

# WACOSA Board of Directors

## 2021

**Jon Archer** is a CPA and Partner with Schlenner Wenner and Company where he provides auditing, accounting and consulting services for not-for-profit organizations and government entities including cities, school districts, and townships. Jon is a graduate of St. Cloud State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He was raised and still lives in Little Falls where he has a family of three boys Jonathan, Thomas, and Noah and wife Maria. Jon enjoys cooking, woodworking, hunting, and spending time with his family.

**Jeff Benveniste** is the Manager of Financial Planning and Analysis with Jefferson Capital Systems, where he is responsible for oversight of budgeting and forecasting, mergers and acquisitions, tax, treasury and other related activities. Prior to Jefferson Capital Systems, Jeff has held leadership positions with multiple large organizations, including Pentair, Home Services of America and Select Comfort. Jeff is a graduate of the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Science and Business degree with a focus on finance. He also holds an MBA from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota with a focus on finance and management. He was raised in Southern California, but has spent the last 20+ years in Minnesota with his wife Noell and his daughter Holly. Jeff enjoys riding his bike, watching sports and spending time with his family.

**Ronald W. Brandenburg** is a shareholder with the St. Cloud law firm of Quinlivan & Hughes, P.A. Ron has in excess of forty years of experience in the practice of law focusing on representing clients primarily in the areas of labor and employment and business law. In the employment law area, Ron's experiences include handling a variety of routine and complex employment matters, representing large and small for profit and non-profit employers, educational institutions, health care providers and professional service organizations and providing training for employers and their supervisors. In the business law area, Ron's practice has focused on working with small and medium sized for profit and non-profit businesses on a variety of business organization and operation matters. Ron and his wife, Carol, live in St. Cloud, having moved back to the area in June of 2019. They have three children and four grandchildren. For his non-work related activities, Ron enjoys traveling, playing golf, cooking and participating in other outdoor activities, as well as volunteering on various non-profit committees and boards.

**Mollie Garden** grew up in Minneapolis, MN and graduated from Southwest High School. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Marketing and minor in Psychology from the University of St. Thomas. Mollie moved to St. Cloud in 2000 to open Plato's Closet, a resale retail store that

specializes in buying and selling gently used clothing for teens and young adults. As the owner and operator of Plato's Closet, Mollie works with the Instep program through District 742 to provide work experiences to students, as well as employs clients she meets through the WACOSA program. Mollie currently lives in St. Cloud with her husband Ryan, their four children, Madeline, Reagan, Ripley, and Claire. Madeline, the oldest child, has a seizure disorder and is developmentally delayed. Madeline started working at WACOSA in 2019 and has loved having a place to be social, work, and feel valued. Mollie enjoys interior design, reading, and traveling.

**Laura Krueger** grew up in St. Cloud and earned her bachelor's degree in Communications from the College of St. Benedict. Laura is the Chief Revenue Officer at DAYTA Marketing. Her career in business development and marketing feeds her passion for problem solving and growing local business. Laura is married to husband Benjamin, who is a carpenter and contractor. They have three children, Samantha, Ruby, and William. Laura enjoys spending time with friends and family, she also loves to entertain and cook.

**Jeff Murphy** started his career in accounting and finance, receiving a B.S. in Accounting from St. John's University and earned his CPA certification. Upon completion of a Marketing MBA from the Carlson School of Management, Jeff transitioned to a career in sales and marketing. During these next 15 years, Jeff consistently led each of his organizations to unmatched sales and marketing performance in their respective industries. Never wandering far from Finance, Jeff has lead and/or been deeply involved in multiple ownership transactions. As President of Wendell's, Inc., Jeff is leading the transformation of this established organization. He is actively involved in facilitating professional education, providing ongoing discussion and forum leadership to the Anderson Center. Jeff is a native of the Chicago area and has relocated several times before settling in his current home in Ham Lake, MN. Jeff most enjoys spending time with his kids. When time permits, his second tier passions include motorcycling, bicycling, water skiing and snow skiing.

**Karla Myres** grew up on a farm near Carlos, Minnesota and graduated from Osakis High School. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Personnel Services-Administration and a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling with a specialty in Student Development, both from Moorhead State University. Her career in Higher Education specialized in mentoring volunteers and student workers in leadership through student activities/organizations and campus center administration. She worked at the University of South Carolina, St. Cloud State University and the College of St. Benedict. Karla and husband Brian live near Clear Lake and have three sons, one of which has Down Syndrome. Karla volunteers in the community and in her church. She enjoys bicycling, Nordic skiing, walking, reading, baking and time at their cabin up north.

**LeRoy Northam** has been employed at Jefferson Capital Systems in St. Cloud since 1988 and is currently their Chief Information Officer. He graduated from Grand Valley State University in Michigan with a Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) and Master in Business Administration (MBA) degrees. He actively participates as a judge in the Minnesota Collegiate DECA competitions. He also actively mentors students in SCSU's Information Systems program. LeRoy was born in Massachusetts, grew up in Michigan, and has lived in Minnesota since 1987.

**Joseph Perske** is a product of the St. Cloud area. Joe grew up in Sauk Rapids, graduated from Apollo High School, and completed degrees at St. John's University and St. Cloud State University. He is a retired teacher with experience teaching 26 years in Sartell and has previous teaching experience in Avon, Onamia and Augsburg, Germany. He is married to wife, Jan, also a retired area teacher, and they have three adult daughters, Michael, Jenna and Greta. Joe is presently serving as a Stearns County Commissioner and has previously held elected office in Sartell as Mayor and Council Member. He ran as a candidate for U.S. Congress in 2014. He has a long history of competitive, distance running since high school and enjoys bow hunting.

**Lindsey Rennie** is the Senior Talent Acquisition Specialist at Coborn's Inc. She grew up in Sartell, MN, graduated from Sartell High School and obtained her bachelor's degrees in Organizational Behavior and Management, from the College of St. Scholastica. Over the past seven years, she has worked in an HR capacity for both non-profit and for-profit organizations, focusing heavily in Talent Acquisition. Lindsey has a passion for helping organizations find talented individuals to join their teams as well as helping career seekers find a career they are passionate about. She recently relocated back to the St. Cloud area, got married to her husband, Jeron, adopted a dog, Margot, and is looking forward to settling back into the St. Cloud community. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, spending time with her friends and family, camping, and watching movies and Minnesota sports.

**Herb Trezn** is a retired Human Resources Director for the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University as well as a position at Minnesota State University in Moorhead where he was Interim Human Resources Director and Chief of Staff for the President. He is currently an independent consultant in human resources, primarily in the non-profit and education areas. He holds an MBA from Minnesota State University, Mankato. He has been involved with local, regional and national boards throughout his career and has held leadership positions at all levels. He also volunteers at Quiet Oaks Hospice on their outdoor work team. He resides in Sartell with his wife Linda, a retired kindergarten teacher. He enjoys golf, tennis and other forms of exercise and spending time with his five grandchildren.