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## Chamber Staff

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**Kate D'Or**

Membership Director

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**Susie Weiss**

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## Pleasanton Chamber Foundation

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Directors

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The positions and views advocated here are solely the responsibility of the Chamber.

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## Randy Brown reflects on year as Chamber Board Chair

As I sit here, I am saddened by the fact that this will be my last column as Chair of the Board. Before my term is over, I want to take a moment and reflect on all that has happened this year and what we have accomplished collectively.

We started off strong in January and February with a record-setting pace recruiting new members. We were able to actively recruit businesses from all sectors and of all sizes. These businesses have only added to the Chamber's dynamic business mix.

We were able to host some wonderful monthly networking mixers through March. It was great to mix and mingle with new and familiar faces, connect and create new contacts. Unfortunately, our world changed dramatically with the onset of COVID.

Once sequestered to our homes we, as an organization, quickly realized we needed to reach out to our members and simply ask how everyone was doing. The weight of the unknown was weighing heavily on me, as I know it was on each of you. Chamber leadership and staff wanted our members to know that we were here for you and actively working on ways to help. We pivoted quickly and set out to assist in any way we could to protect the health and well-being of our busi-

ness community. Here are a few highlights of what we were able to accomplish during this challenging time.

- Our incredible Ambassador Team (of which I am a proud member!) continually reached out to members and assisted them with finding needed resources and avenues for support.
  - We created a COVID Business Resources page as part of our website to keep members updated on federal loan programs, City and County protocols, guidelines and resources
  - We pivoted all of our regular meetings and events to a virtual format and have realized strong attendance through this new Zoom format.
  - We created Virtual Speed Networking events to give chamber members an opportunity to make new connections and grow their businesses.
  - We (safely) held re-opening ribbon cutting ceremonies for businesses opening their doors once allowed. It was wonderful to be able to gather and celebrate business in our community!
  - We launched our new website that is easier to navigate and provides more opportunities for members to promote their business.
  - We were able to add new members despite the extended shelter-in-place orders that went far longer than ever thought. These new members included two new Circle of Influence members along the way as well!
- 2020 has forced us all to re-



**Randy Brown**  
2020 Chair  
of the Board



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evaluate, re-imagine and evolve our way of living and our way of doing business. I am extraordinarily proud of the grit and wherewithal shown by our business community and our Chamber of Commerce. I know that, no matter what is to come, we will stay unified and face these challenges together!

I would be remiss not to thank the Chamber leadership, member-

ship, and staff for your incredible support of my City Council campaign. It was an honor to have your endorsement and encouragement every step of the way. Leading and serving this wonderful city is an honor and something I look forward to doing for many years to come.

Wishing you all health and prosperity.

## Girls Soccer Worldwide: Empowering girls to rise out of poverty

A generous donor has partnered with the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce to provide a monthly contribution to a small business. The anonymous donation has been named The 214 Gift, and each month, a different Chamber member will be presented with a \$200 check. This will continue monthly through 2020.

The 214 Gift for September was presented to Girls Soccer Worldwide. Pamela Jacobsen and Walter Pratte accepted the donation on behalf of the non-profit organization that empowers girls to rise out of poverty through sports, education, and leadership. Their programs are currently operating in South America and locally in the Bay Area.

In 2016, Girls Soccer Worldwide™ set out to create opportunities for girls to have access to an equal playing field in South America. Today, they are a Leadership program empowering girls to rise out of poverty through sports and education. They do this by creating opportunities for girls to have access to sports, to stay in school, and gain the leadership skills needed to succeed in life.

In October, they are excited to launch their second Leadership program here in the Tri-Valley, called the Grassroots Leadership Program. This program focuses on girls ages 10-12 and provides them the opportunities to gain the confidence, courage, and character that can be lost at a young, adolescent age. Creating opportunities for girls to be active and engage in positive conversations is key, especially right now when interactions are at a minimum. Through their sports and leadership workshops, they want to show young girls that they are seen, cared for, and not forgotten.

Walter and Pamela would like to recognize their 2020 Bay Area Ambassadors for Change Leaders. They are leading the way by co-developing and co-facilitating their four-week Grassroots workshop that launched this month. As Girls Soccer Worldwide™ looks forward to 2021, they will partner with schools in the Bay Area to offer bi-monthly, after-school workshops.

Learn more online at [www.girlssoccerworldwide.org](http://www.girlssoccerworldwide.org) or visit Girls Soccer Worldwide on Instagram and Facebook.



From Girls Soccer Worldwide: "Thank you to the Pleasanton Chamber for your donation! We are beyond thankful for your continued support and know your generosity will make a great impact helping young girls to believe in their voice and learn how to use it for change, the right kind of change!"