



Dear Chamber Member,

It's an honor to serve as President of the Board of Directors for the Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce in 2026. I'm grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such a passionate and committed group of leaders, businesses, and organizations – all united by a shared vision of building a vibrant, resilient community.

This year, I've chosen the theme **"Evolve with Intention."** In a world that's constantly shifting, evolution is inevitable – but intentional evolution is transformative. It's about growing with purpose, adapting with clarity, and staying rooted in the values that define us. As a Chamber, we'll focus on purposeful growth, strategic collaboration, and meaningful connections that strengthen our region and support the people who call it home.

This theme also connects beautifully with the Chamber's 2025 focus: **"Choose Possibility – What If?"** That question invites us to imagine new futures, challenge assumptions, and open ourselves to opportunity. But possibility alone isn't enough – it's the intentional pursuit of those possibilities that leads to real progress. When we ask "what if" with purpose, we begin to shape our future with confidence and care.

My own journey has been shaped by moments of possibility and intentional change. I grew up in Sartell and studied accounting at St. Cloud State University. After college, I moved to Minneapolis and began my career at CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA), where I gained valuable experience in the financial industry. In February 2020, I made the decision to move to Alexandria to take a position at Bremer Bank, now part of Old National Bank.

It was more than a career move – it was a return to a place that had always felt like home. Growing up, my family vacationed in Alexandria often, and I've always felt a deep connection to this community. When the pandemic hit shortly after my move, I was especially grateful to be living here, surrounded by a strong sense of community that offered stability in uncertain times.

As we look ahead to 2026, I'm excited to help lead the Chamber in a year of intentional evolution. We'll continue to champion local businesses, foster leadership, and create opportunities for connection and growth. The Chamber's purpose – to lead, connect, and collaborate for a thriving community – will remain our guide as we move forward together.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. I look forward to all we'll accomplish together in the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Rickers".

**Andrew Rickers, Business Banker – Old National Bank**

2026 Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Board President