

# **Lakeland PBS**

## **2023 Board of Directors**

### **Joe Breiter, Board 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.

### **Steve Berry, Board Vice-Chair, 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.

### **Jim Hanco, 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.

### **Laine Larson, Board Secretary, Brainerd, MN**

Laine has served as the Superintendent of Schools for the Brainerd School District. Laine's recent work to 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.

### **Paul Peterson, St. Paul, MN**

Paul is a partner in the law firm Lind, Jensen, Sullivan & Peterson, P.A., a 27 lawyer firm based in Minneapolis. Paul has roots in the region and owns a lake cabin close to Hackensack. In addition, his wife grew up in Bemidji. Paul will be a great asset to Lakeland PBS and brings a wealth of legal experience to the organization.

### **Brett Severson, Brainerd, MN**

Brett grew up in the Brainerd Lakes area and has built a career in the Enterprise Data Storage and Infrastructure Solutions Industry with Dell Technologies. Along with a strong conviction in the mission of Lakeland PBS, Brett brings over 15 years of experience in troubleshooting complex IT ecosystems, managing large-scale product-improvement projects, and providing resolution management for critical executive and customer escalations. Brett's experience will help Lakeland PBS stay current with the ever-changing technology of media production and delivery.

### **John Ward, Baxter, MN**

John has a long history in education and public service. He taught school for many years in several Minnesota communities including ISD-81 in Brainerd. John also served eight years as a legislator in the State House of Representatives in districts 12A and 10A. John brings a deep commitment and very unique skill set to Lakeland PBS.

### **Marilyn Yoder Ph.D., Bemidji, MN**

Marilyn is currently serving as the Dean for the College of Business, Mathematics, and Sciences at Bemidji State

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University<sup>SEP</sup>. She has an extensive career in science and biotechnology in several academic institutions across the country. While she is new to our region, she has a long commitment to public media and brings us a strong science background along with ties to Bemidji State University.

### **Travis Annette, Bemidji, MN**

Travis is currently a Human Resources Manager with the Minnesota Judicial Branch – Ninth Judicial District, and was a past Director of Administration along with other positions with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe from 1994 – 2006. He is also a past board member of Lakeland PBS and the Northwest Indian Community Development Center.

### **Brent Gish, Naytahwaush, MN**

Brent brings to our board extensive experience as an educator, including positions as Principal of Naytahwaush Elementary, and Superintendent of Mahnomen and Red Lake school districts. Since 2005, Brent is a consultant and Executive Director of the National Indian Impacted Schools Association.

### **Elisa Korentayer, Baxter, MN**

Elisa is an accomplished performing & literary artist and public speaker. Since 2001, she has been an active performing singer-songwriter, storyteller, workshop leader; performing at festivals, universities, libraries, schools, museums, cultural centers, theaters, house concerts, and folk societies. She has been a volunteer at Baxter Elementary school, former board member of Discovery Woods school, and at the New York Mills Cultural Center.

### **Jerry Loud, Bemidji, MN**

Jerry is currently the Executive Director of Oshkiimaajitahdah (New Beginnings) in Red Lake and oversees 20 programs for the Red Lake Nation. He is also the General Manager for WRLN 105.3 radio in Red Lake, and created the Giminjimendaamin Ezhichigeyang – Wellness and Event Venue in Red Lake. Jerry is also involved in the Red Lake Constitutional Reform Initiative.

### **Rick Beeson, Nisswa, MN**

Richard brings extensive business and organization leadership experience to the Lakeland PBS board. He currently is the EVP for Corporate Development & Government Relations at Sunrise Banks, N.A. and has served on their board for 34 years. He has also worked for the City of Saint Paul in the Department of Planning and Economic Development, and the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency as well. Rick has also been very involved with the University of Minnesota as a Regent from 2009 to 2021, and as a Lifetime Trustee of the U of M Foundation.

### **William Hickey, Saint Paul, MN**

Recently retired, William comes to the Lakeland PBS board with a strong belief in the importance of public media, and extensive experience in business as the President and COO of Smyth Companies, a privately owned label and promotions company that has been in operation since 1877. William has been very active as a volunteer board member in organizations such as Boy Scouts of America Northern District, Ramsey County Historical Society, and United Way of Twin Cities. His family has a cabin on the Whitefish chain and “the lake” has been a big part of their lives for over 100 years.