

MEET YOUR BOARD

President – Dennis Whitney

I am Dennis Whitney, the new Chamber President. My wife, Linda, and I own and operate Whitney's Laundromat in Standish. I have been a chamber member for several years and currently serve on the board as a trustee. I am very involved in our community as a volunteer and board member at the Standish Historical Depot, a member of the DDA and the Rotary Club of Pinconning and Standish. I come from a military family and am a supporter of the Arenac County Veterans Affairs. I love parades, Christmas lights and the American flag and enjoy giving back to the community. You will be seeing more of me in 2025 as I continue promoting your business and our community through the Standish Area Chamber of Commerce.

Vice-President – Curt Hillman

Hello Members, I have been an active member of the Standish Area business community since 1976, working at RO Savage Funeral and more recently, Lee Ramsay Funeral Home – Standish Chapel. In the interim years, I owned Arenac Abstract and Title Company. I also served as a City Council member and Mayor in the 1990's. I have volunteered as a member and chair of the Downtown Development Authority, the Industrial Corporation, and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC). As Chair of the Standish Historical Depot and Welcome Center, and as your new VP, I will continue to promote all business and recreational activities in the Standish Area.

Secretary – Stacy Nichols

Hello Chamber Members and Friends,

My name is Stacy Nichols, and I am a lifelong resident of the Standish area. (minus one year that I sowed my wild oats in Wisconsin!) I currently reside in Bentley with my husband of 22 years, our daughter Brenna (age 13), and our beloved pets Mugsy, Sadie, Bubba, and Bluey. I've spent approximately 17 years working directly in the City of Standish and you may remember me from my previous banking career or my insurance career. Both gave me the many professional tools that I apply to my position as the Secretary of the Standish Chamber of Commerce. In my free time I enjoy traveling, camping, cooking & baking, and gardening. I am very excited to be collaborating with the other chamber board members where we hope and plan to bring a few new things to the Standish area in 2025. Stay tuned!

Treasurer - Wendy Hillman

I am a retired nurse and nursing instructor, having worked at Standish Community Hospital (Ascension – Standish Hospital) and Kirtland Community College. I have volunteered for several organizations over the years, most recently the Standish Historic Depot and Welcome Center. I spearhead the Social Media for the Depot (Webpage, Facebook, and the LED sign project). I have several years' experience of managing the accounting for our business, Arenac Abstract and Title Company. As your Treasurer, I will continue to maintain the financial integrity of the Chamber monies. I will also serve as Interim Social Media Manager. Please reach out to me at the Chamber email for any postings on our Webpage, Facebook, or the LED sign at the Depot (for non-profit, community projects/activities).

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Director – Mary Baker

I graduated from SSC, joined the Air Force, met my husband of 35 years, and had three children. With the addition of his son from a practice marriage, we have four children (Jeremy, Rachel, Nathan and Nikolas) four “in-law” children (Jo, Joe, Mallory and Emma) and two beautiful granddaughters, Aubrey and Goldie.

With many twists, turns and travels around the world, Standish is where we call home.

As a representative of the Arenac County Veterans Affairs Committee, it is an honor to be a part of the Standish Area Chamber of Commerce. With 15 years active duty in the Air Force and 10 years of service in the Veterans Affairs Police Department, I’ve retired from the law enforcement field and continue to serve veterans as a Peer Specialist on the Suicide Prevention Team.

My hope as a trustee is to be a part of a team filled with ambitious participants striving to get our city and the surrounding area booming with excitement and prosperity!

Although my aspirations to operate a coffee shop here in Standish (The Coffee Break 2004-2007) didn’t work out, I learned there are other ways to contribute to our town and this is one of them.

Director - Derek Wilk

I am a 2019 graduate of Standish Sterling High school and Standish resident. I own *Wilk Entertainment*, which provides professional DJ services to the area and serve as the Head Lighting and Sound Technician for the SSC auditorium activities. I am a car enthusiast and Mustang owner. I enjoy volunteering to make our community a better place. As a volunteer for the Standish Historical Depot, I am a member of the light and decorating department. I actively volunteer for Relay for life and am looking forward to serving on the Chamber to benefit our community and advance area businesses.



2025

Join the Standish Area Chamber of Commerce

In October 2023, a meeting was held between the Standish Area Chamber of Commerce Board and members of the Standish Historical Depot to propose the dissolution of the current Standish Area Chamber of Commerce board. It was also resolved that the membership of the Standish Historical Depot and Welcome Center would assume the leadership of Chamber and become the physical presence for Chamber activities.

The new Chamber members met at the Standish Historical Depot and Welcome Center. The new Board positions were Dennis Whitney – President, Curt Hillman – Vice-President, Brenda Matt – Secretary, and Wendy Hillman, Treasurer. The new signers on the bank account at Independent Bank are Dennis Whitney and Wendy Hillman.

As we are entering Year 2- 2025, our Board is evolving and includes a change in Secretary, Stacy Nichols, and Directors Mary Baker and Derek Wilk. Our goals will include website redesign, reinstating the Chamber Newsletter and becoming active partner with our member businesses. We will continue to determine the feasibility of fund raising and are currently seeking volunteers to promote these activities. We will be instituting a Coffee Hour to be held on the first Thursday of each month (9:30 am – 10:30 am). Information will be forthcoming.

The new Chamber will be focused on promoting all the Standish area has to offer its citizens and visitors. We have a new dedicated Literature holder for all the area Chamber members business cards/flyers. Using the LED sign at the Depot we can promote Community, non-profit related activities. Send information to contact.leddepot@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Dennis Whitney Curt Hillman

Stacy Nichols

Wendy Hillman

Derek Wilk

Mary Baker