



IN THIS ISSUE:



PAGE 5



PAGE 6



PAGE 7

Partnering for Success

OCTOBER 2022







SVACC MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



OCTOBER 20 | 5:00-5:30 P.M.

NEWORKING & CONNECTING

HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY 20213 HICKORY HILLS RD., STERLING (4.4 MILES NORTH OF STERLING ON ROUTE 40)





October 10

Learn more about SVCC programs of study, financial aid and more!



RSVP @ SVCC.EDU/VISIT

October Meetings

October 6 Executive Board

October 11 Board

October 11 Sights & Sounds

October 13 Ambassadors

October 18 Ag

October 20 HBLC

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: Sheila Martinez Past President: Lance Buser

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
Steve Munson, Retired, The Medicine Shoppe
Lance Buser, Wal-Mart DC #7024
Ryan Olson, Ward Murray Pace & Johnson

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

Staff

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

A Message from the Director

November 8, 2022 is election day, and we encourage you to exercise your right to vote!

The SVACC is a nonpartisan organization. As a policy, we do not endorse any candidate for any local, state or federal office. However, we do advocate for our members on issues that are important to our local businesses and organizations. We believe that getting the facts and being informed are critical when making decisions about who you vote for. I encourage you reach out to candidates and ask questions about how they are going to work to support the Sauk Valley and how they will work with others who may not agree with them. Our country is becoming so divided, and I believe that now, more than ever, we need to elect officials who will help unify the Sauk Valley, so it can continue to grow and thrive. This can only be done if we elect officials who are willing to truly listen to all sides and work collaboratively to address the challenges we are facing now. I believe we need representatives at the local, county, state, and national levels who will work to bring us together, to find common ground, and to agree to disagree with respect and kindness. There is much work to be done, and we need elected officials who are willing to work for ALL the people of the Sauk Valley; individuals who model that when we work together as a community we can get more done.

Enjoy the day!



Investor Update October 2022

NEW INVESTORS

Take 5 Oil

815-213-7765

4106 East Lincolnway, Sterling

Northern IL Veterinary Services

815-225-7127

651 Otter Creek Drive, Milledgeville

The Barkery

815-626-0164

25689 W Science Rd., Sterling

Chucks Grub

815-213-7336

1203 E. 4th St., Sterling

Chuck Wagon Saloon

815-213-7207

1201 E 4th St., Sterling

The Toy Store

815-622-5996

IL Furniture & More 765-430-9261

Bushel Basket Candle Co

815-622-5432

2900 E Lincolnway Suite 15B Sterling

2900 E Lincolnway Suite 12B Sterling

2900 E. Lincolnway Suite 25 Sterling

INVESTOR RENEWALS

7:24 Fitness on the Rock

Allstate Insurance Company

Altorfer Inc.

Bard Optical

Brothers Flooring

Carpetland USA

Chuck Wagon Saloon

Citadel of Sterling

Cornerstone Credit Union

Days Inn Rock Falls

Edward Jones / Lareau

Ellie's Gaming Cafe

Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois

Granny Rose Animal Shelter

Hartland Controls LLC

House in the Country

Illinois Furniture & More

In Home Personal Services

Kunes Auto Group

Legacy Martial Arts

Lifescape Community Services

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Northern Illinois Veterinary Services

Paulette Selmi, Ph.D.

Representative Tony McCombie

Rise Broadband

Sedona Staffing

Shelly Dambman, CPA

Shoe Sensation

Showplace Antiques & Treasures

Sotelo Media

Sterling Moose Family Center

The Salvation Army

Total Construction Services

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

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

Altran Magnetics

Amazing Grace of Sterling

Bushel Basket Candle Co.

Green Bee Energy Efficiency

Happy Tails Humane Society

Helm Civil

Hill's Electric Motor Service, Inc.

Illinois American Water

James S Ferris, DDS, PC

Lance's Plumbing

Lee Ogle Transportation System

Lil Smoked

LK Design Source Loescher HVAC

Mattox Insurance Agency

Moore Monument & Granite Co

Rock River Hospice & Home

Roy Dern State Farm Insurance

St. Vincent DePaul Society

st. Vincent Ber dar se

Sawdust N Dreamz

Select Employees Credit Union

Sterling Rock Falls Child Care

Sterling Township

The Toy Store

T-Mobile

United Craftsmen, Ltd.

110% Club

1st Gateway Credit Union

Allstate Insurance Company

Astec Mobile Screens Inc Bardier & Ramirez Real

Estate

Bollman Auto Center

Co... all a li ala t la ...

Candlelight Inn

Cassens Drainage

Central Heating & Cooling

Compeer Financial

Dennis Electric of Tampico Farmer's National Bank Folsom's Bakery

Hawkins-Cassens Insurance

Imprintable Memories
Jim Prescott's BBQ Shop

Johnson Oil Company

Kelly's Restaurant Kiwanis Club of Sterling

Marv Lofgren & Sons Contractors

Mertes & Mertes

New Millenium Directories Reitzel Roofing Company Rock River Lumber & Grain Rock River Ready Mix Rosemeyer Management

Group

Sauk Valley Food Bank

Scholl Insurance Agency Sedona Staffing

Servicemaster
Shelly Dambman CPA

Sherwin Williams Company Showplace Antiques &

Treasures

St. Mary's School St. Vincent DePaul Stahr Media

Sterling Chevrolet
Sterling Commercial Roofing

Sterling Napa Auto Parts Sterling Optimist Club

Steve Munson

The Cornerstone Agency
Vintage Cousins Emporium

Wendler Engineering Services

Willy's Restaurant
Winter Construction



Chamber Ambassadors

Allie Johnston – University of Illinois Extension

Angie Delhotal — Sauk Valley College Foundation

Brock Burlack – T-Mobile

Cassandra Salmon – Sauk Valley Bank

Chandra Meyer – Re/Max Sauk Valley

Christina Bystry — House in the Country

Janell Loos — Heritage Woods

Jennifer Alvarez — Surf Broadband

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

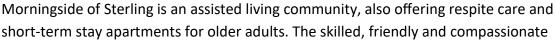
Sherry DeWalt – CGH Health Foundation

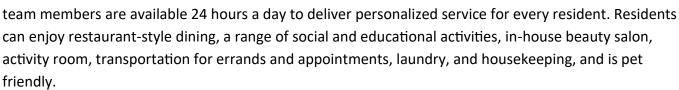
Skip Dettman—LSSI

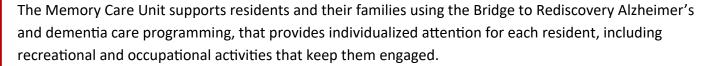
Tygen Bausman—Sterling Federal Bank

Ambassador Spotlight — Karen Voss, Morningside of Sterling

Karen Voss is the Business Office Manager at Morningside of Sterling, an assisted living and memory care community.







Karen became an ambassador in 1999, wanting to be connected to the community and its leaders. Since becoming involved with the Chamber, she has served on the Golf, Sights & Sounds, Bowling, Carnival, and 100th Anniversary Committees and served 9 years on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. She is also a member of the Rock Falls Rotary Club, the Dixon Elks Club, Messiah Lutheran Church and served on the board of directors at Christ Lutheran School. She believes in the mission of helping businesses and organizations in all sectors in the Sauk Valley area grow and prosper.

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. Individuals interested in becoming an Ambassador need to submit an application for consideration. Please call 815-625-2400 or email knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com to apply



Breakfast Before Business | United Way of Whiteside County

United Way of Whiteside County hosted a wonderful Breakfast Before Business on September 30 at Woodlawn Arts Academy.

Join us for the October Business After Hours at House in the Country on October 20.















Chamber Week Celebration

Thank you to our members that joined us for our Chamber Week Celebration on September 15. We love celebrating the wonderful businesses and organizations that make up the SVACC. Special thanks to The Factory for hosting.

Investor Spotlight

SERVPRO of Sterling understands the stress and worry that comes with a fire or water damage and the disruption it causes your life and home or business. Our goal is to help minimize the interruption to your life and quickly make it "Like it never even happened."

SERVPRO of Sterling specializes in the cleanup and restoration of residential and commercial property after a fire, smoke or water damage. SERVPRO of Sterling can also mitigate mold and mildew from your home or business.

Our staff is highly trained in property damage restoration. From initial and ongoing training at SERVPRO's

corporate training facility to regular IICRC-industry certification, rest assured our staff is equipped with the knowledge to restore your property. With a nationwide system of qualified franchises, no damage is too large or too small for

SERVPRO of Sterling.

Serving you since 1967, SERVPRO is the cleaning and restoration brand you know and trust.





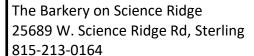
Ribbon Cuttings

Shoppes at Grandon Plaza Call Sterling Main Street for more information: 815-626-8610





Plotner Insurance Consultants 3917 E. Lincolnway Suite A, Sterling 815-288-6800







Vibe815 and Janet & June 2900 Lincolnway, Sterling janetandjune.com/vibe815

Allure of Sterling 612 W. 23rd St, Sterling 815-626-9020



Congratulations to Deer Valley Banquet for receiving the **August Customer Service Award!**

This nomination mentioned "Holly Davis and her staff were professional and very organized, and did an incredible job with all aspects of our family wedding." Call Deer Valley Banquets at 815-499-2911.





Congratulations to Stahr Media for receiving the September Customer Service Award!

Stahr Media provides great service for our local community and we are grateful! For more information on their services, call 815-441-3664.

CSA Sponsored by:









Congratulations to the winners of the

69th Annual Fiesta Day Parade!

1st Place: Rancho Murallense 2nd place: Abiding Word Church **PFLAG Sauk Valley RE/MAX Sauk Valley** YWCA of the Sauk Valley

Thank you to the generous sponsors that make this event possible, and to the Hispanic Business Leaders Committee for yet another great

Fiesta Day Parade.

















Professional Women's Network Committee

PWN held a Crucial Conversations workshop on Wednesday, September 21 presented by Shane Brown. There was a great turnout of 75 engaged individuals! Thank you to Champs Banquet for hosting and to Arthur's for providing



lunch. The committee's next meeting is

Wednesday, October 19 at 11 a.m.

If you'd like to join the conversation, please email knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com.



The Sauk Valley Leadership Program class gathered on September 7, 2022, at YMCA's Camp Benson for an all-day learning opportunity. Camp Director Gwyn Bemis, aka Mama G, gave students a tour of the camp and discussed the camp's philosophies of inclusion, self-acceptance, and independence. Bemis led students in team-building activities in the morning, and later, students could choose to hike to the grotto, make candles, climb walls, shoot arrows, or learn how to throw a spear from an Atlatl.



On this day, our panel of experts focused on leadership and volunteerism. Keri Olson, United Way of

Whiteside County; Paige Toms, Sauk Valley Bank; Rebecca Munoz-Ripley, Sterling YWCA; and Nicole Schafer, SVCC's ABC AmeriCorps, related their own experiences of being volunteers, recruiting volunteers, and now leading their essential Sauk Valley organizations.

After lunch from Subway, Dr. David Hellmich led the class in a discussion of Ethical Leadership and the concept of the narcissistic leader, which will be continued in October.



Written by: Ainsley Reed — Newman Central Catholic High School

Imagine a group of 17 high school students, who've known each other for less than 10 days, trying to create a micro-business in a week. Sounds pretty disastrous right? Well, it was — at least initially. At the beginning of the school year, our CEO facilitator, Le Hart-



man, challenged us to create cash flow, a term many of us inexperienced business students had never been exposed to. However, despite our naivety, the

brainstorming began, and with that, the chaos. One of the many ideas thrown out was selling chips and salsa at the upcoming Taste of Fiesta event. After filtering through the suggestions, we recognized that if we were really planning on attempting the Taste of Fiesta micro-business, we were going to need to get started immediately. A few of us students stepped up as leaders, working behind the scenes to solve problems regarding the vendor application, acquiring a food permit, and locating an approved kitchen to make the food in, but ultimately it was a group effort. Not only did this endeavor force collaboration, communication, and creativity, but it also revealed to us the support our community has for CEO. We received generous assistance from everyone we reached out to, and through this support, the CEO class of 2023 came to know the value and belief in this program as seen through the community, so to finish, I'd like to thank all of you as community members for encouraging us to take risks and pursue such endeavors.

Written by: Ben Muñoz-Ripley — Sterling High School

I am a part of the CEO program, which is a class where students participate in activities to develop and practice business and entrepreneurial skills. A big part of the class is having active guest speakers who all play important, but different, roles in our community. Each guest speaker has taught us different aspects of business, such as planning, creating agendas, team work, and communicating. One big takeaway that I got from all of our speakers was interconnectedness. Everyone in our community is connected in some way. An example of this is that downtown Sterling will be opening up the shops by the civic center. These shops will be for micro-businesses who are just starting up. They get a lease which was somewhere from 6-8 months. The Sauk Valley Area Chamber could potentially help these businesses market and expand to continue to be there after the lease ends. Being active in one's community is very important even without planning to stay in the area long term. It creates friends and connections that could assist later while marketing or buying products.



Government Affairs Update

In November, voters will have the opportunity to vote on Illinois Amendment One, also known as the "Workers' Rights" amendment (SJRCA11). The amendment will ask voters whether they wish to establish a constitutional right for employees to organize and bargain collectively, specifically to negotiate "wages, hours and working conditions and to protect their economic welfare and safety at work."



The amendment would specifically amend Article 1 of the state's constitution, referred to in the synopsis as the state's "Bill of Rights." That article essentially mirrors the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution, while also providing protections in other areas as well, including prohibiting discrimination based on sex and discrimination based on physical or mental handicaps. The amendment would also amend Article 7, which sets guidelines for powers given to local governments under "home rule" provisions in the constitution.

How Will Voters Know Whether the Amendment Passed or Failed?

The measure would need 60% approval in order to pass and to amend the state's constitution.

Who Supports the Measure?

Labor groups representing both public and private workers have largely supported the measure, including the Chicago Teachers' Union, the Illinois chapter of the AFL-CIO and the SEIU.

Illinois Democrats, including Gov. J.B. Pritzker, have also expressed support for the amendment.

"Worker safety and economic security is a fundamental right of all workers from domestic workers to PHDs," said Illinois AFL-CIO President Tim Drea in a statement. "Everybody deserves a safe workplace and economic security."

Who Opposes the Measure?

Business groups, including the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Manufacturer's Association, have voiced opposition to the measure, as has the Illinois Republican Party as a whole, though some GOP lawmakers have expressed support for the amendment.

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce's President and CEO, Todd Maisch, argues that the measure would invest more political power into union leadership, and wouldn't allow for the gains in income and job security that the amendment's proponents have promised for workers.

The Illinois Policy Institute also argues that by giving more power to public unions, state residents would be impacted with higher property tax bills because of the extra advantages the amendment could potentially convey to unions in collective bargaining discussions.

Research conducted by the IPI argues that property tax bills could increase by a collective \$2,100 over the next four years, though property tax rates have steadily increased in recent years, according to US Census Bureau data.

In short:

A "yes" vote supports establishing a state constitutional right for employees to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their choosing to negotiate "wages, hours, and working conditions and to protect their economic welfare and safety at work."

A "no" vote opposes establishing a state constitutional right for employees to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their choosing to negotiate "wages, hours, and working conditions and to protect their economic welfare and safety at work."

Information gathered from 5Chicago and Ballotpedia.







Opportunities Available to Students

through Inspire MORE; Sauk Valley partners collaborating for student success

- Teacher Professional Development - Grant Development State & Regional Connections and Training

> - Education Pathway Courses & Placements - Dual Credit Opportunities - Summer Camps & **Experiential Learning**

6-week Certificate of **Employability** -Local business Connections Workplace Wednesdays

Through school, industry, and business partnerships, professionals collaborate to bring opportunities to students and employers. These partnerships continue to support each other and expand opportunities for students in dual credit, business/professional skills training, career planning with employer support, and creating an education pathway.

To learn more, visit ilsuccessnetwork.org, or email pathways@roe47.org















The Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce invites you to an evening of celebration for the manufacturing industry

4TH ANNUAL MANUFACTURING DINNER

Thursday, October 13 5:30 p.m. social hour | 6:00 p.m. dinner

Join us at: Sauk Valley Community College 173 IL Rt 2., Dixon

Tours of the SVCC manufacturing area will be available.

\$25 per person

Buffet & Cash Bar

Register at saukvalleyareachamber.com or call 815-625-2400

to reserve your tickets by October 7.

Thank you to our sponsors:

























P&P









