



Sauk Valley Area  
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**ACCREDITED**



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# Partnering for Success

MAY 2023

**BUSINESS  
AFTER HOURS**

Thursday, May 18  
5:00 - 6:30PM

**KUNES RV**  
2502 LOCSUT ST., STERLING

**JOIN US!**

APPETIZERS, DRINKS & DOOR PRIZES!

Sauk Valley Area  
chamber of commerce

**KUNES RV**  
STERLING

## INTRODUCING ANNA BIDA-DUDUN, MD, FACOG OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

We are pleased to announce that Anna Bida-Dudun, MD, FACOG, will join CGH Medical Center beginning May 1. Dr. Bida-Dudun specializes in Obstetrics and Gynecology and has practiced for 27 years, most recently at St. Margaret's Health in Peru, Illinois. Barb Tieman, Certified Nurse Midwife, will also be joining CGH with Dr. Bida-Dudun in June. Dr. Bida-Dudun is accepting new patients at the CGH Main Clinic at 101 E. Miller Road, Sterling, and at the CGH Dixon Clinic at 1321 N. Galena Ave., Dixon. To make an appointment, please call 815-625-4790.



(815) 625-4790 • [www.cghmc.com/womenshealth](http://www.cghmc.com/womenshealth)



## May Meetings

- May 3 Golf
- May 4 Executive Board
- May 9 Board of Directors
- May 9 Education
- May 11 Ambassadors
- May 16 Ag
- May 18 HBLC
- May 24 PWN

### 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

May is one of my favorite months at the Chamber for one specific reason. It is the time of year that we select scholarship recipients who are all local students! Awards are given to students pursuing higher education in Business, Agribusiness, or Manufacturing/CTE. Additionally, this will be the first year of the Hispanic Business Leaders Committee scholarship. This scholarship was created a for students of Hispanic heritage and will be awarding up to four scholarships.

The ability to award scholarships is due to you, our members, who understand the importance of supporting our local youth.

Whether you play in the Charles Farnham Golf Outing; sponsor the Fiesta Day Parade; partake in the SVACC manufacturing dinner; attend the Steak Fry in the Country; or purchase a dessert for a ridiculous amount of money, your support of these events allows us to raise funds for the scholarships and our workforce development efforts.

In addition, many of you offer your time, resources, and expertise toward these initiatives. Through organizing the events, reviewing scholarship applications, or participating in the Education Committee, you help make this possible. In addition, I want to thank everyone who took the time to review and score the applications for the 2023-24 school year!

Thanks to you, the SVACC will be awarding scholarships to 23 local students, and that is something we all should be very proud of.

*Kris*

# Investor Update May 2023

## NEW INVESTORS

Sterling Woodworks  
1307 W 4th St Sterling  
815-426-9328

Rock Falls Uhaul  
2301 W Rock Falls Rd Rock Falls  
815-625-2763

Lee County Republicans  
Central Committee  
815-973-3636

## INVESTOR RENEWALS

4-D Farms  
Amazing Grace  
American Red Cross-Northwest Illinois  
Angelo's  
Behrz Bloomz  
Best Cob  
Blackhawk Hills Regional Council  
Boss Roofing-Siding Experts  
Brown Construction Company  
Bugsy's Arcade and Gaming  
Clinton LumberKings  
Clover Hills Appliance Center  
Davis & Gisi  
Days Inn Rock Falls  
Douglas & Frye Motorsports

Downie & Associates, CPA's, PC  
Esthetics by Darla White  
Gaffey Health Service, Inc.  
Greater Sterling Development Corp.  
Hill's Electric Motor Service, Inc.  
Home of Hope  
Jakobs Bros. Farms Inc.  
Johnson Oil Company  
Legacy Martial Arts  
Micron Industries Corporation  
Mike Sprague State Farm Insurance  
Moore Monument & Granite Co.  
Northern IL Cancer Treatment Center  
Northern IL Home Medical Supply  
Rock River Hospice & Home  
RRCA Accounts Management, Inc.

Sandrock Farms/Sauk Valley Angus  
ServiceMaster  
Sherwin Williams Paint Store  
Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.  
St. Mary's School  
Sterling Federal Bank  
Sterling Park District  
Sterling Rock Falls Jaycees  
Sterling Schools Foundation  
Subway  
T-Mobile  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
Wilco Rental, 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, please do so!

### Over \$1000 Invested

Central Bank Illinois  
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

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  
United Craftsmen, Ltd.

### 110% Club

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  
New Millenium Directories

Rock River Lumber & Grain  
Rock River Ready Mix  
Scholl Insurance Agency  
Servicemaster  
Showplace Antiques & Treasures  
St. Vincent DePaul  
Sterling Chevrolet  
Wendler Engineering Services

Winter Construction

# Chamber Ambassadors

Allie Johnston – University of Illinois Extension

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

Leon Mealing— T-Mobile

Mary White – Community State Bank

Nicole Bollman - CGH Medical Center

Pam Fluck – Self Help Enterprises

Rene Betts—Plotner Insurance Consultants

Sherry DeWalt – CGH Health Foundation

Skip Dettman—LSSI

Stepheni Chandler. Hughes Resources

Tygen Bausman—Sterling Federal Bank

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**Please help us welcome Leon Mealing, T-Mobile, to the SVACC Ambassadors!**

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## Ambassador Spotlight— Tygen Bausman, Sterling Federal Bank

Hello, my name is Tygen (Teagan), I am a Commercial Loan Officer at Sterling Federal Bank and am in my second year of being an SVACC ambassador. I truly enjoy the experience of meeting local business leaders, making our new businesses feel welcomed, and giving back to the community. I have 15 years of banking experience at Sterling Federal Bank, with 7 years in the Commercial Banking field. Most recently I held the position of Sr. Cash Management Specialist where I was given the opportunity to help local businesses with their deposit account needs. In this position is where I discovered my passion for helping local businesses thrive in our communities.



I am a Sterling native but now live in Rock Falls with my husband and three children. I enjoy giving back to my community and supporting local businesses. As an Ambassador of the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, I am an active member of the Hispanic Business Leaders Committee. It is my goal to help our local businesses with their daily business banking needs and play a key role in helping them reach their dreams when it comes to the success of their business.

## Ambassador Spotlight—Chandra Meyers, RE/MAX Sauk Valley

Chandra is a Realtor with RE/MAX Sauk Valley in Sterling. She loves helping people find the perfect home. It's so exciting to hand someone the keys to their new house! She also loves being able to tell her sellers that she found the perfect person to buy their home! She really enjoys being an Ambassador. Her favorite part is being at the ribbon cuttings for new businesses. It's so exciting to see a business owner's hard work and dedication pay off!



## Ribbon Cuttings

Brandywine Banquet  
441 IL Rt. 2, Dixon  
(815) 677-9372



United Way of Whiteside County  
NEW location  
100 W. 1st St., Rock Falls  
815-625-7973

X-Golf  
13464 Galt Rd., Sterling  
815-629-4653



AM Disposal  
104 4th Ave., Sterling  
815-973-4626

### **Congratulations to Select Employees Credit Union for receiving the Customer Service Award!**

They were nominated for their customer service,  
specifically their kindness and patience  
with customers.

Visit them at 2414 Freeport Rd., Sterling  
or call 815-626-8181.



CSA Sponsored by:



## Business After Hours

April 20 | Midland States Bank

Thank you to those who attended Business After Hours at Midland States Bank's new location at 4404 E. Lincolnway, Sterling. Please join us for our next BAH on May 18 at Kunes RV in Sterling.



## Workforce Development

### Local Task Force Formed

One of the strategic priorities of the SVACC is to Strengthen the Local Community. When there is an issue, challenge, or opportunity facing the community, the Chamber works to make sure our membership is represented and part of the discussion. Like many other parts of the nation, the topic of childcare and how it impacts the workforce has been at the forefront of many discussions.



In July 2022 the Chamber invited community stakeholders to a discussion/learning session regarding childcare. Representatives from the business community, childcare providers, education systems, and organizations representing job seekers met and had in-depth and very eye-opening conversations regarding the childcare topic. This task force has been meeting quarterly and developed five key elements that need to be addressed:

1. The State of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) rules, regulations and qualifications are difficult to navigate, time consuming, and changing.
2. Workforce Shortages and Retention of Staff. Including teachers, teacher assistants, bus drivers, food service/etc.
3. Low Pay and the perception of childcare as an "easy profession"
4. Capacity vs Slots Available (slot gap); the need for specific slots based on age, socio-economic status, specific demographics and factors.
5. Many local employers are not aware of the resources available for their employees. Local employers want to better understand the childcare system.

There are no simple or short-term answers, but we believe that by coming together, learning from each other, and taking collective action, we will be able to impact change in the Sauk Valley.

The task force has started to develop action items and priorities around these key elements and will work to implement an action plan. **The next meeting of the task force will be on Tuesday, May 16 at 3:00 p.m. at Rock River Collection Agency (201 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Sterling).** If you, or any of your staff are interested in participating, please contact Kris Noble at [knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com](mailto:knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com) or 815-625-2400.

## Government Affairs

### Illinois Secure Choice State Mandated Retirement Program

*Presented by Edward Jones Representatives*

Join us to learn more about this program and options available to employers.

**Tuesday, May 9**

11:45 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

**BRANDYWINE BANQUET**

441 IL RT 2, DIXON

**\$20 MEMBERS  
\$25 NON-MEMBERS**

REGISTER ONLINE BY 5/5 OR  
BY CALLING 815-625-2400



Loos



Gleissner



Lareau

Illinois Secure Choice: Per State law, employers with 5 or more Illinois employees that have been in business for at least 2 years and that don't offer a tax-qualified retirement plan are required to register for and facilitate Illinois Secure Choice.

This workshop will explain the details of Illinois Secure Choice and explore options for employers to offer an alternative retirement plan.

Click [here](#) to register by May 5.

On April 5, the Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program began the morning with all thirty-one WACC CEO East and West students, discussing generational stereotypes and assumptions. Le Hartman, CEO Facilitator, then led the leadership cohort in a conversation about the fundamentals of Gen Z. The morning concluded with a thoughtful Q & A with a panel that focused on generational differences in the workplace: Dave Knie and Josh Knie, president and manager of Knie Appliance & Furniture respectively; Dr. Jon Mandrell, Vice President of Academics and Student Services at SVCC; Joe Strabala-Bright, Dean of Student Services at SVCC.



The Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program and WACC CEO East students met at the KSB on April 19. The morning began with an informative entrepreneurial panel that included Dallas Knack, owner of The Violet Veranda; Katy Selmi, owner of Selmi's Florist, Bridal and Special Events and a Country Financial insurance and finance representative; and Carolitza Mendoza, owner of Carolitza's special occasion attire. After a short break, class resumed with a panel of Economic Development experts: Kim Ewoldsen, Director of Regional Economic Development and Illinois Small Business Development Center, SVCC; Kris Noble, Executive Director, SVACC; and Tom Demmer, Executive Director of the Lee County Industrial Development Association. The KSB cafe staff prepared a delicious lunch for the cohort.



**Applications for the next  
cohort are open!  
Visit [svleadership.org](http://svleadership.org) to apply.**



## Guest Editorial

*Regional Office of Education 47*

Local home visiting programs are a critical resource for new and expectant parents, providing one-on-one support at no cost to eligible families. Home visiting programs provide private family coaching and resources, promote infant and child health, foster educational development and school readiness, and help prevent child abuse and neglect. Research tells us that the most rapid period of brain development occurs within the first three years of life, laying the foundation for all future learning, behavior and health.

Three years ago, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development initiated a project in partnership with The Sauk Valley STARS Early Childhood Education Coalition and their home visiting partners, Parents as Teachers First Years, Healthy Families, and Early Head Start, to implement a Coordinated Intake system using IRIS (Integrated Referral and Intake System) across Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside Counties. This system helps to improve access to resources for families, and most importantly, helps to improve equitable access to high-quality early childhood programs that enables children, with the support of their families and communities, to grow up safe, healthy, happy, and ready to succeed.

Coordinated Intake provides a centralized hub where participating community agencies can use the IRIS system to make referrals to other programs and services that can benefit their clients and their families. The Regional Office of Education #47 serves as the intake hub for families who need assistance connecting with home visiting or other early childhood programs, and for schools to connect with the ROE's Student and Family Care programs, including Nexus and Truancy.

The ROE is also piloting a project with the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships & Research, the RIS program developers, to explore how the IRIS Coordinated Intake system could be utilized in the business sector to support local employee access to community resources or as a way for a business to receive referrals for potential new hires. We are looking for a small to medium sized business (under 100 employees) who is interested in learning more about this opportunity. Please contact Aimee Howard at [ahoward@roe47.org](mailto:ahoward@roe47.org) or Diana Merdian at [dmerdian@roe47.org](mailto:dmerdian@roe47.org) to express interest in this project.

### Sauk Valley STARS

Lee, Ogle, & Whiteside Counties Illinois

LAUNCH DATE August 5, 2021  
CHAMPION Regional Office of Education #47



IRIS

ALL REFERRALS

924 FAMILIES  
Unduplicated number of families who were the subject of at least one referral in IRIS.



1,626 TOTAL REFERRALS  
59% ENROLLED IN SERVICES

NUMBER OF PARTNERS	DESCRIPTION OF SECTORS
1	Aging Care Services supporting the needs of senior citizens
7	Behavioral Health Mental health and substance use treatment services
5	Concrete Supports Support with basic needs such as housing, food, and financial supports
4	Developmental Disabilities Services and supports for community members with disabilities
9	Early Childhood Education Educational services and programs for young children
46	Education K-12, post-secondary, and adult educational programs and services
8	Family Support Parenting education, crisis, legal, and other supports for parents and families
4	Maternal and Child Health Services that support reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health
1	Other Health Services Other health prevention and treatment services
5	Resource Navigation Programs designed to connect families to other resources



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47  
LEE - OGLE - WHITESIDE

STRONGER SCHOOLS - STRONGER FAMILIES - STRONGER COMMUNITIES



**Written by:** Sam Francque—Newman Central Catholic High School

Prior to joining CEO I would have never pictured myself doing the things that I have done in this class. One of my favorite things has been the business visits. We have gotten to see so many different types of businesses from sole proprietors to chain corporations. We have toured, learned the history of the company, and met many people. This class has brought me out of my comfort zone. I have had to talk in front of big crowds and make casual conversations with strangers. Being at a new place almost everyday has kept CEO engaging. In addition to learning about businesses in my community, I was able to form friendships with students from many other schools.

As I write this article, we have just completed the last night of the 2023 trade show. All of the discussion, networking, and projects have all led up to the trade show. My business, Sock Valley, was selling a variety of novelty socks. I felt well prepared going into the trade show. The first night I broke even and started to make a profit which was very rewarding. All of my hard work was finally paying off. After the first night I made a few changes and I noticed a lot more traffic coming to my booth. It has definitely been a fun experience. I'm grateful to be a part of the CEO class.

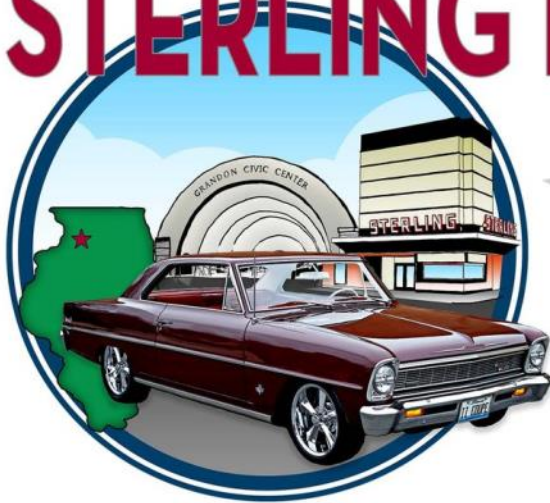
**Written by:** Seth Johnson—Erie High School

The CEO Trade Show is over and went very well. My business is Johnson's Detailing, offering many detailing services to just about everything with wheels. This is something I have worked on for about 3 years now so it made sense to showcase it for the trade show. At my booth I had an entry form for a free detail and also a spinning wheel for people who wanted a detail regardless if they won the free detail or not. I probably had close to 100 entries, a very good turnout even though it didn't bring in any money that night. The other booths also turned out really well. It was neat to hear my peers talk at the start of the second semester about their businesses, then writing their business plans, and finally creating their booth and making money.

Now that the big project is done and the year is winding down, I can say that I really loved this CEO class. I learned a lot about the Sauk Valley area and business here. I learned to scale and grow my personal business and the relationships I built with the students and business owners and people in the community was amazing. I am really glad I took CEO, I enjoyed it much more than a class at the school. I am excited for the school year to come to an end just for summer but this will definitely be a class I actually miss and wish I could do it for another year.



# STERLING MAIN STREET



# Car Show

**SUNDAY, MAY 7**

**2nd Avenue & E 2nd Street • Downtown Sterling**  
**FREE SPECTATOR ADMISSION**

**8:00 AM Onsite Registration**

**Noon - Judging Begins**

**2:00 PM - 50/50 Drawing**

**2:15 PM - Awards Presented**

Register  
vehicle  
online



*Presented by:*



Johnson Oil Company



Loescher  
HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

SBM • Lundstrom Florist • McCloud & Assoc Architects  
Midland States Bank • Select Employees Credit Union • Showplace Antiques



**WWW.STERLINGMAINSTREET.ORG**



## 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

**Presented by:**



**AUTO GROUP OF STERLING**



**Eagle - \$550.00**

Full Hole Sponsor

4 Golfers

**Birdie - \$450.00**

1/2 Hole Sponsor

4 Golfers

**Par - \$425.00**

Full Hole Sponsor

2 Golfers

**Caddy - \$300.00**

1/2 Hole Sponsor

2 Golfers

\*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



### GOLF ONLY:

\$80.00 Per Golfer

\$320.00 Foursome

#### Golfers' Information:

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer 4: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Select:

\_\_\_ Eagle Package

\_\_\_ Birdie Package

\_\_\_ Par Package

\_\_\_ Caddy Package

\_\_\_ Golf Only (\$80.00/golfer)/  
list number of golfers

\_\_\_ Full Hole Sponsor Only

\_\_\_ 1/2 Hole Sponsor Only

Invoice Me  Check Enclosed

Credit Card  Visa  M/C

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

CVC: \_\_\_\_\_ Register online:

[saukvalleyareachamber.com/golf-outing](http://saukvalleyareachamber.com/golf-outing)

**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](mailto:office@saukvalleyareachamber.com)

\_\_\_ I am willing to donate a raffle prize. Please contact me.