



# NORTH BRANCH AREA CHAMBER of COMMERCE

BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEES  
2019-2020

**Jim Antolik**  
RE/MAX Results



Jim Antolik wants to be a part of and involved in the community, participate with the business & civic leaders, be more aware of “what’s happening” in our business community. Jim has over 35 years experience working directly with small businesses around the country and has knowledge of Chamber operations. Currently, he serves as a Board of Director and as Ambassador for the NBA Chamber, and is on the Wildridge Home Owners Association. Jim’s past community and business initiatives include serving on the board for the Little Falls Exchange Club, Little Falls Chamber of Commerce, First Lutheran Church, Little Falls Girls Hockey Association, and he was the United Way President after serving as a board member.

**Kari Francois**  
Ecumen



Kari Francois wishes to continue to serve on the Chamber Board and promote our community and business growth. As a board member, Kari can use her marketing, public relations, event planning, and relationship building skills to enhance the chamber. Currently, she is on the Chisago Age Well Coalition, North Branch Area Senior Resource Group, East Central Senior Networking Group, Senior Workers in Marketing, and is a Board Member for the NBA Chamber. Right now, Kari is participating in Ecumen’s Leadership Program “Velocity.”

**Amy Gavit**  
LuLaRoe - Amy Gavit



Amy Gavit wants to bring more events to the area and draw in more members of the community. She would like to grow and strengthen our Chamber’s presence in North Branch. Amy feels she can contribute to our Board of Directors with her creativity and enthusiasm; she has a vision and drive, and is a great team player. She is currently a member of the local BNI Chapter, Connect 4 Success.

**Lori Helms**  
Results Title



Lori Helms has lived and worked in the area for over 20 years and she wants to bring her knowledge of the area and community to the North Branch Area Chamber of Commerce. Lori wants to contribute her motivation, organizational skills, and great customer service experience to our Chamber. When Lori’s kids were in school, she participated in fund-raising activities, including brat stands and bagging groceries, for the North Branch Varsity Football Team and attended nearly every game! Currently, Lori is looking for more ways to make a difference in her community.

**Matt Howard**  
Lakes Center for Youth & Families



Matt Howard would like to be able to represent the non-profit sector to the businesses of North Branch and show that he is dedicated to the success of this community. He grew up in North Branch and is raising his family here. He has a knowledge of the needs of the area, as his non-profit serves all of Chisago County. Matt is sure that with his lifetime connection to the North Branch area, as well as being an Executive Director of a non-profit, he will contribute much expertise to the Chamber. Currently, Matt serves on the YMCA of Forest Lake Board of Directors and Rotary of Forest Lake, as well as started a non-profit small engine repair business for teens, called “Tried and True.”

**Nathan Keech**  
Keech Media



Nathan Keech wishes to further the mission of growing a thriving business community in North Branch. As a graduate of an intensive Community Leadership Program, as well as having years of experience with leadership roles in other chambers, he knows how to work as a team and offer fresh perspectives that can foster growth and build community. Nathan is currently the Ambassador Chair for our NBA Chamber of Commerce, on the board of directors for the Oakdale Area Chamber of Commerce, and was a part of the Minnesota Design Team - North Branch Committee. A few other initiatives Nathan has been a part of include: Fall Harvest Festival Art, Craft & Commercial Fair and Lion’s Turkey Dinner volunteer.

**Brad Larson**  
Members Cooperative Credit Union



Brad Larson wants to ensure the North Branch Chamber continues to be the leader in promoting new and existing businesses. He has worked in town for 18 years and has been a part of many changes and initiatives, including the Minnesota Design Team - North Branch. Brad feels he can contribute as a board member by providing financial expertise and common sense decision making to the organization. Currently, he is the Board Chair with Lakes and Pines CAC, serves on the Anoka-Ramsey Foundation Board for the Cambridge Campus, as well as the North Branch EDA, Cambridge-Isanti Rotary, and the East Central Regional Development Commission.

