

BOARD MEMBERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND STAFF

2022 Board of Directors

Chair of the Board

Kim Damiani, Summit Financial Group

Vice Chair, EDGR & Chair-Elect

Jill Buck, Go Green Initiative

Treasurer

**Steve Baker,
Baker Financial Consulting, LLC**

Vice Chair, 2025 Forums

Lauri Moffet-Fehlbach, Dahlin Group

Vice Chair, Membership

Ken Norvell, CMIT Solutions of Pleasanton

Past Chair

**Tracey Lewis Taylor,
Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley**

Directors

Billy Buckley, ENT Networks

Steve Calcagno, Kier & Wright

Seema Chawla, TekValley Corporation, Inc.

Shawn Henley, Morgan Stanley

Nick Kurji, Primrose School of Pleasanton

Yanis Liaskos, Omron Robotics

and Safety Technologies

Nathan Rearick, Chevron Corporation

Bob Rossi, Sunshine Saloon

Lori Strazzada, The Clorox Company

Bill Wheeler, Black Tie Transportation

2022 Community Foundation

Board of Directors

Chair of the Foundation Board

Anne Roby

Foundation Directors

Randy Brown, PMZ Real Estate

**James Cooper, Pleasanton Chamber
of Commerce**

Kim Damiani, Summit Financial Group

Shelley Despotakis, Fidelity National Title

**Craig Eicher, Retired from
Pleasanton Police Department**

**Susan Hayes, Nonprofit &
Communications Consulting**

Nancy Morehead, Beautycounter

Herb Ritter, Ritter Investments, LLC

**Janeen Rubino-Brumm, Pleasanton
Unified School District / Sunflower Hill**

**Joe Testa, Livermore-Pleasanton
Fire Department**

Fire Department

Committee Chairs

Ambassadors

**Janeen Rubino-Brumm, Pleasanton
Unified School District and Sunflower Hill**

Curtis Fleming, Farmers Insurance

Pleasanton Young Professionals

Jeremy Rosenblatt, Crown Trophy

Chamber Staff

President/CEO

James Cooper

Membership Director

Dawn Wilson

Business Operations Manager

Yianna Theodorou

Events & Communications Manager

Susie Weiss

Business Connection is a bi-monthly

publication of the Pleasanton Chamber

of Commerce.

The positions and views advocated

here are solely the responsibility of the

Chamber.

Layout and Design by Paul Llewellyn,

Embarcadero Media

Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce

777 Peters Avenue

Pleasanton, CA 94566

Phone (925) 846-5858

Fax (925) 846-9697

www.pleasanton.org

Stay connected with the Chamber

Facebook Instagram Twitter YouTube LinkedIn

©2022

Reflecting on my year as chamber chair

After a successful and exciting year, my term as Chair of the Board of Directors will conclude at year end. I'm excited to serve on the 2023 as past chair and help to see through many of the organization's initiatives under the leadership of chair-elect, Jill Buck.

The Chamber is committed to cultivating a vibrant local economy and had another great year of providing an enriching mix of programs and events for our members and community. Monthly networking mixers were back in full force. We returned to the Veteran's Hall in March for the mixer hosted by the American Legion Post 237, and also saw new hosts like Omron Robotics, who opened their doors for us this Spring for our first in-person tradeshow since 2019. Our Fall tradeshow mixer takes place next week on November 9 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

We were very pleased to be able to hold the Salute to Partnerships

Mixer and BBQ at Barone's Backyard in July, which honors the partnerships that involve everyone working together for the betterment of the Pleasanton community.



Kim Damiani
2022 Chair
of the Board

Our fan-favorite and biggest fundraising event of the year, our signature golf tournament, took place in September, and the Community Service Awards (CSAs) were a great success in October. There are very few events like the CSAs, which honor good people doing great things in Pleasanton that leave everyone feeling inspired and going home with a smile.

We continued our discussion on a variety of community issues through our monthly Economic Development and Government Relations (EDGR) committee and Pleasanton 2025 Forum meetings. Maintaining a hybrid format has allowed us to reach our broader community. This has given us a platform to continue our advocacy work on many critical issues facing our community.

Neither Summit Financial Group nor Securian Financial Services, Inc. are affiliated with the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. Kim Damiani is a Registered Representative and Investment Advisor Representative of Securian Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC. Securities and Investment Advisory Services offered through Securian Financial Services, Inc. Broker-dealer and Registered Investment Advisor, Member FINRA and SIPC. Summit Financial Group, LLC. is independently owned and operated. 2000 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 450, San Ramon, CA 94583. TR# 4982756 DOFU 10/2022

Local resources to help all types of businesses

Small businesses are the foundation of our business community. They employ nearly half of all workers, yet 75% of them have no employees. For these business owners, life is defined every day by the effort to achieve success. Finding and serving customers, managing staff (if there is any), dealing with vendors, paying bills, tracking inventory, and more fill every moment.

Not every business survives. The Small Business Administration (SBA) points out that about 20% of all small businesses don't make it

through their first year, and 50% close by year five. The effort to run a business can be overwhelming, and not every business idea is viable at the beginning.

The organization needs to learn how to survive, and then how to thrive. In other words, they need resources.

In every county in the United States, there is (or should be) a Small Business Development Center, or SBDC. This SBA-funded organization exists for one reason: to support small business. They offer one-on-one counseling, seminars and workshops focused on start-



James Cooper
Pleasanton
Chamber
President/CEO

ing and growing a business. Topics covered include marketing, human resources, legal, accounting, and how to start a business. Most of their services have little or no cost to the business, other than your time.

These resources are available to non-profits as well. Non-profits are a significant contributor to our economy, with 1.5 million organizations employing 10% of all workers and generating over 5% of the United States' GDP. Non-profit organizations are also small businesses that need to generate revenue to pay bills and staff salaries.

Another organization that is here to help local businesses is the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. Your local Chamber functions like

the hub of a wheel, serving as the starting point for businesses in search of resources. We link you to the solutions that are available to address your particular issues. In some cases, we organize local presentations and webinars, or partner with companies that provide that service. We can also refer you to the SBDC, SCORE (the Service Corps of Retired Executives), and other organizations that help businesses thrive.

Running a business is hard, but there are resources all around you that help make it easier. Don't know where to start? Contact the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce at www.pleasanton.org or by calling 925-846-5858.

Chamber partners with PUSD for workforce development

What if you could start training your future employees while they are in high school? Imagine your new hires being ready to hit the ground running on Day One. We can do that in Pleasanton!

The Pleasanton Unified School District's (PUSD) Career and Technical Education (CTE) program is designed to prepare students for careers in their hometown industry sectors. Support for our local CTE program has long

been part of the Chamber's Vision Statement, and we are forming a working group to bring industry expertise to Pleasanton classrooms.

In August, the Economic Development and Government Relations (EDGR) Committee heard a presentation from teachers and administrators from the Pleasanton Unified CTE program. We heard about simple ways the business community can engage with students and teachers to ensure curriculum and facilities align

to industry standards. There are also needs for students to have mentors, internships and work-based projects that they can present to professionals.

Currently, there are four CTE Pathways in Pleasanton: Engineering and Architecture; Health Science and Medical Technology; Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation; and Information and Communication Technologies. We are looking for Pleasanton Professionals in each of these industries to help shape Pleasanton's future workforce.

The Chamber Board of Directors approved the formation of a volunteer working group to match

Pleasanton businesses with relevant PUSD career programs. If you would like to get involved, please fill out the survey using the QR code. Volunteer opportunities can take as little as an hour, or can be ongoing commitments of a few hours per year - whatever you choose.

Please fill out the survey today!



The Chamber's Economic Development and Government Relations (EDGR) Committee meets monthly to research topics that are vital to Pleasanton's economy. EDGR members hear from subject matter experts, conduct research, and when appropriate, make recommendations for action to the Chamber Board of Directors.