

# WACOSA Board of Directors 2022

**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 Director 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, HomeServices 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 3 children and 5 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.

**Matt Desjardins** – Is the Vice-President of Eich Motor Company in St Cloud. Matt grew up in the St Cloud area, attending St John's University and graduating with a degree in business management. While at St. Johns, Matt played football for the legendary football coach, John Gagliardi. After graduating, Matt spent the next several years working in and learning the Auto industry with the Penske organization in Minneapolis. After leaving Penske, he returned home to help run the family dealership. He is now the fifth generation of the Eich family to work and run Eich Motor Company. Outside of work, Matt enjoys spending time at the lake with family, playing golf, and is a huge Minnesota Vikings fan.

**Mollie Garden** grew up in Minneapolis, MN and graduated from Southwest High School. She earned a Bachelors 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 4 children, Madeline, Reagan, Ripley, & 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.

**Curt Gainsforth** is a vice president of West Bank in St. Cloud MN where he specializes in providing banking solutions/services to for profit business and their business owners along with not-for-profit businesses. Curt has been in the banking industry for 20 years and also has been involved in numerous non-profit board and committee roles over the past 20 years. Curt grew up in Bismarck ND and graduated from North Dakota State University. He considers Central MN home today as he has lived and worked in the area for the past 25 years. Curt and his wife, Sara live in Sartell They have a family of three girls. When not at work their family enjoys spending time at the lake, hiking and golfing together.

**Jennifer Johnson** has been an owner of the corporate adult foster care business, Quality Care Services, Inc. (QCS) since August of 2002. QCS provides residential services to individuals diagnosed with varying developmental disabilities in the St. Cloud area. Jennifer is also a member of the Disability Awareness Task Force, which is comprised of local organizations and entities that are committed to bringing disability awareness and education to the community. She grew up in St. Cloud graduated from Apollo High School then attended the University of MN Duluth and earned a degree in Early Childhood Special Education in 1999. Jennifer has served the full term as a member of the Wacosa Board intermittently from November of 2004 -November 2019. Then in 2020 she became a non-board member on the Program Committee until present. Recently, Jennifer has been re-elected to serve on the Wacosa Board and is looking forward to continuing to be a part of the Wacosa mission creating possibilities for all abilities. She lives in Sartell with her husband Brian, and two sons, Carter and Ray. Jennifer enjoys spending time with her family and attending all their sports and activities.

**Laura Krueger** 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 Operating Officer (COO) 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 & 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.

**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 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 3 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 7 years, she has worked in a 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 about which they are passionate. She currently lives in St. Cloud with her husband, Jeron, and their dog Margot. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, spending time with her friends and family, camping, and watching movies and Minnesota sports.

**Herb Trezn** is the 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. Herb 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.

**Sandie Westergren** is the HR Director for Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict. She has been in the HR field for 21 years, starting as an HR Assistant, then Training Coordinator, HR Generalist, HR Business Partner and finally an HR Director. She was the HR Director at WACOSA for four years and is thrilled to be working with this amazing organization again! She currently lives in St. Cloud with her husband, Al, and their three dogs. She has two adult daughters, with the first one getting married October 2021. When she isn't sitting around the bonfire in her free time, she is quilting or scrapbooking.

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