

Together We Can Make A Difference Dale Bennett, President

As a native of Grand Ledge, it is an extreme honor and privilege to have the opportunity to serve as the President of our Grand Ledge Chamber this year. In doing so, I can't help but have a greater sense of appreciation for all of those individuals who have served this wonderful community for many years. This service has come in a variety of ways, most of which were voluntary and based on a deep sense of caring for our community and for others. I would like to take this moment to thank all of you for making Grand Ledge what it is today, and for your continued efforts in trying to make a difference. Your timeless energy and ongoing support have been recognized, and are much appreciated.

My hope, with the support of our strong membership base, is to continue to meet the challenges and opportunities of today, while still having a vision for tomorrow. We have worked hard during the past few years to deliver more membership value. Recently, the Chamber has implemented a new healthcare insurance program that is available to its members. This insurance program offers our members more flexibility in the type of plan benefits, as well as associated premiums. We are continuously working to improve our "Member to Member Value Program", which promotes our members, their employees, and their families to shop local Chamber businesses. Our Chamber and its members are also involved in sponsoring six community activities and festivals, which are enjoyed by both our community, and surrounding areas.

My primary focus this year is to continue to strengthen the communications among various organizations and groups within our community. These groups vary from local business and government to our public school system and religious organizations. Our boundaries should extend outward to not only include downtown Grand Ledge, but also outlying areas such as the Industrial Park and W. Saginaw. We should also continue to expand our horizons towards Delta Township and surrounding areas. Together, we can strive to make a difference to benefit all! We will gain by joining forces and utilizing cooperative resources. Continued success requires a renewed willingness to share and communicate. As we enhance these skills, we will develop deeper and more meaningful relationships with others. Again, together we all benefit.

Furthermore, I would like to see our Chamber act as a resource center, where useful information can be used to cultivate local commerce and economic development, as well as promote other activities of interest in our community. I would like to see the Chamber continue to work closely with the Greater Lansing Visitors & Convention Bureau to promote Grand Ledge as a tourist destination.

Again, I would like to thank all of you who have so willingly volunteered your time and energy to make Grand Ledge the community that it is. Whether you have been involved in supporting our community for many years and have begun to reap the rewards of your efforts, or that you are perhaps a newer member of our community and have shown patience and persistence to the pace of change, you all make it happen.

I look forward to serving as President of the Chamber this year. I am proud to be a part of this community and to give back what it has offered me, and many others. I plan to serve with an open mind, to help others, and to continue to see our community grow and prosper. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with you, and to enrich existing relationships, as well as develop new ones. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions.