

Lakeland Public Television 2016 Board of Directors

Mike Smith, Board Chair, Bemidji, MN

Mike is new to the board in 2014 and has just recently retired. Mike had served in a wide variety of corporate management and financial roles prior to moving to Bemidji. When Mike and his wife Karen moved to Bemidji, they purchased and operated MJB Appliance in downtown Bemidji until his recent retirement. We're excited to have Mike join the board with his wealth of management experience.

Ray Holm, Board Vice-Chair, Merrifield, MN

Ray is a technologist and recently retired from Hunt Technologies and Hunt Utilities Group. He is involved in local issues in our southern service area.

Bryan Westerman, Treasurer, Bemidji, MN

Bryan is also new to the board in 2014 and resides in Bemidji. Bryan currently serves as CFO of Oregon Restaurant Services with business locations in Oregon and Illinois. Prior to his current role, Bryan served in a wide variety of financial management roles in the Bemidji area. His financial experience and knowledge of the regional business community will be a big asset for LPTV.

Kathy Moore, Secretary, Lakeshore, MN

Kathy is Creative Director for Moore Consulting, a Brainerd Lakes Area-based marketing agency. With previous work experience with the Brainerd Lakes Chamber and the Small Business Development Center at Central Lakes College, Kathy is well connected within the Central Minnesota business community and has a keen interest in workforce development and sustainable growth. Kathy's passion for education and youth activities is driven by her desire to challenge her three school-aged children -- and others -- to succeed.

Dr. Jim Bensen, Bemidji, MN

Jim is a former Bemidji State University president. He is incredibly dedicated to the growth and prosperity of the Bemidji area, as is evident by his role as the Chair of Bemidji Leads!.

Gary Block, Little Falls, MN

Gary has an extensive career in radio broadcasting in Little Falls where he served as Program Director and on-air announcer for over 30 years. In 2005 Gary started a motor coach tour business called Gary Block Tours and does around 46 tour trips per year.

Jean Castle, Bemidji, MN

Jean was one of the founding board members of Lakeland Public Television dedicated to getting a local, public television station on the air in Bemidji over 30 years ago. It has been refreshing having her passion for the cause back at LPTV board meetings!

Jim Hanko, Bemidji, MN

Until October 2009, Jim had been the President and Chief Executive Officer of North Country Health Services (NCHS) in Bemidji, MN for 11 years. His vast experience and dedication to the success of both Bemidji and Lakeland Public Television are huge assets to our organization.

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Susan Holden, Minneapolis, MN

Susan was a past President of the MN State Bar Association and is a partner in the law firm Sieben, Carey, P.A. in Minneapolis. Sue grew up in the southern end of the LPTV coverage area, has a lake home there and is committed to the importance of public television in our region.

Paul Hunt, Pine River, MN

Paul and his wife Lynn started the Hunt Utilities Group (HUG). Their 70 acre campus is dedicated to resilient living lifestyle solutions. Their HUG campus is also home to Happy Dancing Turtle and Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL). Paul's technology background and experience is an important asset to the organization.

Milt Lee, Cass Lake, MN

Milt is an experienced video producer with many great documentaries and productions under his belt. Milt also produced many of the Resilient Living interstitials you see on Lakeland Public Television. Milt's experience and passion for television production will be a great asset to our board.

Ann Marie Ward, Bemidji, MN

Ann Marie is the 4H county extension agent for Beltrami County. She is also a former employee of Lakeland Public Television where she served in several roles including on-air talent for many productions and also as our preschool education outreach coordinator. Ann Marie's passion for kids and public television, along with her experience and "get-it-done" attitude will serve Lakeland Public Television well.

Ryan Welle, Bemidji, MN

Ryan serves as Vice President of Deposit Services at First National Bank in Bemidji. Ryan has worked in banking all of his adult life. Ryan also serves on several other boards around the region. His financial expertise is an asset that will help in the governance of Lakeland Public Television.

Kim Williams, Bemidji, MN

Kim works as a special education supervisor at the Bemidji Regional Inter-district Council (BRIC). Kim is also a very active volunteer and loves being involved with various community youth programs. Kim's passion to serve children is very important considering Lakeland Public Television's similar focus on kids and education.