

The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce Announces 2026–2027 Board of Directors and Executive Committee

THE DALLES, Ore. – The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Chamber members have approved the recommended slate of nominees for the Board of Directors. Following approval of the membership vote, the newly seated Board of Directors elected its Executive Committee to serve during the 2026–2027 year.

The Chamber's Executive Committee includes:

- **Chair:** Darcy Long, Empower Financial
- **Secretary:** Nikki Lucas, Owner/Operator, SHE FIRE, Inc.
- **Treasurer:** Shannon Wilkinson, Assistant Vice President & Branch Manager, WaFd Bank

Joining the Board of Directors as newly elected members are:

Nikki Lucas, Owner/Operator of SHE FIRE, Inc., a locally owned, woman-owned mobile fire protection company serving businesses throughout the Columbia Gorge. Lucas brings an entrepreneurial spirit, a strong commitment to customer service, and a passion for helping businesses protect their employees and property.

Shannon Wilkinson, Assistant Vice President & Branch Manager of WaFd Bank in The Dalles. Wilkinson brings extensive experience in community banking and a long-standing commitment to supporting local businesses while building strong community relationships.

Gary Francis, Owner/Operator of Prints Charming Repair. Francis brings years of business management experience and a dedication to serving local businesses and residents through printing, apparel, signage, engraving, and technology services.

Continuing their service on the Chamber Board of Directors are:

- Monica McLaughlin, Among the Trees Botanical Lavender Farm
- Sara Hearn, Fairfield Inn & Suites

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- Daniel Williams, Williams Woodworking
- Carmen Myers, Columbia Bank
- Jim Mortenson, Mortenson Custom Construction

Together, the Chamber's Board of Directors represents a diverse cross-section of industries including banking, finance, hospitality, construction, manufacturing, retail, restaurants, entrepreneurship, and professional services. Their collective experience and volunteer leadership help guide the Chamber's mission of supporting business success, strengthening the local economy, promoting tourism, and enhancing the quality of life throughout our community.

"We are excited to welcome Nikki, Shannon, and Gary to the Chamber Board of Directors and to work alongside our dedicated returning Board members," said Lynn Cox, President & CEO of The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce. "Together, this leadership team brings a wealth of experience, diverse perspectives, and a shared commitment to supporting local businesses, strengthening our economy, and serving our community. I look forward to the year ahead and the positive impact we will make together."

The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce extends its sincere appreciation to all members who participated in the election process and thanks each member of the Board of Directors for their willingness to volunteer their time, expertise, and leadership in service to the Chamber and the greater The Dalles community.

About The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1883, The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business for the greater The Dalles region. Through advocacy, leadership, collaboration, business development, tourism promotion, and community engagement, the Chamber works to strengthen the local economy and enhance the quality of life for businesses, residents, and visitors alike.

ABOUT THE DALLES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Since 1883, The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce has served the business community through advocacy, leadership, tourism promotion, member support, and economic development initiatives that strengthen The Dalles and the surrounding Columbia Gorge region.

Then, if needed, place contact information separately underneath rather than inside the boilerplate:

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