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# Direction for Business

September 2011

### Executive Committee

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Lisa Crumrine

#### Chair Elect

Terry Pfeifer

#### Past Chair

Kent Brown

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Chad Hudnall  
Dave Koubek

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Tonja Broadwell  
Seanne Emerton  
Kurt Haecker  
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Mike Morledge  
Ray O'Connor  
Shane Stava  
Steve Toner

#### Chamber Staff

President  
Cindy Johnson



## Volunteerism

*A Message from your Chamber President*

In the words of former Mayor Ken Gnadt, Grand Island is a caring, sharing, and volunteering community. This statement-of-fact was proven at this year's Nebraska State Fair when nearly 900 volunteers, clad in yellow t-shirts, demonstrated Grand Island's hospitable spirit to the 330,000 visitors to Grand Island. Our graciousness has been noted by many from outside the region. It makes me question whether this is 'just the way we are'. That, in and of itself, is noteworthy.

While the bright yellow attire at the Nebraska State Fair called out, "I'm here to help", volunteers aren't always so readily identifiable. The Grand Island Chamber, for instance, relies on hundreds of volunteers who serve in many capacities; without volunteers the Chamber would be unable to function in the manner we do. It is because of people who willingly offer their time and talents that Grand Island can host the Harvest of Harmony Parade and bring thousands of families into the community; that we have a board of directors comprised of community-minded, altruistic business leaders who are invested in our area; and that business and personal relationships are formed when ribbon cuttings and Business After Hours are hosted by volunteers.

The Grand Island Chamber of Commerce depends on hundreds of business partner volunteers to ensure that the programs and events of the Chamber are meaningful, relevant and rewarding. Each one of you plays a significant role in addressing areas of importance in the community. Collectively, your wisdom, experience and contributions extend our abilities.

On behalf of the Chamber staff, thank you for your commitment. Every day you are helping to define the issues and meet the expectations of the business community. This shared dedication ensures that the economic vitality of the region remains strong.

Mary Berlie  
Janell Folkerts  
Rhonda  
Velega  
Micki Ward



Make-A-Wish held a ribbon cutting to celebrate their new Chamber partnership.



Uniforms 'N More invited the Connectors to a ribbon cutting in celebration of their new Chamber partnership.



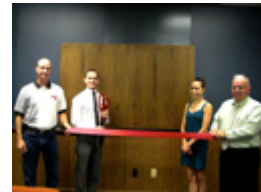
Elli's Pet Salon had a ribbon cutting to celebrate their new Chamber partnership.



Hydro Tech celebrated their new Chamber partnership with a ribbon cutting.



Fresh Concepts had a ribbon cutting to celebrate their new Chamber partnership.



North Star Energy celebrated their new Chamber partnership with a ribbon cutting.



Jason Davis, CCC representative and YP member, discusses appropriate behavior within social media sites.

## Workforce Readiness

The Grand Island Chamber of Commerce partnered with Grand Island Central Catholic to offer 2012 graduating seniors a *Professional Development Day*. Seniors connected with business professionals to learn about resume writing, interview tips, social media guidelines, and understanding student loans. A highlight of the day was participation in mock interviews.

## 2012 Nebraska Legislative Insight

Every year, the State Chamber of Commerce presents legislative briefings to business leaders across the state. Consistent with local Chambers, the State Chamber has three key areas of interest, tax climate, labor/employment, and economic development. These key

areas impact jobs and growth, Nebraska's economic competitiveness and quality of life – all critical elements to recruiting and retaining business in Nebraska.

Barry Kennedy, President of the State Chamber, will be in Grand Island on October 11th at 12 noon at Riverside Golf Club, in conjunction with the Grand Island Noon Rotary Club meeting, to share insight into what business should expect in the upcoming 2012 Legislative session. If you are interested in attending this session, please email [info@gichamber.com](mailto:info@gichamber.com) to reserve a seat. There is no charge.

## How to Manage Problem Employees Seminar

The Grand Island Chamber is excited to announce ***How to Manage Problem Employees*** seminar on Friday, November 18, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. - noon at the Chamber office. Nationally known, Glenn Shepard will present the intense and refreshingly honest session outlining key components on how to hire with confidence, fire without fear, tame toxic employees and put your team on the fast track to record-shattering success. Admission to the seminar is \$129.00 for Chamber partners, \$149.00 for non Chamber partners. For more information on Glenn Shepard, visit [www.glennshepard.com](http://www.glennshepard.com). Register by Monday, November 14, 2011 with [mberlie@gichamber.com](mailto:mberlie@gichamber.com).

## New Chamber Partners

*September 2011*

Ascentia  
Ron Price  
2801 Northwest First Street  
Lincoln, NE 68521  
402.475.5572

Audiology & Hearing Center of Grand Island  
Blake Studley, Au.D., F-AAA  
527 North Diers Avenue, #4  
Grand Island, NE 68803  
308.382.4282

Family 1st Dental-Park Place  
Dr. Veronica Barra, DDS  
2504 North Webb Road  
Grand Island, NE 68803  
308.381.7077

Heartland Health Homecare Oxygen-CPAP  
Carmen Eimers  
1207 Allen Drive  
Grand Island, NE 68803  
308.675.1606

Make-A-Wish Foundation of Nebraska  
Hannah Stone  
8 West 56th Street  
Suite B-2 North  
Kearney, NE 68847  
308.234.6612

SagePoint Financial  
Dave Skutnik  
211 West 3rd Street  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
308.675.1881

Serenity Nails  
Carmen Nguyen  
2390 North Diers Avenue  
Suite 103  
Grand Island, NE 68803  
308.382.2444

Individuals Partnerships:

Rev. Harvey Johnson

309 West 2nd Street | PO Box 1486 | Grand Island, NE 68802-1486  
Phone: 308.382.9210 | Fax: 308.382.1154

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