

E-Business Connection



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Checking in with our Chair

December 2024



Shawn Henley
2024 Board Chair
Pleasanton
Chamber of Commerce

It's Been a Pleasure

My year as the Chair of the Chamber Board is winding down, and I commonly get asked, "Shawn, did you enjoy your year as Chair?"

Earlier in the year my response would have been, "Wow, this is a bigger time commitment than I anticipated!"

In fact, when I was asked what I do for a living, my response was, "Well, my day job is Chair of the Pleasanton Chamber, but I also have a side job as a Financial Advisor with Morgan Stanley."

However, as I now reflect on this past year serving as the Chamber of Commerce Board Chair, I realize it has been one of the best and most rewarding experiences of my professional career. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the many people who helped me tremendously during my time as Chair:

Chamber Staff -- it all starts with our hard-working crew and the tremendous support I received from our CEO James Cooper, Yianna Theodorou, Kate D'Or, and Jeanette Schaub. Thank you all!

Board of Directors-- I want to express my sincere gratitude for the dedication and countless hours that the Chamber Board put in this past year:

Bob Rossi (Sunshine Saloon), Jill Buck (Go Green Initiative), Ken Norvell (CMIT Solutions), Jacqueline Brown (Workday), Geno Ashley (Hoge Fenton), Billy Buckley (ENT Networks), Seema Chawla (TekValley Corp), Shelley Despotakis (Chicago Title), Shareef Mahdavi (Merchant Advocate), Manny Peregrina (VIP Audio Visual Co.), Lori Strazdas (Clorox), Dr. David Wong (Chiropractic), Bill Wheeler (Black Tie Transportation), my past Treasurer, Steve Baker and our incoming 2025 Board Chair, Arne Olson!

Ambassadors -- too many to name, but they all selflessly commit their time to support our Chamber and its members. They are the glue that holds everything together and they are AWESOME! I hope to, one day in the future, be an Ambassador.

Members -- it has been a pleasure getting to know so many of our Chamber members. They have all had a role in making this a wonderful year. I think my favorite part of being Chair were the ribbon cuttings and celebrating all the new businesses in our community this past year. Another favorite for me were all the introductions of New Members at our monthly Chamber Mixers! Getting to shake their hands and welcoming them to the Pleasanton Chamber. Collectively, it's all our members that have given me a new appreciation of how blessed I am to be a part of this thriving community. There are so many great, friendly and hardworking people that network with one another in the Tri Valley. I was proud to be a part of that.

I have been fortunate to raise my boys here, work here, and live in Pleasanton for the past 32 years. I love the Pleasanton Chamber, and I will continue to support our members and local businesses for years to come. Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your Chamber Board Chair this past year and I look forward to seeing you around town.

Wishing you all health and success!