

Chippewa Valley\_\_\_\_\_

# Health Cooperative<sup>+</sup>

## HEALTHIER TOGETHER

MAY 2025

# The Pulse

**Inaugural Annual Meeting**

**June 16, 2025**

Meet the Candidates



# TRANSFORMING THE HEALTHCARE LANDSCAPE IN THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY THRIVE



## FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Board of Organizers, thank you for joining us on this bold and meaningful journey. By becoming a member of the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative, you are helping to build something truly transformative—an independent, community-owned hospital rooted in the values and needs of the Chippewa Valley.

Your decision to join this effort is more than a commitment to health care, it's a commitment to each other. Together, we are creating a model of care that puts people before profit, access before

bureaucracy, and community before corporations. This Cooperative belongs to you. Every voice matters, every vote counts, and every member strengthens our foundation.

We are guided by one simple truth: health care should be accessible, affordable, and exceptional and as local as possible.

With your partnership, we are building a future where quality, compassion, and accountability are not just promises, they're the standard.

Thank you for being a vital part of this mission. Your trust and support are what make this cooperative strong.

In solidarity and gratitude,

**Robert Krause, Chair     Patti Darley, Vice Chair**  
Board of Organizers

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## 2025 ANNUAL MEETING



When:  
**June 16, 2025**  
Time: 6:30 PM



Where:  
**Pablo Center for the Arts**  
Address: 128 Graham Avenue, Eau Claire, WI

## AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Board of Directors Election
- III. Nominations Committee Election
- IV. Cooperative Update
- V. Election Results

## THE COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE

The Board of Organizers chose the cooperative business model because it ensures that we are led by and accountable to the people of the Chippewa Valley, and that all proceeds stay in our community. We are determined to prevent outside headquarters and leadership from making decisions for our region that don't prioritize our community.

We are dedicated to a lean organization that simultaneously enables quick decision making to benefit our community and limits costs, so that we can invest in our infrastructure here.



## UNDERSTANDING OUR COOPERATIVE

### The Importance of Your Voice at CVHC

Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative (CVHC) is a member-owned, member-led cooperative committed to delivering high-quality health care centered on community needs and values. Unlike traditional health systems driven by shareholder interests, CVHC's mission is guided by cooperative principles such as democratic control, economic participation, and a steadfast dedication to the well-being of our members and neighbors.

As a CVHC member, you are a co-owner with the ability to shape the direction of your cooperative. Your involvement is essential in ensuring our practices, policies, and priorities remain grounded in the real needs of our community.

From attending community events to sharing feedback and responding to member surveys, every action you take strengthens CVHC. But one of the most impactful ways to make your voice heard is through voting in the annual Board of Directors and Nominations Committee elections.

These elected bodies are crucial to our governance. The Board of Directors sets the long-term vision and strategy for CVHC, safeguarding the cooperative's mission, fiscal strength, and service quality. The Nominations Committee ensures fair, transparent elections by recruiting candidates who reflect the diversity and perspectives of our membership.

### Why Your Participation Matters

Your vote is not just a right—it's a vital contribution to CVHC's future. By participating in elections, you help select leaders who will guide key decisions, support innovation, and maintain our cooperative's responsiveness to members. Informed, active members are the cornerstone of a vibrant cooperative.

A strong, participatory membership empowers CVHC to stay resilient in the face of health care challenges and ensures our services evolve with the needs of our community. Together, we shape a health care system that reflects our shared values of access, compassion, and quality.

We urge you to take your role as a member-owner seriously. Your vote, your voice, and your engagement are what keep CVHC strong, member-focused, and community-centered.

# BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES

## NOMINATIONS PROCESS

In our inaugural year, the Cooperative membership must fill all nine (9) seats of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will be comprised of six (6) Community Member representatives and three (3) Physicians as the Medical Profession Member representatives.

This year, we have nine (9) candidates running to fill the six open Community Member board positions, and three (3) physician running to fill the three open Physician Member board seats.

### Community Member Candidates



P. DARLEY



P. HOEFT



M. JUDKINS



R. KRAUSE



T. LARSON



J. LEMMINGER



E. RYGG



D. STEARNS



H. STEELE

### Physician Member Candidates



K. DETTBARN



E. DICKSON



K. THAPAR

### Nominations Committee Candidates



K. FAGERLIN



J. HODNETT



A. JOHNSON



Community members may only vote for the Community Member Candidates; Medical Professional Members may only vote for the Physician Candidates. All members vote for the Nominations Committee Candidates.

After the Board of Directors is seated, they will randomly be assigned 1, 2, or 3-year terms, so that we are able to establish a regular rotation of board members going forward.

Community and Physician member candidates have submitted their applications to the CVHC Nominations Committee. In March and April, the Nominations Committee reviewed the applications, sought additional information as appropriate, and selected the candidates to put forth to the members.

*It's important to note that several qualified candidates for both community member directors and physician member directors withdrew their candidacy based on the significant time commitment that the board will require in the 2025-2026 term.*



## VOTING – MAIL-IN OR IN PERSON

All eligible CVHC voting members may now vote by mail or wait to vote in person on June 16th at the Annual Meeting.

Community members (people with CM at the front of their member number) will cast up to **six (6)** votes for the Community Member Board Candidates. Medical Professional members (people with PM at the front of their member number) will cast up to **three (3)** votes for the Physician Member Board Candidates. All members will cast up to **three (3)** votes for the Nominations Committee candidates.

The Mail-In Ballot is available at <https://bit.ly/CVHC2025Ballot>



## TO CAST YOUR VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT, PLEASE:

1. Put your Member Number in the Top Right Corner
2. Mark your choice(s) on the ballot
3. Put this ballot in a plain envelope
4. Write your NAME and "Ballot Enclosed" on the front of the envelope
5. Put this sealed envelope into another envelope and mail to:

**Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative**

**PO Box 398**

**Chippewa Falls, WI 54729**

**The Cooperative needs to receive your ballot by June 14, 2025.  
Please mail by June 7, 2025.**

**Mail-In Ballots will be counted at the Annual Meeting on June 16th  
and added to the in-person votes.**





## 2025 Community Member Candidates



### Patti Darley *(Incumbent)*

#### Community Member Candidate Statement:

My name is Patti Darley, and as a long time resident of Chippewa Falls and a passionate community advocate, it has been my privilege to serve as the Vice Chair of the Board of Organizers for the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative since we were formed in February 2024. I am also proud to co-chair our fundraising efforts—an essential pillar in bringing this transformative healthcare vision to life.

With a professional background in both technical training at Cray, Inc. and customer service leadership at Xcel Energy, I've spent my career solving complex problems and helping people. Now retired, I've dedicated my time and energy to the broader Chippewa Valley community I love.

Throughout my years of service, I've been fortunate to serve on the boards of HSHS St. Joseph's and Sacred Heart Hospitals, the Community Foundation of Chippewa County, and Give Chippewa County, among others. These experiences have strengthened my belief in the power of collaboration and compassionate, community-driven leadership.

I hold a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Marquette University, and I bring both analytical thinking and a deep commitment to equity and service to this work.

I would be honored to continue building a healthier future for our region—together with you.



### Peter Hoeft *(Incumbent)*

#### Community Member Candidate Statement:

My name is Peter Hoeft, and it's been an honor to serve on the Board of Organizers for the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative, and seek your support to remain an active voice in shaping its future. From the earliest stages of the Cooperative, I've worked alongside fellow organizers to lay a strong foundation—securing land for our future hospital, collaborating with county governments on development planning, and co-leading the competitive architect selection process to design a facility that reflects our community's values and needs.

As CEO of Hoeft Builders since 2004, I've led our company's transformation into a regional leader in commercial construction and real estate development. With offices in Eau Claire, Colorado, and Tennessee, we've completed hundreds of projects across medical, industrial, multifamily, and retail sectors. I bring to the Cooperative decades of experience in real estate finance, development strategy, and government collaboration—critical tools for an organization preparing to build a next-generation healthcare facility.

A longtime Eau Claire resident, I'm passionate about this region and its people. I currently serve on the Eau Claire Airport Commission and have served on the boards of WNB Financial, the Eau Claire Chamber, the Children's Museum of the Chippewa Valley, and the Eau Claire Economic Development Corporation. I'm committed to helping make our vision of a community-owned hospital accessible to all and built with excellence a reality. I would be honored to continue this important work with your support.



## Mickey Judkins *(Incumbent)*

### Community Member Candidate Statement:

My name is Mickey Judkins, and for over 30 years, I've been a small business owner in Eau Claire, running Details and detailsdirect.com. My commitment to this community has extended far beyond business—I've proudly served on numerous boards and in leadership roles dedicated to economic development, natural resource preservation, and public service.

In 2006, I was appointed by Governor Doyle to the Wisconsin Commerce Department as Executive Director of Global Ventures, working to bring domestic as well as international investments to our state. Additionally, I worked to help scale up Wisconsin companies by pairing them with industry leaders to facilitate faster growth.

I was also the first woman to serve as President of the Eau Claire Economic Development Corporation and completed three terms on the Eau Claire Chamber Board.

A lifelong advocate for clean water, I represented Wisconsin at President Obama's White House Water Summit during my time on the Lakeshore Natural Resources Board.

Today, I serve as one of seven business leaders on the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative, working to build a locally owned hospital and to renovate St. Joseph's as a near-term solution to our region's healthcare shortage. In the past year, my role on the board has been to provide a strong liaison from the Cooperative with our elected and appointed local, state, and federal officials, whose participation and cooperation are important to our success.

This is one of the most critical challenges our community has faced in my lifetime, and I am deeply committed to improving access to and the affordability of healthcare in our region.

With your support, I will continue working hard for a healthier Chippewa Valley. Thank you.



## Robert C. "Bob" Krause *(Incumbent)*

### Community Member Candidate Statement:

My name is Robert "Bob" Krause, I am a husband, father, grandfather, neighbor—and a passionate advocate for community-driven healthcare. After spending three decades as a small business owner and a career in public accounting, I've dedicated the past several years to helping entrepreneurs build their businesses in the Chippewa Valley and a range of local nonprofits dedicated to helping our region thrive.

It has been my great honor to serve as the Chair of the Board of the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative, launching something transformative: a local, member-owned healthcare cooperative designed to meet the unique needs of the Chippewa Valley.

In this role, I've worked closely with a remarkable group of organizers, physician advisors, and healthcare experts to close the critical healthcare gap that exists in our region. From vision to execution, we've made tremendous strides—planning a new hospital, securing key partnerships, and laying the groundwork for sustainable, more affordable, equitable care.

Over the last 45 years, I've served on numerous nonprofit and private boards, including as chair of the Board of Sacred Heart Hospital, the YMCA, the Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce, and the Medical College of Wisconsin. I bring seasoned leadership, financial acumen, and deep ties to this community.

I believe in the power of collaboration, stewardship, and service. I would be honored to continue serving you and building a healthier future for everyone in the Chippewa Valley.



## Thomas G. Larson *(Incumbent)*

### Community Member Candidate Statement:

My name is Thomas “Tom” Larson. I’ve been honored to serve on the Board of Organizers for the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative Board and am seeking election to the Board of Directors to continue advancing its mission to make accessible, community-centered healthcare a reality in our community.

As President and Principal of Larson Management, Inc., I lead a diversified portfolio of commercial real estate, hospitality, and property development ventures, overseeing more than 500 employees. With over 30 years of executive leadership, I bring deep expertise in strategic planning, operational oversight, and sustainable growth.

In addition to my business experience, I have served on numerous local area nonprofit boards, including the Eau Claire Community Foundation, Mayo Clinic Health System, and the Confluence Council and others. These roles have honed my ability to govern complex organizations while staying grounded in the needs of our local communities.

I believe the strength of a cooperative lies in thoughtful, responsive leadership and our dedication to making accessible and affordable healthcare available in the Chippewa Valley. I bring a business-minded yet community-driven perspective to the board, working to ensure that our Cooperative will be resilient, innovative, sustainable, and committed to serving every member with excellence.

I would be grateful for the opportunity to continue contributing to the health and well-being of the Chippewa Valley.



## Janice Lemminger

### Community Member Candidate Statement:

My name is Janice Lemminger, a retired ManpowerGroup executive and co-founder of a healthcare consulting company. I’ve lived in the Chippewa Valley since 1979 while attending UW-Eau Claire and began my career here in 1984, returning in 2000 after advancing my career in Chicago and Milwaukee. With 40 years in talent acquisition and strategic planning, I bring expertise in HR consulting and a commitment to improving healthcare access, reducing costs, and supporting long-term population health.

I’ve served on Chamber, Economic and Workforce Development boards, and nonprofits including Junior Achievement and the Community Foundation. As a member of the Governor’s Council on Workforce Investment, I gained insight into how state policy impacts local communities. Being passionate about empowering individuals as informed healthcare consumers, I would be honored to support the mission of the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative. Thank you for your consideration.





## Eric Rygg *(Incumbent)*

### **Community Member Candidate Statement:**

My name is Eric Rygg, and as President of Silver Spring Foods and Huntsinger Farms—our family's fourth-generation business—I've seen how rising healthcare costs strain local businesses and the thousands of employees they support.

That's why I chose to serve on the Board of Organizers for the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative: to advocate for practical, community-owned solutions that restore affordability and access to quality care in our region. As an employer, I believe in supporting the health and well-being of our team, but we need healthcare services that work for both people and businesses.

The Cooperative represents a forward-thinking way to take charge of our healthcare future—locally designed, locally led, and rooted in the values that define our community. I live in Eau Claire with my wife and three children, and I care deeply about this region's future. I serve on the board of Eau Claire Confluence Arts, Inc./Pablo Center and on the Culinary Advisory Committee at Chippewa Valley Technical College. Previously, I was a host and Executive Committee member for the 2021 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days. With your support, I'll continue working to create a more equitable and sustainable healthcare system for the Chippewa Valley.



## Dave Stearns

### **Community Member Candidate Statement:**

As a nearly 30-year resident of the Chippewa Valley with deep family ties to the local healthcare community, I bring extensive experience in organizational governance, strategic leadership, and nonprofit stewardship. I've served over 14 years on nonprofit boards, led high-performing teams, and maintained a consistent focus on ethical decision-making and fiduciary responsibility.

My background spans veterinary and human healthcare, regulatory oversight, and community engagement. I believe strong leadership is built on collaboration, transparency, and a clear commitment to mission. I've seen firsthand the power of a community united around a common cause. The Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative is uniquely positioned to deliver accessible and sustainable healthcare—and I am prepared to bring vision, accountability, and dedication to help lead that effort.



## Harold “Buck” Steele

### Community Member Candidate Statement:

My name is H. “Buck” Steele, and I’m seeking your support to serve on the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative Board. I bring a strong history of public service and a deep commitment to representing the needs of everyday people, especially those often left out of healthcare conversations.

Over the past two decades, I’ve served three terms on the county board (2016 – 2024), including as Vice Chair of the Health and Human Services Board and Chair of the Aging and Disability Resource Center. I’ve also contributed to healthcare through board service with the Visiting Nurses in Michigan. My approach is rooted in advocacy and accountability: I listen to constituents and make decisions based on what’s best for the community, not personal opinion.

The Cooperative needs board members who understand rural and retired populations and can help ensure healthcare is both accessible and sustainable. I believe in running a nonprofit with solid business sense—but always with the community at the heart of every decision.

With 23 years in the Chippewa Valley, I’ve seen what makes this area special: its people. I’d be honored to serve on the board and help build a healthcare system that reflects those values.





## 2025 Physician Member Candidates



### Kyle Dettbarn, MD

#### Physician Member Candidate Statement:

I'm Dr. Kyle Dettbarn, and for more than two decades, I've proudly called the Chippewa Valley home. Since moving here in 2003, I've been privileged to serve this community as a physician specializing in pulmonary, critical care, internal medicine, and sleep health. Today, I serve as Board President of the Oakleaf Medical Network—a network that has remained committed to patient-focused care for over 30 years.

We've all experienced the consequences of health system instability in our region. As a physician, I've seen the impact this has had on our patients and practices alike. But through it all, one thing has remained constant: our patients' unwavering trust and support. That's why the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative was founded—not by institutions, but by community members with support from physicians who all believe we can do better, together.

This isn't just about rebuilding healthcare—it's about reimagining it for the Chippewa Valley through partnership, prevention, and community and physician-led governance. I believe in a future where we collaborate with our patients, our neighbors, and one another to create a hospital that values both compassion and excellence.

I invite you to join me in this mission. Together, we can do something truly extraordinary—for our patients and the whole community. Thanks for your support.



### Erik Dickson, MD

#### Physician Member Candidate Statement:

For more than 25 years, I've had the privilege of providing medical care to the people of Chippewa County—my entire career has been dedicated to this community. As a family medicine physician at OakLeaf Clinics in Chippewa Falls, and medical director for our Urgent Care locations in Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, and Menomonie, I've worked on the front lines of local healthcare—helping families through everyday challenges and urgent needs alike.

I also work as a first responder and EMS Medical Director in Chippewa County and have seen firsthand the critical changes EMS has gone through in the last year in their efforts to take care of our injured neighbors since we lost the Emergency Rooms at St. Joseph's and Sacred Heart – they are struggling.

In addition to my clinical practice, I serve as the medical director for several area nursing homes, where I work closely with our senior population to ensure continuity, compassion, and dignity in care. My affiliations with organizations such as the American Academy of Family Physicians and the National Association of EMS Physicians reflect my deep commitment to best practices and physician leadership. I am board certified in Family Medicine with the American Board of Family Medicine.

The formation of the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to return healthcare to the hands of our community. With decades of experience and a heart rooted here, I would be honored to represent you on the Board as we build an excellent hospital that's locally led, affordable, accessible, and centered on the people we serve.



## Kamal Thapar, MD., PhD., FRCSC, FAANS, FCNS

### Physician Member Candidate Statement:

Independent medicine won't survive without an independent hospital.

As a neurosurgeon with over two decades of service in the Chippewa Valley, I've held leadership roles at Marshfield Clinic, Sacred Heart Hospital, and Chippewa Valley Orthopedics. Independent practice has endured repeated efforts to marginalize it, the most recent being the closure of HSHS hospitals. We've survived because of one thing: exceptionalism. By delivering care that is personal, principled, and patient-focused, we've withstood pressures that would have broken lesser models. But even that won't be enough anymore.

Without a locally governed tertiary care hospital, we cannot fully serve patients, recruit colleagues, or continue practicing the medicine we believe in. The Cooperative is our path forward. Without it, health care for patients and providers alike will collapse into corporate mediocrity. I'm running to ensure that never happens.



## 2025 Nominating Committee Candidates



### Kathy Fagerlin

#### Nominating Committee Candidate Statement:

My name is Kathy Fagerlin. I have lived in Barron for the past 56 years with my husband Steve. We have a son, a daughter, and four grandchildren.

I am a retired Registered Nurse, and I have held many positions in the healthcare field for over fifty years. Most recently, I was a senior executive in marketing and sales for a national health care company. During my career I have navigated the health care

systems and the medical needs of people in rural Wisconsin. I believe in the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative because of the unique approach they will have in health care for our communities.

For the past 24 years, I have maintained the role of caregiver to aging family members, and it has been difficult to manage their care at times due to the lack of providers, continuity of care, or healthcare facilities in our area.

After retiring from healthcare and dairy farming, my husband and I enjoy time with our family. We continue family traditions with time at our cabin in the Blue Hills, hunting, riding side by sides, snowmobile racing on the ice, and keeping up with our grandchildren.



### Jessica Hodnett

#### Nominating Committee Candidate Statement:

I'm Jessica Hodnett; I grew up in Cadott, where I was deeply involved in my school community, participating as a three-sport athlete, student council member, National Honor Society, and 4-H. These experiences helped shape my passion for service and leadership. After high school, I pursued my nursing education at CVTC and later completed my Bachelor's in Nursing.

I married my husband, Aaron, and we made the move from Chippewa Falls to Colfax, where we've made our home and raised our two wonderful children, aged 6 (almost 7) and 9.

I began my nursing career in the emergency department at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital, spending six years there before transitioning to Oakleaf Pediatrics as Nurse Lead. I've also had the honor of being involved with the Immunization Coalition for Western Wisconsin for the past two years, advocating for public health and education.

As a family, we are committed to our local community, regularly supporting local businesses and engaging in activities that foster connection. Our children are active in sports, and I've enjoyed coaching their youth soccer teams over the last two years. In our free time, we love spending time with friends and family, whether it's camping, traveling to immerse ourselves in different cultures, or enjoying the outdoors in the summer. Arts and crafts and sports are also a big part of our creative family time.

We cherish the values of community, growth, and making lasting memories, both at home and through our experiences in the world.





## Andrew C. Johnson

### **Nominating Committee Candidate Statement:**

Andrew Johnson was born in London, England, to a British mother and an American father and grew up in London, England. Upon completing his schooling at King's College School Wimbledon, Andrew moved to America, received his BA from Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana, and got an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University.

Throughout his career, Andrew has gained broad experience in Pharmaceuticals, Managed Care, Home Health, Palliative care, Hospice, and post-acute rehabilitation.

In 2022, Andrew and his business partners founded Lakeland Home Health Care, located in Chippewa Falls, WI, to provide exceptional clinical care to seniors in their homes. The focus is on the surrounding communities of Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls. The goal is to drive better patient outcomes and allow seniors to age in place.

Andrew believes that a local focus on healthcare is the path forward and is paramount for the communities' future. From care to revenue, the cycle of care must stay local.

Andrew brings a strong focus and passion for decreasing re-hospitalization rates for seniors in our community and would be honored and privileged to be part of the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative. Keeping care close to home, local, and accessible in our neighborhoods is critical to keeping our communities growing.



