



LAKES AREA COMMUNITY CENTER Board Of Directors

Al Domke, Board Chair:

Al received his Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Michigan. He spent 38 years in the aviation industry, most of it with United Airlines, in the San Francisco Bay Area, as an Engineering Manager. Al has an extensive background of volunteer service including several years with a YMCA youth program and eleven years as a Boy Scout leader in California. More recently, Al chaired the Selection Committee for the Battle Lake public dock, was a member of the founding Board of Directors for Battle Lake Area Friends & Neighbors, provides technical support for the Henning/Battle Lake Christian Women's Club meetings and has been a participant in the recent strategic planning activities for the Battle Lake School District and the Lakes Area Development Association. Al and his wife, Carol, have three sons and four grandchildren.

Sonja Peterson, Board Vice Chair:

Sonja retired after 20 years as Executive Director of the Lake Region Arts Council, a nonprofit organization serving nine counties in west central Minnesota and funded by the State of Minnesota. Prior to that she taught high school English in Hawaii and Arlington, VA. She received her BA in creative writing and her BS in English Education from the University of Minnesota. She serves on the Boards of the Perpich Center for Arts Education in Golden Valley, Minnesota, the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa and the Lakes Area Community Center in Battle Lake. She served on the Battle Lake School Board for twelve years, ten as Chairman. She spent the first thirty years of her life as an Army brat and a Navy wife, and has lived in Battle Lake for forty years. She has three children and five grandchildren.

Linda Tikkanen, Board Secretary:

Linda has lived in Minnesota her entire life. She has been a realtor in the Battle Lake area for the past nine years. She has been actively involved in church and music all her life. Currently she is a Stephen's Minister, a choir member and soloist, a quartet member, and a member of the program for twenty years; including being trip chairman and fundraiser to take 68 choir students and Community Choir members to New York. She has performed in numerous theater productions in several communities. Linda and her husband have four sons and seven grandchildren.

Don Kostelecky, Board Treasurer:

Don and his wife retired to Battle Lake after thirty-six years in public education as a teacher, coach, advisor, community education director, transportation director and director of student co-curricular activities. He received his BS degree from the University of North Dakota in Dickinson and his Master's degree from the University of Minnesota in Winona. In 2001 he was honored as the Class AA Minnesota Athletic Director of the Year. Don and his wife, Pat, have one son, one daughter and five grandchildren.

Rita Buntje, Board Member, Programs & Community Relations Committee:

Rita was born and raised in Breckenridge, MN and has lived in the Battle Lake area for over 50 years. She has an AA degree from Moorhead State College in Secretarial Science. Rita was Business Office Manager of Otter Tail Nursing Home for 15 years and is now retired. She also worked for VikingLand USA, the 17 county northwestern Minnesota regional tourism area for over 10 years. She and her husband, Dick, were married 45 years and raised 3 children here in Battle Lake. Together they were coordinators of the 10K and bike races during Wenonga Days for 20 years. Rita is an active member of First Lutheran Church in Battle Lake and has served on numerous committees.



Carol Domke, Board Member, Operations Committee:

Carol spent her early years in Minnesota, lived in California for 38 years, and is now retired and living on West Battle Lake. Her career in California included working in the Sunnyvale School District, and was Operations Manager at the Institute of Computer Technology (a non-profit school providing free computer education to students - grades 1 through 12). She spent 14 years at Apple Computer, much of that time as a Senior Executive Assistant for the current COO. Over the years Carol has spent a great deal of time in the volunteer world; school, church and community. Locally, she served for 2 years on the Battle Lake Area Friends & Neighbors Board of Directors, is currently in her 4th year on the Planning Team for the Henning / Battle Lake Christian Women's club. She participated in the strategic planning activities for the Lakes Area Development Association and, since April, has been on the Board of Directors for the Lakes Area Community Center. Carol and her husband, Al, have been married for 42 years and have 3 adult sons who, together with their families, live out of the area.

Cindy Skalsky, Board Member:

Cindy has been an employee of the Lakes Country Service Cooperative for the past 22 years. She served as a drug and violence prevention coordinator for nine counties for 9 years; she was President of a Conflict Resolution Center, "Peaceful Solutions", for 10 years; and she has been the Diversity Coordinator for the Fergus falls Public Schools for the past 3 years. During this time she was in charge of grant writing and budgets for these programs. Cindy lives in Battle Lake where she and her husband, Ed, raised their two children, now grown.

Jan Smith, Board Member:

Jan Smith has a Bachelor of Science degree in Language Arts, Speech and Drama from Moorhead State University, and has taught 25 years in various high schools in Minnesota. Her love of community involvement, particularly theater and art makes her an asset to the Lakes Area Community Center. Authoring of a local history book and the productions of two local living history presentations lets her add expertise in choosing performers for the events calendar with an eye to community appeal. As a member of the Art of the Lakes Board and an artist herself, her contact with the surrounding artists lends insight into what interests the people who live and visit this area. Working as a volunteer Christian Educator at one of the local Lutheran Churches keeps her active in the community. She and her husband, Bruce, run an antique business and do antique shows in the surrounding three-state area.

Jane Aschnewitz, Board Member, Tourism:

Jane was born in Frazee, Minnesota and grew up in the Frazee and Perham areas. She attended Perham public schools and the University of Minnesota at Moorhead. She continued her education through the Blandin Foundation (Leadership), Toastmasters, seminars, and area, regional and state conferences and workshops on customer service and tourism. She worked at the Perham Public Schools, the Perham area Chamber of Commerce, and as a driver for the Bill Bauck School Bus Company. As Perham was a growing community, Jane became the Executive Director for the Perham Chamber of Commerce, a position she held for 22 years. Jane has been active with local and state tourism for 30 years. She is a member of the Minnesota State Regional Tourism Committee and an active volunteer for the United Way, Cancer Society, Perham Nursing Home, Perham museums, Food Shelf, Meals On Wheels and other community projects. She has received numerous awards and recognition for her work in these areas. Jane's unique gift is a true love for people, both local friends and visitors. This makes it enjoyable for her to welcome them and assist them in enjoying the area's many special qualities, activities, and events. Jane and her husband, who live near Dent, have three sons and one daughter.