

The VOICE OF BUSINESS



GRAND RAPIDS AREA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

May 2011 Chamber Events

RESERVATIONS ARE NOW REQUIRED!

May 2nd, 2011

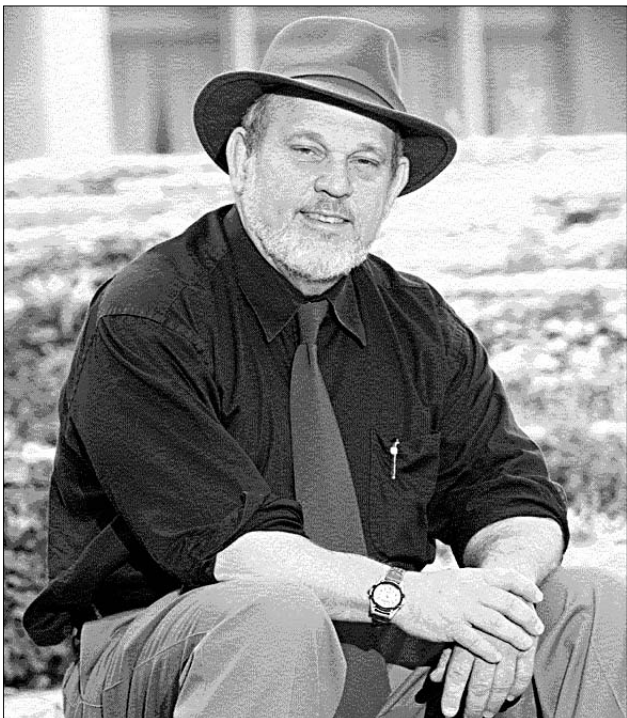
Luncheon Speaker:

Tom Gillaspay

Minnesota State Demographer

**Minnesota Demographic Change
And The New Normal**

The Great Recession has led to major changes in our economy and society that will have impacts well into the future. The Great Recession began January 2008. That is not the only change that began that month. The other change, the 62nd birthday of the leading edge of the Baby Boom Generation, ushered in the beginning of the long anticipated Age of Entitlements. The impact of both of these changes will be with us for the remainder of our lives. We have entered the "New Normal" in which many of the rules of how things normally work have changed. Tom Gillaspay will discuss the demographic and economic forces behind these changes, how they will influence economic activities this decade, and some of opportunities that will be available because of these changes.



Please join us at 11:45 a.m. at the Sawmill Inn. The cost is \$11.00 at the door and RESERVATIONS are required. Please call Renee at 218-326-6619 or renee@grandmn.com no later than April 29th 2011 - 12:00 noon

May 2nd, 2011

Luncheon Sponsor:

Grand Rapids State Bank

Grand Rapids State Bank has been a rock-solid fixture in the Grand Rapids area for more than 97 years. Serving our community by providing appropriate financial solutions for our customers and delivering them with superior customer service is our number one priority. Grand Rapids State Bank is a traditional hometown community bank that's worked hard to keep our products and services relevant. A traditional banking model has always been our bread and butter, and yet we know that customer service distinguishes us from other banks.



Grand Rapids State Bank was one of the first institutions to introduce internet banking in this region and we continue to offer e-products that provide customers the full banking experience. In addition to traditional bank products, current e-product offerings include online banking, remote e-deposit and e-statements. Mobile banking will be available during the second quarter of 2011, and shortly thereafter we'll roll our new GRSB website with new banking functionality to better serve our customers.

Grand Rapids State Bank

"Serving the Community for Generations, Grand Rapids State Bank."

New members

5 Star Pest Control & Cabin Care LLC
Contact: Jeremiah Puelston
721 NW 5th Ave
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone: 218-326-2192

Servpro
Contact: Gene & Heidi Pehrson
2603 W. Highway 2
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone: 218-999-9799

Tom Brown - Individual Member
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Bloomers Garden Center
Contact: Debbie Clark
1037 Golf Course Road
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone: 218-326-0668

Country Financial
Contact: Dana Rachuy
206 A Third Street NE
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone: 218-326-0240

GRACE House of Itasca County
Contact: Kelly Lammon & Ami Reed
2901 South Highway 169
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone: 218-326-2790



MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S FISHING OPENER COMMUNITY PICNIC - MAY 13, 2011

The Chamber's traditional Fishing Opener BBQ that is usually held on the Central School Grounds will be canceled for 2011. Instead, there will be a Community Picnic held at the IRA Civic Center located on Highway 38 North in Grand Rapids on the Friday prior to the Fishing Opener as part of the Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener Celebration that is being hosted by the Grand Rapids Area this year. The date for the Community Picnic is May 13th, 2011 and there is no charge for this event.

We will need a lot of volunteers for this event, and other ones that are taking place during the Governor's Fishing Opener Celebration.

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities for the picnic or one of the other events, you will need to contact the Governor's Fishing Opener Volunteer Committee Chair, Karla Trast. She can be reached at 218-326-3663 or you can e-mail her at grandor-ganic@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE! OCTOBER 6, 2011!

On October 6, 2011 the Grand Rapids Area Chamber will host the first "TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS-A SHOWCASE OF CHAMBER MEMBERS" event. It will be held at Itasca Community College between 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. It will be the perfect opportunity for participants to showcase their business to fellow chamber members and potential clients. Because space is limited, participation is limited to the first 45 chamber members who sign up.

For more details, contact Kerry Larsen at the chamber. She can be reached at 218-326-6619 or you can e-mail her at Kerry@grandmn.com.



"Taking Care
of Business"

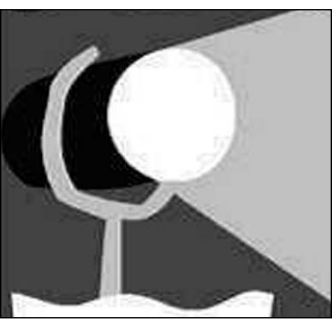


Good Luck fishing! Be Safe!



May 2011				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3		5	6
Chamber Luncheon 11:30 Networking 11:45 a.m. Sawmill Inn Speaker: Tom Gillaspay Minnesota State Demographer Sponsored by: Grand Rapids State Bank (See front page)	Membership Committee meeting 12:00 noon - Chamber Conference Room		Future Workers	7:30 a.m. Government Affairs Chamber Conference Room
9	10		12	13
	Walleye Classic committee meeting 10:00 a.m. - Chamber Conference Room Chamber Does What? - 12:00 p.m. Chamber Conference Room RSVP required call Kerry @ 218-326-6619		Program Committee Meeting 8:30 a.m. Chamber of Commerce Conference Room	7:30 a.m. Government Affairs Chamber Conference Room
16	17		19	20
				7:30 a.m. Government Affairs Chamber Conference Room
23	24		26	27
Board of Directors Meeting 11:30 a.m. - Forest Lake			Area Business Committee meeting 8:00 a.m. Chamber Conference Room	7:30 a.m. Government Affairs Chamber Conference Room 9:00 a.m. Forestry Affairs Chamber Conference Room
30	31			

www.grandmn.com



April 2011 Business Spotlight Recipient: Grand Rapids Herald-Review

www.grandrapidsmn.com

The Herald Review has a 116 year history of providing a newspaper to serve our customers, who are the subscribers of our publication and the businesses that advertise regularly. The business community has supported and partnered with our newspaper to market their products and services to reach customers in our community. It is that partnership that has made both local businesses and this newspaper successful. We thank all businesses for the support. Our subscribers are just as important to this newspaper, because without them we would not be able to support the staff to continue bringing local news, sports and other newsworthy information to this community.

Although many changes have occurred over this time, from the days of the Rossman family ownership to regional ownership, investment com-

pany owned and currently corporate media company ownership, our commitment to local news is as important as it always has been.

Here is a quote from a September 1924 editorial written by L.A. Rossman, who at that time was the owner/publisher: "The Grand Rapids Herald Review takes pride in its attempt to print the news of Grand Rapids and Itasca County. It does not attempt to usurp the field of the farm journal, the fiction magazine or the daily newspaper. It seeks to give local news, news published nowhere else and obtainable through the columns of the Herald Review."

We continue our attempt to provide news service to our community through our printed products and with technology changes we have other distribution methods available to us. However as difficult as it is to change

from our traditional printed newspaper, a product we feel comfortable with as well as many of our customers, we understand that many of our customers now receive their information in an electronic version. They expect us as well to provide the news of the community they live in this same way.

A paradigm shift of this degree in the newspaper business doesn't happen overnight and for the most part newspapers struggle with the degree of change. How much is too much electronically, do we charge and

how much, is email news alerts enough or do we Face book and twitter. Our company is encouraging us, I guess challenging us, to do all of the above. Our traditional twice-a-week printed news delivery model is not sufficient to meet the needs of our customers. We must provide a daily delivery model for local news. We have the tools at hand to provide this service, now we must change our mindset and write not only for our Wednesday and Sunday printed publication but for electronic daily delivery.

Our email news alerts,

breaking news alerts as well as our online edition are some of our first attempts over the past few years. The Herald Review is now available on Facebook and twitter for customers who want to follow us electronically.

Local news is very important to us and our community. We take our role of providing this service to you very seriously as well as our role as a partner in the business community. For more information visit www.grandrapidsmn.com or call 218-326-6623

Herald-Review

Grand Rapids Herald-Review
Grand Rapids Newspapers, Inc.
301 NW 1st Ave., P.O. Box 220, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Telephone 218-326-6623 - Fax 218-326-6627
Ronald L. Oleheiser, General Manager

Twelve times per year, a Chamber Member Business in good standing, will be randomly drawn from the Chamber Member Data Base at the Monthly Luncheon and spotlighted for the upcoming month.

This randomly drawn business will have the opportunity to showcase themselves through the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce network and newsletter with added exposure and marketing.

This program is intended to provide a special way to thank all of the businesses and individuals who support the Chamber Organization's mission of advocacy for business.



Grand Rapids Area Chamber Walleye Classic - Early Bird registration Winners Ron Beier and Mike Gaede

"Catch, Record, Release" Walleye Tournament June 18, 2011 Pokegama Lake, Grand Rapids, MN

**\$400.00 per two-person team
(Limited to 50 teams)**

**1st place \$5000
(Based on a 50 boat field).**

www.grandrapidschamberwalleyeclassic.com

Headline Sponsor:

Biggest Walleye: \$1000.00

Biggest Walleye sponsored by:

Grand Rapids Area Chamber Member Sponsored Teams

- GRAND RAPIDS GM** Brock Anderson & Randy Topper Sponsored by:
Grand Rapids GM
- Bruce Berglund & Andy Fisher Sponsored by:
Paul Bunyan Communications
- Colt Anderson & Ben Olson Sponsored by:
Maki Body & Glass
- Jason Joliceur & Dan Boedigheimer Sponsored by:
TaskMasters Handyman & Cabin Care
- Mark Utecht & Sam Utecht Sponsored by:
Glen's Army Navy
- Mike Peluso & Brian Fettig Sponsored by:
Wired2Fish.com
- Tim Graupmann & Jim Seybold Sponsored by:
Grand Rapids Chiropractic
- Tony Jerulle & Dale Anderson Sponsored by:
Sammy's Pizza
- Dave Hernesman & Sean Colter Sponsored by:
Glen's Army Navy

Platinum Sponsors:

Gold Sponsors:

Silver Sponsor:

Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund

Each year the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce awards a minimum of two scholarships to area high school seniors. One goes to a senior who has applied and been accepted at a 4-year college with plans to attain a B.S. or B.A. degree. The second goes to a senior who is pursuing a 2-year degree or certification in a vocational/technical industry.

If you would like to make a donation to the Chamber's Scholarship Fund, contact Kerry Larsen at the Chamber at 218-326-6619 or Kerry@grandmn.com

FORESTRY TODAY: TRAILS – LUXURY OR NECESSITY?



Catherine McLynn

In recent months government officials have come under increasing pressure to slash budgets to “live within their means.” As citizens offer input on spending priorities, recreation sometimes falls to the bottom of the list. Bike trails, ski trails, snowmobile trails, and ATV trails are seen as luxuries that we can no longer afford. But we live in the heavily forested region of the state and the livelihoods of many families depend on those forests for their survival. For centuries, loggers have built trails to harvest timber. Some of those century old trails have been developed into the National Scenic Byway High-

way 38 and is maintained with federal and state dollars. Some logging roads have become access roads to lakes and resorts like Eagle Nest Road on Winnie in the Chippewa National Forest. Other skid trails have become ski or snowmobile trails and are maintained by user groups in cooperation with public agencies. Trails provide a means to disperse forest users and manage traffic at a much lower cost and with a much less environmental impact than gravel roads or paved highways. A network of trails serves the same purpose as a network of roads at a fraction of the cost. Trails, like roads, get

people where they need to go to get what they need out of the forest whether it be to harvest timber, wildlife, waterfowl or fish. Just as importantly, people take from the forest nourishment for their souls, feasting on the natural beauty and enjoying it without taking anything more than a photo or a memory. They get in and out of the woods on trails just as people in town walk on sidewalks or along the roadsides. Trail systems are critical in emergency rescue operations or fighting forest fires. Good forest management and environmental protection require trail development and main-

tenance. In Itasca County proceeds from timber sales provide funding for trails, public accesses on lakes and campgrounds. As long as people work and play in the forest, they will demand trails just as they demand good road systems. The demand for recreation opportunities puts food on the table for many local business owners and employees. The demand for access into our forests will keep trails a high priority in Itasca County. The valuable contributions made by many user groups make trails one of the better bangs we get for our public buck. The health of our communities,

physical and fiscal, depend on well developed infrastructure: roads, water lines, electric and communication lines AND trail systems. Without trails, many people would not get where they need to go for harvesting the valuable resources our area has to offer: fish, deer, balsam boughs, trees. And trails can be built for a fraction of the cost of a highway and with a fraction of the impact on the natural environment. Without trails, there would be congestion and overuse of those areas that are adjacent to highways.



Bud Stone - President - The Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

Soon our region will be filling up with summer travelers

It's time for us to have a Check-Up! Soon our region will be filling up with summer travelers! Once school lets out for the summer, the population of northern Minnesota seems to double and the Grand Rapids Area is no exception.

Tourism is a huge part of the economy of our area and we need to make sure that our visitors have a positive experience while they are here. Visit Grand Rapids, our Convention and Visitors

Bureau, invests heavily in destination marketing to bring people to the Grand Rapids Area. The Chamber Information Center annually serves more than 7,000 people who are looking for information about the Grand Rapids Area and it's businesses and attractions. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Federal Forest Service gear up for people with recreational priorities like camping, fishing and other out-

door activities.

Our attractions like the Forest History Center, the Children's Discovery and Judy Garland Museum, Hill Annex State Park, the Itasca Historical Society and the Minnesota Discovery Center spruce up and get ready for visitors.

Right now is the time for us to make sure that our businesses are ready for this influx of traffic. We are our own "Best Ambassadors" for tourism and "Word of

Mouth" is our best advertising agency. When people have a positive experience, they always tell a few people about it. When they have a bad experience, they tell a lot of people about it.

So, take a look around your business. See if you are ready to add to a positive experience. Is your business clean? Does it look inviting? Are your products dusted off and displayed in an attractive manner? Do you have staff with great cus-

tomers service skills? Do they know what to say when a customer asks them what there is to do in the area? Do they know where to send them for information?

We only get one chance to make a good first impression and give our visitors that positive experience that will bring them back to our community in the future so let's take a minute and have a Check-Up and get ready for a great summer in northern Minnesota!

If trees could talk, they would say:

"UNATTENDED CAMPFIRES CAN START UNINTENDED FOREST FIRES."

Tend to your campfire. Let's respect our forests.

photo credit: Eli Sasor

photo credit: Julie Miedtke

FEAP
FORESTRY EDUCATION & AWARENESS PROGRAM

For more information visit www.FEAPMN.com

Fishing Hosts needed

If you have an interest in being a Fishing Host for the 2011 Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener, here is your chance. The City of Grand Rapids, the Grand Rapids Area Chamber and Visit Grand Rapids are hosting the this year's Governor's Fishing Opener and right now they have several openings for guys or gals with boats to take invited guests fishing on Saturday, May 14, 2011. Your contact for volunteering is Diane Davis, Fishing Host Chair, who can be reached at 218-999-5094

MINNESOTA 2011 GOVERNOR'S FISHING OPENER Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids is thrilled to host the 2011 Governor's Fishing Opener, Saturday, May 14th, on Pokegama Lake. This area has a long tradition as a fishing destination and we look forward to showcasing this beautiful community to the media, sponsors, and invited guests.

The Governor's Fishing Opener attracts media attention from throughout Minnesota and the Midwest. That's why we are hosting the event. You can be a part of that effort by serving as a fishing host.

Become a Fishing Host !

If you would like to volunteer your time to serve as a fishing host for members of the media or other official guests of the event, please complete the fishing host background information sheet. You must be able to attend the Thursday night rules & instructions prime rib dinner, a media pairing event Friday night at 7:30pm, and be available on Saturday for the fishing event. You don't have to be a professional guide, just have a boat, enjoy fishing, and be a good ambassador of the community.

Itinerary for Fishing Hosts

Thursday, May 12 th	6:00pm	Fishing Host Rules & Regulations Dinner (Prime Rib) at the Sawmill Inn
Friday, May 13 th	7:30pm	Fishing Host/Media Pairing Meeting Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge
Saturday, May 14 th	5:30-8am	Breakfast Buffet at Ruttger's with your guest
	11:30-1:30	Fishing Walleye Shore Lunch at Zorbaz on Pokegama
	4:00pm	Optional afternoon fishing if your guest wishes Fishing Challenge Ends

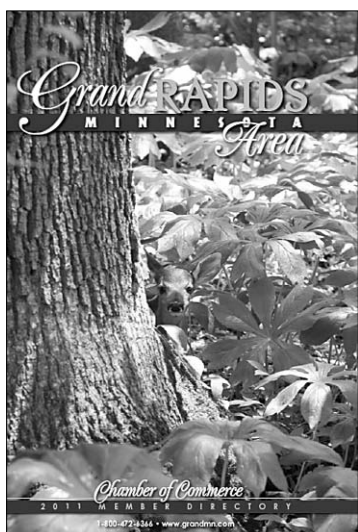
Benefits of Serving as a Fishing Host

The host committee recognizes your commitment and strives to take good care of you during the event. In addition to the free meals included in your itinerary, each fishing host will receive a Cabela's commemorative fishing jacket, Frabill Bait Bucket with aerator, hat, custom lake map, and a gift package provided by our event sponsors.

"WE HAVE FACEBOOK"

Go to the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce face book page for the latest updates www.facebook.com/grchambermn

STOCK UP ON CHAMBER MEMBER DIRECTORIES FOR SUMMER NOW!



Each year around 10,000 Chamber Member Directories are distributed to people looking for information about our Chamber Members. Many are picked up by people here at the Chamber Business Offices in the Depot, but a lot of them are also distributed by Chamber Member Businesses. Right now is the time of the year when the Chamber's Membership Coordinator, Kerry Larsen, spends a lot of energy getting these Member Directories distributed to businesses who want them to hand out. If you would like her to drop some off at your business, give her a call at 218-326-6619 or e-mail her at Kerry@grandmn.com. Member Directories are also distributed through the mail to people who call the Chamber requesting information on the Grand Rapids Area and by Chamber Staff and volunteers participating in local events like the Minnesota Builders Show and the Jaycee's Home and Sport Show. While a lot of information is obtained "on-line" these days, there are still a lot of folks who like to have a "hard-copy" in their hands.



Join us for the 2011 Chamber Golf Outing & Fun Day Eagle Ridge Golf Course Thursday, July 21, 2011

This years theme is "Giddy Up and Golf"

Golfers:
Wear your best western "gear" for a chance to win well, it's a surprise!! (Participation is optional)

Hole Sponsors:
You will have a chance to compete for the Best display or activity. (Golfers will vote for this award).

To sign up for the Golf Outing contact Renee at 326-6619 or by email: renee@grandmn.com.



Ribbon Cuttings



Jeff Hayford and DJ Dondelinger have been the official owners of Rapids Ford since Nov. 1st 2010. This July will mark a year since the two have been actively involved with the company. With vehicle sales increasing, it looks like the guys are here to stay. Customers old and new are encouraged to stop by and say hello. While you're here ask them how you can get free oil changes, as well as earn 5% towards future services on your vehicle. They pride themselves and their staff on their customer service and their extensive vehicle knowledge. Combine this with a world class service department and Rapids Ford can't be beat. Pictured: Jeff hayford, Gary Tangen, Mike Erickson, Mark Greely, Pete Brazerol and Christina Schleicer. Not pictured: DJ Dondelinger. Ambassadors: Katie Shafer/Pine Acres Resort & Bonner Eye Clinic, June Johnson/Northern Business Products, Brad Johnson/Edward Jones, Diane Skelly/Travel Master, Amber Kaczor/Our Gang Staffing



Junior Achievement provides curriculum on financial literacy, career and work readiness, entrepreneurship and economics to local students in grades K-12. These fun, interactive lessons are taught by a local business person so that students have the opportunity to learn about different careers and talk about living, working and volunteering in the community. In order to expand this programming, we need local business people willing to donate five hours towards educating and empowering these young students. If someone is interested they can visit www.jaum.org or contact the JA office at 218-727-8745. Pictured: Amber Madoll, MA District Manager, Ambassadors: Peggy Schagh/US Bank & Diane Skelly/Travel Master



"Paul Bunyan Communications Cooperative offers broadband Internet, digital and high definition television service, along with voice services for businesses and residents in Grand Rapids, Cohasset, LaPrairie, and Deer River. Due to continued growth in both customers and employees, the Cooperative has opened a larger customer service office in Grand Rapids located at 1220 Pokegama Ave South. Office Hours are Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday's from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 24 hour emergency repair is also available." Pictured: Front Row: Micha Smith (Customer Service Representative), Dawn Drotts (Customer Service Representative), John Weber (Business Account Executive). Back Row: Michael Negron (Customer Service Supervisor), Mary Jane Knapp (Customer Service Representative). Ambassadors: Brad Johnson/Edward Jones, Diane Skelly/Travel Master, Amber Kaczor/Our Gang Staffing, June Johnson/Northern Business Products.

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Team Cell: 218.244.TINA • Office: 218-326-3455 • Toll Free: 800-450-3455

April 2011 Customer Service Award Winner Andy Winker - Rapids Garage Door & Awning

Congratulations for your excellent customer service!



Pictured: Andy Winker – Rapid Garage Door & Awning & Kyle Erickson – AEOA – Workforce Development Committee

HELLO Chamber Members

Now is a great time to get that special someone their recognition! If you know of someone who has great Customer Service Skills, please nominate them for the Customer Service Gold Star Award.

HOWEVER PLEASE REMEMBER TO NOMINATE A PERSON, NOT A BUSINESS AS A WHOLE OR AN OWNER OF A BUSINESS!

ALSO REMEMBER, YOU CAN'T NOMINATE SOMEONE FROM YOUR OWN BUSI-

NESS OR A RELATIVE!

If chosen, this person will be recognized at the Chamber of Commerce Chamber Luncheon and photographed for the Chamber newsletter. Please email nominations with a letter on why you would like to nominate this person to kerry@grandmn.com and Kerry will pass the nominations to the proper committee for consideration.

Have a great day!

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 at the depot

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Inquire within the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce or call Bud Stone at 218-326-6619

Grand Rapids Area CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

One NW Third Street
 Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744

218.326.6619

www.grandmn.com

2011 Board of Directors

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Vice Chair Peggy Schagh	US Bank
Treasurer Amy Trast	American Bank
Past Chair Jake Goering	Individual Member
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One Year Term Megan Christianson Lisa Randall	Northern MN Builders TaskMasters Handyman & Cabin Care Minnesota Power Wildwood Resort Ruttgers Sugar Lake Lodge
Two Year Term Kurt Ogle Sue Estee	Ogle's Marketplace Foods Second Harvest Food Bank Travel Masters Grand Rapids GM Deerwood Bank
Three Year Term Jeff Borling Kristina Clark Dave Scott Roger Hoyum Jason Janesich	Apex Edward Jones PureDriven JDI Contracts Mediacom

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