



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



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Partnering for Success

SEPTEMBER 2022



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

CHAMBER WEEK CELEBRATION

Please join us to celebrate you as members and thank you for your membership. Stop by for a beverage, appetizers, door prizes, drink specials, and to connect and reconnect with other SVACC members.

Thursday, September 15
4:30-6:30 p.m.
at The Factory
103 W 3rd St, Sterling

There is no cost to attend, but registration is required by September 12. Visit saukvalleyareachamber.com or call 815-625-2400 to register. Questions? Email knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com



the factory
pub - n - grub
WORK HARD. PLAY HARD.

HERE TO HEAL

Learn more about how we can help heal your chronic or non-healing wound.



An outpatient department of CGH Medical Center



WWW.CGHEMC.COM/WOUND

September Meetings

September 6 Executive Board
September 8 Ambassadors
September 13 Board
September 13 Education
September 13 Sights & Sounds
September 15 HBLC
September 20 Ag

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

September is full of great events at the chamber in our community. Below you will find a few of the highlights.

For more information, or to register for Chamber events, please visit saukvalleyareachamber.com or call the office at 815-625-2400.

September Events	
	for details & to register for events, visit saukvalleyareachamber.com
15	CHAMBER WEEK CELEBRATION 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. The Factory
17	FIESTA DAY PARADE kicks off at 1 p.m.
20	THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS presented by Robert Lockwood, PC Tech 2U 12 - 1 p.m. Triple P BBQ
21	CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS presented by Shane Brown, CGH 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Champs Banquet Venue
30	BREAKFAST BEFORE BUSINESS hosted by United Way of Whiteside County 7:30 a.m. Woodlawn Arts Academy

Nominations are now being accepted for the **2023 SVACC Board of Directors.**

Nomination deadline is September 30.

Please email nominations to knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com.



Investor Update September 2022

NEW INVESTORS

Schnappin Deals 815-246-2323 2900 E Lincolnway Ste 15A, Sterling	REMI'S Fashion & Boutique 815-994-4277 711 N Brinton Ave Dixon	Phillip Vasquez Agency Shelter Insurance 815-632-3393 1503 1st Ave Ste E, Rock Falls
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INVESTOR RENEWALS

Brent's Upholstery & Auto Accessories ComEd Compeer Financial Hollyhock Hill Farms K's Korner Trading Post Lance's Plumbing	McCormick's Nursery & Landscaping Menk USA, LLC Raynor Garage Doors Sterling Optimist Club Sterling Rock Falls Historical Society
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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

Allstate Insurance Agency
Altran Magnetics
Amazing Grace of Sterling
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 Spa At Central Park
T-Mobile
United Craftsmen, Ltd.

110% Club

1st Gateway Credit Union
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 — Brock Burlack, T-Mobile

I started my career as an engineer for Sprint after attending Devry in Kansas City in the mid 1990's. In the early 2000's I migrated my career to retail, managing major grocery stores for Hy-Vee, Safeway, and Coborns all over the country including Alaska.



I relocated to Rock Falls as a District Supervisor for Casey's in 2018. I accepted a position with T-Mobile in December 2021 to open the store in Sterling which I am still very happily employed.

I have a great family including a 14 year old daughter that is a freshman cheerleader at Rock Falls High School. I have a great spouse that is also in retail and supports my success and career endeavors.

My hobbies are collecting sports cars, body building, and bicycling. I have been extensively involved with several charities and community organizations throughout my career including: the chamber of commerce, Lions Club, Feeding America, Autism Speaks, and Feeding South Dakota.

News from our members:

The Morrison American Legion Post conducts its annual flag retirement ceremony on the last Sunday every September. Area Posts, Clubs and other collection locations are welcome to bring their flags to Morrison to be included. Contact the Post at (815) 310-0333 to coordinate a drop off. Deadline for drop offs is September 19.

Business After Hours | August

Thank you to Sauk Valley Bank for hosting the August Business After Hours. It was a wonderful summer evening of networking and gathering.

Please join us for Business Before Breakfast on September 30 at Woodlawn Arts Academy, hosted by United Way of Whiteside County.



Government Affairs Update



Eligible Back-to-School Expenses Could Yield Tax Benefits for Parents and Educators

With the new school year growing closer, the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) is reminding parents, guardians, and educators that they may be able to claim school expenses for K-12 students on their 2022 Illinois individual income tax returns.

The Illinois Education Expense Credit allows parents or legal guardians of a full-time K-12 student under the age of 21, to take a 25% tax credit on qualified education expenses over \$250 this year. The total credit may not exceed \$750, regardless of the number of qualifying students.

Qualified educational expenses include tuition, book, and lab fees in excess of \$250 paid to the school where the student is enrolled on a full-time basis. For home schooled students - book rental and lab fees greater than \$250 are eligible when attending a qualified home school program.

Based on the latest final IL-1040 return data, over 192,500 taxpayers claimed the Illinois Education Expense Credit in Tax Year 2021. The total amount claimed was more than \$63 million, with an average credit of \$327.

The Instructional Materials and Supply Tax Credit allows eligible teachers of full-time K-12 students to receive a tax break for qualified expenses on classroom materials paid during the taxable year. To qualify, taxpayers must be teachers, instructors, counselors, principals, or aides in a qualified school for at least 900 hours during a school year. They can claim a credit up to \$250 for qualified expenses they paid in the current taxable year, with the amount increasing to \$500 in 2023. If spouses are both educators and are filing jointly, the maximum credit is \$500.

Based on the latest final IL-1040 return data, over 60,000 taxpayers claimed the Instructional Materials and Supply Tax Credit in Tax Year 2021. The total amount claimed was more than \$15.6 million.

To learn more about the Illinois Education Expense Credit, please read IDOR Publication 132 and Publication 119 (for home schooled students) located on IDOR's website tax.illinois.gov.

For additional information on the Instructional Materials Supply and Tax Credit, please see IDOR's Q & A.

Hot Dog Day

What a great day downtown Sterling! From hot dogs across town, to sidewalk sales, and of course the Family Fun Fair, it was a great day to be in Sterling. Thank you to Sterling Main Street for organizing, and to all who helped with the event.

A big thanks to all of the businesses and organizations who made a special outing for the whole family during the Family Fun Fair.



Ribbon Cuttings

Sterling Rock Falls YMCA
Outdoor Basketball Court
donated by De Mortonson
For more info on the YMCA
call 815-535-9622



Bugsy's Arcade and Gaming
2900 E. Lincolnway, Sterling
815-677-2307

Midland States Bank—NEW LOCATION
4400 E. Lincolnway, Sterling
midlandsb.com



Sotelo Media
2900 E Lincolnway Unit 24A, Sterling
815-908-7823

Guest Editorial

Written by Maggie Wike, NAMI Sauk Area

The members of NAMI Sauk Area are here to help! We offer understanding to anyone concerned about mental illnesses and the treatment of mental illness. We are dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with mental illness and their families through support, education, and advocacy.

NAMI Sauk Area Family Support Group meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month (6:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sterling). These meetings are for family members and friends looking for support, who have a loved one or friend living with a mental illness. A trained facilitator leads the meetings. If you are in need of an online meeting, you can find those on our website at namisaukarea.org

We offer FREE Youth Mental Health First Aid which is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, neighbors, health and human services workers and any caring citizen, how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. To learn more, click on the Youth Mental Health First Aid logo on our website.

For more information, please visit our website or email namisaukarea@gmail.com

Upcoming events:

- August 23 Family Support Group Meeting
- August 31 Sauk Fest (NAMI Resource Table)
- September 4-10 Suicide Awareness Week
- September 27 Family Support Group Meeting
- September 28 SuicideTALK, SVCC Student Leaders
- October 2-8 Mental Illness Awareness Week



Investor Spotlight

SURFInternet.

Surf Internet is an innovative fiber-optic internet company that serves as the essential gateway to connectivity across the Great Lakes Region of Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. We believe high-speed, reliable internet service is the great equalizer and we're building a bridge to the future by delivering fiber internet service to homes and businesses in underserved, rural communities. Surf's 100-plus person team is local, giving us an edge when it comes to customer care and advocacy for the region. We are on a mission to transform the future of the region by building an unparalleled network and providing world-class customer service in the communities where we live, work, and serve. For more information visit SurfInternet.com.



Workforce Development

The Regional Office of Education #47 and Sauk Valley Community College are hosting the first annual Pathway Playground event to be held at Sauk Valley Community College on Friday, October 14, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The Pathway Playground is an exciting new regional event for Lee, Ogle & Whiteside county 8th grade students to promote career exploration and engagement with community organizations and businesses. This is a hands-on exploration event, where students engage in small activities to build their interests in various career fields. Our goal is to provide students with this opportunity to explore what careers our area has to offer and guidance in their future endeavors.

There is no better way to explore a potential career than to witness it first-hand. We are gathering local industry leaders to provide an experience that will help students make the connection between school work and the world of work. Area 8th grade students will cycle through 50 or more booths divided into 7 career cluster zones representing area businesses. Students will have twenty minutes in each of the 7 areas to explore what our area has to offer and to see your local business care about the success of our students.

We look forward to collaborating with you!

Heather Waninger, hwaninger@roe47.org, 815-590-2760

Chanda McDonnell, cmcdonnell@roe47.org, 815-677-2457

This year's Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program began its journey on August 3rd at the Sauk Valley Food Bank. Pam Martinerz, Executive Director of the food bank, gave us a tour of the facility and discussed successful Parking Lot Pantry days, employees, volunteers, and COVID-19's impact on the community and its needs.



Class continued at the RRCA Accounts Management building with a panel of local leaders. Panel members were asked to describe Sauk Valley community challenges and to reveal some of their best advice for future leaders. The panel consisted of Heather Sotelo, Executive Director, GSDC; SPD Chief Alex Chavira; Joe Strabala-Bright, Dean of Student Services, Sauk Valley Community College; and Sarah Alvarez-Brown, Interim Director of Nursing, CGH Medical Center.

We finished August 4th's class with a delicious lunch from The Factory.

On August 17, Kim Purvis, former Director of Whiteside Area Career Center, began our session discussing leadership styles, asking us to always remember, "Who am I leading--scouts? pioneers? settlers? or those who are complacent or unwilling to work?" Dr. David Hellmich, Sauk Valley Community College President, then introduced Leadership Theories, an ongoing topic for this class.

Finally, LeAndra Hartman, WACC CEO Facilitator, helped us make sense of various personality types as a result of our DISC assessment. Students participated in thoughtful teamwork and discussion to look at how our traits can blend and work together as we lead (or follow) others.

We were treated to yet another delicious lunch, this time from Angelo's of Sterling.



37th Annual Steak Fry in the Country

What a night! It's amazing to see the support our ag community has in this community. Thank you to everyone who came out to support Ag education in the Sauk Valley. A big thank you to our sponsors, the individuals that donated desserts, and our Ag committee for making this scholarship fundraiser possible!





HOSTED BY: The Campaign Cabinet of
United Way of Whiteside County



YOU'RE INVITED TO

Breakfast before Business

Friday, September 30

7:30 a.m.

Woodlawn Arts Academy

3907 Woodlawn Rd., Sterling



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce



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SVACC and BEST , Inc to hold Drive-Thru Job Fair

The Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce and BEST, Inc. will be hosting a **Drive-Thru Job Fair on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at the BEST, Inc. Office located at 2605 Woodlawn Road, Sterling, Illinois 61081.

If you would like to share information regarding open positions at your business/organization, please make 150 copies of fliers for open job positions and drop them off at the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce at located at 211 Locust Street, Sterling, Illinois 61081 **no later than September 12, 2022.**

Job seekers will be able to drive up and receive a packet of information on jobs in the area and other resource information from the safety of their own vehicles. Businesses and job seekers are encouraged to participate.

For more information please contact Kris Noble, Executive Director at Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce at **815-625-2400** or knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com; or Tammy Nehr Korn, BEST, Inc. at **815-625-9648 X104.**



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce



2022 Parade Sponsors



EXCLUSIVE

SVACC HISPANIC BUSINESS LEADER COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

THE 69TH ANNUAL FIESTA DAY PARADE

SEPT
17
2022

1PM | SATURDAY

PARADE STARTS IN ROCK FALLS
& ENDS IN STERLING

REGISTER YOUR PARADE ENTRY AT
SAUKVALLEYAREACHAMBER.COM

815-625-2400

Could changes to the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program affect your business?



The Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program will soon be affecting businesses with as few as five employees. This law requires Illinois employers to either offer their own retirement program, adopt the state-run alternative, or risk facing financial penalties.

If you're not sure which option is best for your business, don't worry – we're here to help! **Join us on September 19th for lunch and a free seminar on the updates to the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program.** You'll learn what has changed about the regulation, what to expect from the state-run program, and some additional alternatives so that you can make the most informed decision for your business.

This seminar is presented by **Robbie Minor with Sauk Valley Investment Services and Nathan White with Midwestern Securities**, and is open to all Sauk Valley area business owners.



Nathan White, CPFA, AIF*
Director of Retirement Plans and
Chief Financial Officer
Midwestern Securities



Robbie Minor
Vice President Investment Services
Sauk Valley Investment Services
rminor@iwm.saukvalleybank.com

What:

Free seminar for Sauk Valley area business tax owners on the IL Secure Choice Savings Program

When:

**Monday, September 19th
Noon to 1 p.m.**

Please RSVP by September 8th to
trenkes@iwm.saukvalleybank.com
or 815-718-6080

Where:

**RRCA Conference Room
201 E. 3rd St
Sterling, IL 61081**

Who:

Hosted and Presented by Sauk Valley Investment Services

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