

Kellie Sites

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ZOOM

Until a couple weeks ago, I had never heard of ZOOM the teleconferencing tool. I only knew it as a verb or the name of a hot cereal I used to eat as a kid. I now consider the other ZOOM a lifeline to the world, including my family! Who knew you could enjoy a virtual happy hour or meet up with 100 people all at one time...?



Zoom (teleconferencing tool) was founded in 2011 by Eric Yuan, a lead engineer from Cisco Systems and its collaboration business unit WebEx. The service started in January 2013, and by May 2013 it claimed one million participants.

What an incredible contribution to our world it is proving to be. This pandemic is forcing us to think in ways I had not imagined. Forced to embrace technologies that we (I) didn't really want to embrace. As with the recession of 2008, if you don't think differently, your business may not make it. And in this case – who knows? We all wait for the next timeline from Governor Walz, while trying to make the best decisions for our businesses – which the Waconia Chamber is one of. We are looking at our bottom line and looking at the future of our events and sponsorship dollars and membership investments that enable us to thrive and do more for you.

It feels like we have zoomed into the future since I told the board that I would be retiring on June 30th... that was last October. The timeline was to have our new president start on May 1st – and we are on target for that. We will welcome Christine Fenner as our new president – Congratulations, Christine!

We will continue working tirelessly to provide you will information to help us all get through this pandemic and soon I'll be announcing some virtual networking opportunities that will take place in the next couple of weeks. If I learn anything new from DEED on the 7am calls, I will let you know ASAP. I'm looking forward to the Waconia BUZZ initiative that encourages people to Bee Local Spend Local Live Local... Waconia is an amazing city to be a part of.

So – keep the Hive Alive – eat out often, buy gift cards, take care of your employees and let us know if you just want to talk or anything!!!!