the employee does not perform it for a substantial amount of time. For example, waiting on tables is an example of labor that produces tips for the worker. Labor that supports a server's tip-producing work includes a server folding napkins or refilling salt and pepper shakers.

The proposed rule also clarifies that if an employee performs work that directly supports tip-producing work for a substantial amount of time – that exceeds 20 percent of all of the hours worked during the employee's workweek or exceeds 30 continuous minutes – that worker is no longer performing labor that is part of the tipped occupation.

The proposal clarifies that employers may not take a tip credit for work that is not part of the tipped occupation.

"Tipped workers are among those who continue to be hardest hit as we emerge from the pandemic, and the Wage and Hour Division continues to prioritize protecting these essential front-line workers," said Wage and Hour Division Principal Deputy Administrator Jessica Looman. "This proposed rule provides more clarity and certainty for employers while better protecting workers. It helps ensure that tipped workers are treated with dignity and respect, and that they receive wages appropriate for the work they perform."

The department invites comments from the public on the proposed rule at www.regulations.gov. The comment period closes Aug. 23, 2021.

Anyone who submits a comment (including duplicate comments) should understand and expect that the comment, including any personal information provided, will become a matter of public record. The division will post comments without change at www.regulations.gov and include any personal information provided. The division posts comments gathered and submitted by a third-party organization as a group, using a single document ID number at the site.

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SEPTEMBER 18
1:00 p.m.



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK COMMITTEE
INVITES YOU TO

NETWORK & SOCIALIZE

Join like-minded area business women for a fun night of networking, good food, and a chance to win some awesome prizes!

THURSDAY, JULY 29
5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.



Triple P's
3312 W. Rock Falls Rd.
Rock Falls, IL

Please register by July 22.
Registration includes entry for all door prizes!

\$12 members | \$15 non-members
Includes appetizers, door prizes, and networking.
Register at saukvalleyareachamber.com
(815) 625-2400



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2021 Schedule of Events

APR 24  **EARTH DAY**
Bash
and spring opening of the Sterling Marketplace 

 **STERLING MAIN STREET** **MAY 02**
Car Show

MOVIES @ GRANDON **TBA**

MAY 27
JUN 24
JUL 22
AUG 26  **Pop-Up MARKET**
DOWNTOWN STERLING

AUG 06  *Hot Dog Day*

 **Harvest MOON Festival** **SEP 25**

 *Sip into Fall* **SEP 23**
Downtown Sterling Wine Walk

DEC 03 *Sights & Sounds* 

OCT 09  **HOPS**
on the Rock
A Craft Beer Festival

*All Events Subject to Change due to any ongoing COVID-19 restrictions

www.sterlingmainstreet.org

| 815.626.8610

| info@sterlingmainstreet.org



SVCC.EDU/

REGISTER



AG

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