



August 16, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lance Ryskamp
Executive Director- Highland Griffith Chamber of Commerce
219.923.3666
info@hgchamber.org

HIGHLAND GRIFFITH CHAMBER ANNOUNCES NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, NEW PROGRAMS

The Highland Griffith Chamber of Commerce announced today a recent decision by the Board of Directors to restructure its committees and launch multiple new initiatives. The announcement came in an email statement to the Chamber's membership from Executive Director Lance Ryskamp.

"Even though our normal planning session is in October for the following year, I asked the Board to consider and approve the restructuring now in order for us to move forward immediately on some new programs," Ryskamp said. "As I start my second year as Executive Director, I believe these new initiatives will enhance the Chamber's value to our members and build off some of the other programs already implemented this year."

The committee restructuring both consolidates several existing committees, as well as creates new ones. The Chamber's Events Committee will consolidate the various current committees dealing with individual events, such as the organization's annual Breakfast With the Easter Bunny and Golf Outing committees. A new Nonprofits Committee is being established to provide nonprofit members with a greater collective voice within the Chamber. Also, the current Shop Small Committee, established this year, is being given some additional projects such as exploring a possible Small Business Expo in 2024, as well as helping promote Highland and Griffith during peak tourism and sports tourism seasons.

The biggest change in the new committee structure is the creation of a Professional Development Committee, which will oversee the current Chamber Education Series that debuted this year. It will also oversee two new Chamber initiatives: the formation of Young Professionals and Women in Business subcommittees. Ryskamp said that preliminary discussions have already taken place on both new programs since the Board approved the restructuring plan.

"I am excited to move forward with these two new initiatives," Ryskamp said. "I think our Chamber has traditionally done a really good job in providing our members with networking opportunities, but I think we can do more when it comes to professional development. I believe these new programs, coupled with our Education Series, will create that capability for us and will enhance the value of a Highland Griffith Chamber membership not only to our current members but potential new ones as well."

For further information about the Highland Griffith Chamber of Commerce, contact the Chamber office at 219.923.3666 or info@hgchamber.org.

###