



Letter from the President—As We Move Forward In 2021

Dear members, as we move forward into 2021, the Willoughby Western Lake County will continue to provide the best and most accurate resources for information/updates on business loans during the pandemic, COVID guidelines and updates and resources to help support our member businesses. Please contact us if you need additional resources for your business or have suggestions on how we can better serve our business members.

Recently, the Willoughby Western Lake County Chamber of Commerce joined a statewide, grassroots coalition of businesses, non-profits and Chambers of Commerce called "**Coalition to Stop the Spread**" in an effort to fight the pandemic crippling our economy and impacting our families. We are asking members to stop the spread of COVID-19 by keeping our families healthy, our workforce safe and businesses open. How can we accomplish this? We all know best practices—wear your mask around others, social distancing, washing hands and getting tested if you feel sick. We encourage our Chamber members to share with their employees to be extra diligent around close friends and extended family as our risk is not limited to public spaces. We all have the power to stop the spread and get back to normal! Learn more about how to support our efforts and the efforts of many Ohio businesses and organizations at www.Stopthespreadcoalition.com.

In our WWLC Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting last week, we laid out our initiatives for 2021. Workforce initiatives remain a focus for the WWLC Chamber as many businesses struggle with finding qualified employees. Besides our collaborative Lake County wide annual "Think Manufacturing" Student Expo, the three Lake County Chambers of Commerce will be collaborating on a job fair in September for any business in Lake County. I look forward to providing more information as we work on the details of the **Lake County Wide Job Fair**.

Another 2021 WWLC Chamber initiative is to find ways to welcome all businesses to Lake County. This year the Willoughby Western Lake County Chamber of Commerce is starting the **Lake County Diversity & Inclusion Business Council**. Our goal is to help all of Lake County become a more inviting and supportive community for minority businesses wanting to do business in Lake County. In addition, to provide information to businesses on diversity and inclusion in the workplace and how diversity and inclusion make businesses stronger and help

make Lake County a more inviting community for any business wanting to move to Lake County. We look forward to providing more information to you on this and how you can support the Chamber's efforts.

We will continue to provide our virtual meetings and webinars in 2021 that help you in your business and look forward to when we can return to live events. We will also continue to support economic development in our communities which helps all of us, and we welcome the many new businesses that we continue to see join the Chamber!

A special thanks to our WWLC Board of Directors who continue to support the Chamber's work to keep business strong and grow business in Lake County!

Best wishes for 2021,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen W. Tercek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Karen" and "W." on the first line and "Tercek" on the second line.

Karen Tercek, President/CEO