



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



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Partnering for Success

OCTOBER 2022



SVACC MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



OCTOBER 20 | 5:00-6:30 P.M.

NETWORKING & CONNECTING

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



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

EXPLORE SAUK

October 10

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



RSVP @ [SVCC.EDU/VISIT](https://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

IL Furniture & More

765-430-9261
2900 E. Lincolnway Suite 25 Sterling

Bushel Basket Candle Co

815-622-5996
2900 E Lincolnway Suite 12B Sterling

The Toy Store

815-622-5432
2900 E Lincolnway Suite 15B 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
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
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.

Morningside of Sterling is an assisted living community, also offering respite care and short-term stay apartments for older adults. The skilled, friendly and compassionate team members are available 24 hours a day to deliver personalized service for every resident. Residents can enjoy restaurant-style dining, a range of social and educational activities, in-house beauty salon, activity room, transportation for errands and appointments, laundry, and housekeeping, and is pet friendly.

The Memory Care Unit supports residents and their families using the Bridge to Rediscovery Alzheimer’s and dementia care programming, that provides individualized attention for each resident, including recreational and occupational activities that keep them engaged.

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

The Barkery on Science Ridge
25689 W. Science Ridge Rd, Sterling
815-213-0164



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 Hartman, 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 (SJCA11). 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

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

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

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





Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

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:

