

KCKChamber

A Look Back on 2022 - Thank You Partners!











2022 & 2023 CHAIRMAN DAVID MEHLHAFF, CCO KC BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

As a member of the KCK Chamber Board of Directors, I could not be more excited to have served as the 2022 Chairman of our Chamber of Commerce.

To say the pandemic years have been a difficult time for most is an understatement. However, I believe the tenacity and strength of our community and our members allowed us to continue to move forward and in 2022 we saw our revenues turn around after those lean years.

Now that we emerged from crisis mode, we must shift our focus from the immediate to the future, it is a great time to take stock of lessons learned and move forward.

Our commitment to chamber members, current and future, is to

provide exemplary service to the businesses operating in and around our community. We aim to advance the business community through our various educational programs, and work diligently to keep our members up to date on local activities and legislative actions.

This year we restructured our legislative/public policy process and we also developed a legislative scorecard which we used to let our members know of legislative wins for the business community as a result of our efforts at the state capital in Topeka. This year we engaged the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) to help define the role of the board and the future direction of the chamber. Our board had two very productive work sessions, and in 2023 we will be rolling up our sleeves with chamber staff and work to define the future for our chamber of commerce.

The mission of the KCK Chamber is to enhance and create opportunities in Wyandotte County, Kansas which builds a quality community to live, work, and conduct business. The KCK Chamber has over 500 members from the greater Kansas City metro area. Members are welcome to participate in exceptional programs, gain exposure for their business at numerous networking events and take advantage of many business services provided by the organization. I will be challenging every member of our board to assist staff in the membership recruitment process. I want us to find new ways to continue to deliver value to our members and engage with new stakeholders. I was humbled and honored to have been re-elected to serve a second term as your chamber board chairman and I am excited about the young, diverse and energetic board we have currently in place. Knowing our Chamber, and its incomparable leadership and staff, I have no doubt in their ability to create and implement solutions that will support our mission. I am very optimistic about our future.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my dear friend Joab Ortiz, immediate past-chair. He has been a truly amazing leader for the Chamber through what was an incredibly challenging period. Joab, thank you for your strong leadership, your vision, your mentorship and your friendship. I want to say thank you to our staff of George, Katelyn, Ga'Brielle led by Daniel, we ask a lot of them and they deliver quite a bit for a small team. I encourage our board to support their efforts as we move into 2023.

And finally, thank you - our Chamber members, together, we will continue to make a significant impact on the entire region.

My wish for all of you is a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday and a very Happy New Year.

CLICK HERE FOR 2022 BOARD ROSTER



DANIEL SILVA PRESIDENT & CEO KCK CHAMBER

Cheers to a great 2022! As we end the year, all I can do is say thank you and offer gratitude to our wonderful KCK Chamber members, partners, sponsors, and community. Thank you for stepping forward with the organization, and thank you for your continued investment through a difficult two years of economic uncertainty. The pandemic brought upon us a new way of doing business that included virtual meetings, quarantines, work from home, masks, vaccines, capacity restrictions, testing and more. This Chamber was with you every step of the way, even as we battled for our own organization to maintain financial stability. Like many of you, we stared at dark times last year, one year after the pandemic started, and we wondered how we could elevate this organization and its value to our members after such a difficult year. 2022 was the year to for the KCK Chamber to bounce back boldly, embrace new work formats, maintain high levels of service and programming and continue the work that helps

businesses thrive, be well informed and connected in-person and online! And, you know what, WE DID IT!

The KCK Chamber returned to in-person events in March 2021, but we have maintained a hybrid option whenever possible. In some cases, online meetings are the most efficient option, and we embrace this alternate option when necessary. However, we have always believed in the power of community, the power of doing business in-person. The KCK Chamber will always continue to offer virtual meetings and seminars, but we know the magic of what makes us great as a society has always been our ability to come together, in-person, see eye to eye, shake hands, make the deal or the compromise. You can't turn your camera off inperson, and this year has been about returning to pre-pandemic times while embracing the new ways of doing business. The KCK Chamber hosted more than 150 events and committee meetings with more than 4,100 attendees. It was a slow process, but little by little things began to reopen, business began to bounce back, people began to reengage in-person, have coffee, have lunch meetings, be in crowded rooms. The pandemic almost defeated our way of life, but like always, our community bounced back, stood up, and did what was necessary to survive and thrive.

I am humbled to have served as President & CEO of the Chamber for 7 years. I am grateful for the support and trust I have been offered by our board, staff, members, partners, and community. I am inspired by our KCK Chamber team for their loyalty, and commitment to our great organization, for their belief in what our great business community and community at-large can be, what it will be. The KCK Chamber is a Convener, Champion, and Collaborator. We set out every day to deliver for our members – YOU. Every member is unique, every member is important. We are fully aware that our members and partners make calculated decisions on where to invest their hard-earned dollars. Our 550+ members are all looking for ROI and that ROI is different for each member. Therefore, our staff strives to offer a broad diversity of programming and events for businesses to engage as they see fit. There are so many ways to get involved including, but not limited to, our Public Policy Forums/events, a dedicated Women's Division (Women's Chamber Network), Young Professionals Initiative (KCK Forward), Small Business programming (Small Business University), Lunch & Learns, Business After Hours, Coffee Networkers and more. We encourage you as members to get engaged and participate in the programming and networking opportunities, and to contact us with ideas/speakers/programs that you feel will be beneficial for you and our community - we are here to be a partner to you!

I would like to extend a special thank you to our Board of Directors for their guidance, leadership and support. To Katelyn Kaminski, Ga'brielle Doran, Katie Vivas, and George Turner, I offer a heartfelt thank you for your hard work and passion, I truly appreciate each of you!

MEET THE TEAM

KCKChamber



Daniel Silva President & CEO



<u>Katelyn Kaminski</u> Director of Marketing & Events



Ga'Brielle Doran First Impressions Coordinator



George Turner Director of Finance

Daniel Silva, President & CEO

Daniel celebrated his 7th anniverary as President & CEO of the KCK Chamber this December 2022. A proven leader and collaborator, the KCK Chamber has experienced tremendous growth and success during his tenure, and despite the pandemic, the team has accomplished the highest gross revenue in organization history. In addition, the team has rolled out new initiatives including KCK Forward Young Professionals and the KCK Women's Executive Network (now under the KCK Women's Chamber Network). **Fun Fact:** Daniel was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois (he grew up with the Bears and the Cubs but having lived in KC for more than a decade, now cheers on the Chiefs and the Royals).

Katelyn Kaminski, Director of Marketing & Events

A proud "Original Dotte," Katelyn grew up in Piper and graduated from Bishop Ward High School. She will celebrate her 7th anniversary with the KCK Chamber in June 2023, leading the organization's marketing and events, and overseeing the KCK Forward Young Professionals initiative. Katelyn has greatly increased the Chamber's digital presence through growth in social platforms and oversaw the complete overhaul and redesign of KCKChamber.com. She is a strong advocate for KCK, particularly the businesses and people that make this city a unique (and remarkable) place to live and work.

Fun Fact: Katelyn attended her first two years of college at Kansas City Kansas Community College and played volleyball. She made First Team All Conference two years in a row and was 5th in the nation for kills as a Freshman outside hitter. She finished her college career at Pittsburg State University but attributes a lot of her career success to her years at KCKCC.

Ga'Brielle Doran, First Impressions Coordinator

Ga'Brielle celebrated her 9th anniversary with KCK Chamber in 2022. She too is an "Originial Dotte," and graduated from Wyandotte High School as a proud Bulldog. As First Impressions Coordinator, Ga'Brielle is the first face and interaction with our Members and community. She oversees day to day office administration duties, and assists with member retention and engagement.

Fun Fact: Ga'Brielle is a proud supporter of KCK, particularly the Kansas City Kansas Public School District. Having raised five children, all of whom attended KCKPS schools, she is passionate about quality education and access for our local children. This year, she initiated a community/chamber coat drive for KCKPS students and families.

George Turner, Director of Finance

George has the longest history with the Chamber having served as a Board of Director from 1997 to 2005, and was Chairman in 2004. He retired as the Chief Financial Officer for the local General Motors plant, and has assisted with the Chamber's finances over the years. Most recently, George has served as the Finance Director for the Chamber, and is a crucial part of the team's fiscal success.

Fun Fact: When George is not babysitting his grandchildren, he is soaking up the sun and waves in his new Power Quest speed boat. Whether its Doore County, Wisconsin or the Lake of the Ozarks, you are sure to find George and his family and friends somewhere on a lake during the summer months.





"As a member of the business community in the metropolitan area, the mission of the Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce is to enhance and create opportunities in Wyandotte County which build a quality community to live, work, and conduct business."

The KCK Chamber is a membership based organization led by a **volunteer board**, representing businesses and non-profits of varying sizes and sectors. The day-to-day work is handled by a paid staff of full-time employees. Staff works with a variety of committees made up of Members and the Board of Directors.

Membership with the KCK Chamber offers numerous benefits and keeps business owners on top of important, ever-changing issues and trends within Wyandotte County. Chamber Members have the opportunity to participate in exceptional programs, gain exposure for their business at numerous networking events and take advantage of the many business services we provide. <u>Click here to learn more about</u> <u>membership opportunities.</u>





I 50+ Events & Committees



4,100+ ATTENDEES EVENTS & COMMITTEES









2022 PROGRAMING & EVENTS

COMMITTEES Ambassadors Committee Public Policy Committee Marketing Committee Membership Committee KCK Women's Chamber Network KCK Forward Young Professionals

KCK FORWARD YPS Speaker at Stockyards Series Connect the Dotte Leadership Summit with KLC Triva Night Adopt a Spot Kansas State School for the Blind 5k

WOMEN'S CHAMBER NETWORK

Meet & Greet Elected Officials A Night with Celebrity Chef Pyet DeSpain Networker at the KC Monarchs Game Fall Networker at Junior Achievement Holiday Gift Exchange Purses with a Purpose Fundraiser

CONGRESSIONAL FORUM Mayor Tyrone Garner City Administrator Cheryl Harrison-Lee Attorney General Derek Schmidt Representative Sharice Davids U.S. Senator Roger Marshall U.S. Senator Jerry Moran Kansas Secretary of Transportation Julie Lorenz Kansas Lt. Governor David Toland

CHAMBER FOCUS

Kansas Secretary of Labor Amber Schulz Doing Business with the UG Doing Business with KCKPS Doing Business with BPU Stop the Bleed with University of KS Health Historic Preservation District Lunch & Learn

OTHER PROGRAMMING/EVENTS Small Business University (2) Business After Hours (6) Morning Networkers (6) Ribbon Cuttings & Ground Breakings The Best of KCK Business Expo

CHAMBER ROADMAP









The Chamber is excited to serve as the convener and connector for local and regional businesses to collaborate on efforts that improve the economic vitality and quality of life for our diverse region.

We invite you to participate in all of our year-long programs and signature events! For more infomation, visit KCKChamber.com/events.

2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

2022 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

The KCK Chamber of Commerce had another successful Legislative Session in 2022. Its Legislative Agenda, Public Policy Committee and Board of Directors collectively built and advocated for a platform in Topeka before all 165 legislators, including key members of Legislative Leadership. Additionally, the KCK Chamber continued to forge strong relationships with the Governor's office and the Department of Commerce. The Chamber and its advocacy team will continue to build upon the success in 2022 as they visit the state meeting with incumbent lawmakers and new candidates ahead of the 2022 elections.

KCK CHAMBER MEMBER DATA







57 PERCENT SMALL BUSINESSES

500+ MEMBERS

70 PERCENT KCK/WYCO BUSINESSES

LEGISLATIVE STATS

(please note, 2022 was a carryover year)

Bills Introduced: 1,328

Bills Tracked for the KCK Chamber: 209 (15% of all bills introduced)

Bill Signed into Law: 199

VICTORIES

Food Sales Tax Reduction. The KCK Chamber was successful in fighting for the passage of HB 2106 which would eliminate the state's sales tax on food. The bill will reduce the state's compensating use tax rate on food and food ingredients from 6.5% to 4.5% beginning January 1, 2023. On January 1, 2024, the rate will be reduced to 2% and on January 1, 2025, the tax will officially end. "Food and food ingredients" are defined to include bottled water, candy, dietary supplements, soft drinks, and food sold through vending machines and to exclude alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and most prepared foods. The local sales tax on food will remain untouched. After submitted testimony and direct lobbying, the bill was finally passed by the House and Senate on April 28 and signed into law on May 11, 2022.

Abandoned Structures. HB 2237 was a comprehensive housing and community development bill. Specifically for the KCK Chamber of Commerce and the Wyandotte County community, the bill will establish a tax credit of up to 10% of costs and expenses associated with the restoration and preservation of a commercial structure at least 50 years old that does not receive the continuing Historic Structures Tax Credit. The bill amends the Kansas Rural Housing Incentive District Act (RHID Act) to expand the use of bond proceeds and other funds under the Act to include residential renovation of the second or higher floors of buildings more than 25 years old within economically distressed urban areas, regardless of the population of the city or county containing the economically distressed urban area. The bill was passed and signed into law by Governor Kelly on May 23, 2022. It will go into effect on July 1.

Early Education & Development. In addition to housing and development provisions, HB 2237 also contained language to help tackle the growing issue of childcare. The bill allows taxpayers to claim the child day care services tax credit and permits taxpayers to claim 50 percent of expenditures paid to an organization providing childcare to the taxpayer's employees beginning in tax year 2021. Current law limits the credit to corporation income taxpayers and does not permit the credit for payments made to organizations. The measure should help the KCK Chamber, and its members improve working families' access to affordable, quality childcare necessary for a stable and adequate workforce for businesses.

Gaming. The KCK Chamber is poised to see major benefits after a historic agreement was reached to expand gaming and enact sports wagering in the state. SB 84 would allow for wagering to take place on sporting events both in person and on mobile-based applications. The bill would also permit Sporting KC, the Kansas Speedway and other venues the ability to have branded mobile web-based landing pages. The bill was approved by the Governor on May 12, 2022, with the hope that sport's fans will be able to wager in time for next year's Super Bowl.

Property Appraisal and Valuation. After years of rising property appraisal values – and, as a result, soaring property taxes - the KCK Chamber advocated for a bill that would allow for a property tax refund for older Kansans and disabled veterans to help them stay in their homes. HB 2239 would allow qualified individuals who reside in a homestead with an appraised value of \$350,000 or less and have a household income of \$50,000 or less, the ability to receive a refund on property taxes which would be the difference between that year's taxes and the "base year", or the year when the claimant becomes eligible, effectively holding property tax rates steady for those in their golden years. The bill will become effective on July 1, 2022.

Tax Reform. The Legislature took action on a number of technical sales tax modifications this Session. HB 2136 contained provisions related to sales tax remittances. Specifically, the measure would eliminate a provision requiring retailers with annual sales tax liability in excess of \$40,000 to remit estimated payment for the first 15 days of the current month when the tax return for the previous month is filed.

Further, the bill allowed for a delayed implementation date of a sales tax exclusion for separately stated delivery charges to July 1, 2023. The exclusion is currently scheduled to be implemented July 1, 2022.

COVID-19. In response to businesses being forced to close their doors in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Legislature passed the COVID-19 Retail Storefront Property Tax Relief Act. While technical requirements can be found in HB 2136, generally the measure would provide a refund of up to \$5,000 per retail storefront that was forced to suspend operations. \$50 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars was allocated to fund the measure.

FOR MORE DETAILS ON BILLS OF INTEREST AND BILLS NOT PASSED IN 2022, CLICK HERE.

CLICK HERE FOR PHOTO ALBUM

KCKChamber

ANNUA

AWARD

"The KCK Chamber Annual Award Celebration is an evening to recognize our members and partners for their amazing contributions to our organization and community. We are grateful each and every day for their partnership, and look forward to showcasing our diverse and vibrant business community each year for the celebration."

> Daniel Silva, President & CEO KCK Chamber



Stronger Together Award Kansas City Kansas Community College <u>CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO</u>



Small Business of the Year Award Tico Productions, LLC/Tico Sports <u>CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO</u>



Congrats to the

- 2022 Award

Recipients!

Spirit of the Community Award BNSF Railway Argentine LMIT <u>CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO</u>



Business Person of the Year Jim Lewis, President & CEO Security Bank of Kansas City <u>CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO</u>

THANK YOU 2022 MARKETING PARTNERS!





SCAN FOR THE KCK CHAMBER BUSINESS DIRECTORY

or visit https://business.kckchamber.com/list/





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