

Kellie Sites

New Adventures on the Horizon

Dear Chamber Members,

It is with an extremely grateful heart that I give this news to you. Since September of 2006, I have been with the Waconia Chamber, president since February of 2008. After 14 years, it is soon time for my husband Bill and I to move into our next adventure, closer to our family in the Pacific Northwest. My time here as Chamber President will be finished on June 30, 2020. In the meantime, I will be working hard in preparation for the next person who will lead you into the future.

Working with so many strong, creative, forward thinking business people is such a privilege. You have opened your doors and shared your successes and challenges with me. Working closely with the City staff and elected officials has been an honor. Engaging with colleagues in the Chamber and Tourism industry has kept me energized. I can't really think of a better job for me during these past years than to advocate for our members and promote Waconia, building relationships in order to get some things accomplished.

Thank you for your encouragement, support and challenges as I've worked to do the best I could do in leading this strong organization. I trust that you will continue your support of the Waconia Chamber as we are as strong as our membership. New leadership will bring new energy and ideas so thank you for your support of whomever takes the helm in May. I will be around to help with the transition and look forward to a bright future for the Waconia Chamber of Commerce.

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Sarah Urtel
Board Chair

Greetings fellow Chamber Members,

I know many of you join me with the mixed emotions that come with the announcement of Kellie Sites' retirement. She has done a phenomenal job leading our Chamber and being an amazing advocate for the Waconia business community for more than a decade. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with her and get to know her over the years. I look forward to toasting (and roasting) her accomplishments with all of you this spring, when we more formally celebrate her transition to her next adventures. Yes, there will be a party!

In preparation for the next chapter, the Waconia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has begun succession planning. One of the best ways we can honor Kellie's legacy is to find the next rock star chamber president and continue to build upon our successes. The Board has appointed a selection committee to spearhead this effort: committee members include Kelly Dohm, Todd Hann, Dean Meyer, Andy Strong and myself. The committee will work with the Board, chamber members and city officials throughout this process. We will post the position and begin accepting applications for our future leader in January 2020, with the goal to determine the finalist by April 2020.

I am very excited about what the future holds for Kellie, and for the Waconia Chamber of Commerce. If you have any questions about the Chamber's next steps, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I hope to see you at the holiday party on Monday, Dec. 16!

With gratitude,

Sarah Urtel
Board Chair, Waconia Chamber of Commerce
Vice President, Ridgeview Medical Center
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