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Last words...

In 2007, a week before Nickle Dickle Day, I started working at the Chamber of Commerce. In February of 2008, I took the helm at the beginning of the recession. Normal to me, was businesses going out of business, and our Chamber working hard to keep businesses IN business. I learned a lot about business owners and how smart you are. Working to find new ways to do business and meet the needs of your existing customers while also gaining new customers.

Flash forward to October 2019 when I announced that I would be retiring in June of 2020. Our board created a two month overlap for the incoming president, so I could provide training and time for a successful transition. If I had known there would be a pandemic and then an unthinkable incident that would trigger a global uprising... well, that's why we don't get to know what's coming up in the future. It's why we need to be healthy; physically, mentally and spiritually – so we can manage and thrive and help others during the good times and the bad.

Like all of you, I've never used my brain so much in such a short period of time. It's a wonder there is any time to do the work we were already busy doing! But I wouldn't trade this time, I don't think. I'm so thankful that I was able to lead the chamber from a recession through some roadway improvements and a Governor's Fishing Opener. The work of helping you to thrive in a pandemic. Working with elected officials in Waconia, Carver County, the State of Minnesota and the United States government. Working with colleagues from all across Minnesota. Working for business – every sector.

Touring a manufacturing plant is thrilling to me! It's just amazing all the things that are made in Waconia and how we fit into the local and global market. Our tourism attractions couldn't be more fun to promote and enjoy myself. Our business to business industries and service industries... the healthcare industry – it's just not hard to get really excited about Waconia!

So – I guess my last words for this newsletter – are that I wish Christine and Carmen and Taylor all the best as they keep our Chamber strong as it is changing with the times. I'm going to miss you all so much. Remember that you each have a story – so be curious and keep getting to know others, ESPECIALLY if they are different from you. Okay... now I'm going off on another tangent.... I guess I won't really have any last words until I'm on my way to Glory. 😊

Peace to you all...