

Lakeland PBS

2020 Board of Directors

Ryan Welle, Board Chair, 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 PBS.

Joe Breiter, Board Vice-Chair, Brainerd, MN

Joe currently serves as the Director of Business Development for the architecture and engineering firm of Widseth, Smith, Nolting (WSN) in Baxter, MN. Prior to WSN, Joe owned and operated a business-to-business marketing firm in Mankato for 15 years. Joe has extensive experience in marketing, staff management, strategic planning, budgeting, and business operations. In addition, Joe has served on several other non-profit boards in various capacities.

Jim Hanko, Board Treasurer, 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 PBS are huge assets to our organization.

Kim Williams, Board Secretary, Bemidji, MN

Kim recently retired from serving 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 PBS' focus on children and education.

Millie Baird, Cass Lake, MN

Millie is a life-long resident in Cass Lake, MN who is employed as a professional civil engineer and works for the USDA Forest Service in Cass Lake. Millie enjoys volunteering with STEM high school students in Cass Lake working with the high school robotics competitions. Lifelong education is also important to Millie and she recently completed a Masters Degree in Tribal Administration and Governance.

Steve Berry, Bemidji, MN

Steve serves as a vice-president of investment banking at Riverwood Bank in Bemidji. Steve just recently moved to Bemidji and had lived in the Walker / Leech Lake area for forty years. Steve also has teaching experience and worked as an Extension Educator for the University of Minnesota in the past. Steve tells us that he has been a long-time fan of public television and has fond memories of watching Victory Garden and Austin City Limits back in the 70s.

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 his business conducts close to fifty tour trips per year.

Joe Breiter, Brainerd, MN

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engineering firm of Widseth, Smith, Nolting (WSN) in Baxter, MN. Prior to WSN, Joe owned and operated a business-to-business marketing firm in Mankato for 15 years. Joe has extensive experience in marketing, staff management, strategic planning, budgeting, and business operations. In addition, Joe has served on several other non-profit boards.

Ray Gildow, Board Chair, Staples, MN

Ray is an author, professional fishing guide and retired Vice-President of Central Lakes College. In addition to his role as past Lakeland PBS Board Chair, Ray was a past host of Lakeland PBS's twice monthly local current events and public issues discussion program, *Lakeland Currents*.

Susan Holden, Minneapolis, MN

Susan is a partner in the law firm Sieben, Carey, P.A. in Minneapolis and has served in the past as President of the MN State Bar Association. Susan grew up in the southern end of the LPBS coverage area, has a lake home there and is committed to the mission 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.

Laine Larson, Brainerd, MN

Laine serves as the Superintendent of Schools for the Brainerd School District. Laine's recent work was to advocate for and implement a \$205M school bonding referendum that has been transformative for the Brainerd school district. Prior to her role in Brainerd, Laine served as the Superintendent of Schools in Thief River Falls, MN. Laine's commitment to education along with her extensive educational experience will be a big asset to the Lakeland PBS board.

Ann Marie Ward, Bemidji, MN

Ann Marie serves as the Executive Director of the Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC) Foundation. Prior to her current role, she served as the 4H county extension agent for Beltrami County. She is also a former employee of Lakeland PBS 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 PBS well.

Debra Zipf, Hillman, MN

Debra worked many years as a program manager for a large IT consulting firm and has years of experience working with corporations and non-profit organizations to address business issues to find ways to set them up for success. Debra is now retired, but continues to be actively engaged throughout the region volunteering her time with various non-profits.