

Candidate Biographies

Kyle Carpenter

Digital Sales Account Executive
Mid-West Family Madison



My name is Kyle Carpenter. My wife and I have lived in Verona for the past 2 years. It may not sound like much, but it's the same amount of time we've lived in Wisconsin. I work for Mid-West Family Madison. I'm sure what you'd like to know is why?

Why would I want to join the board and why you should vote for me? I'm going to do my best to let you know why I feel I'd be a good fit.

Since moving here, the first chamber I became a part of was the Verona Chamber. I joined this chamber, initially, because I live in Verona. After attending a few events, I knew that I wanted to be a part of it in a more intentional way. I saw an opportunity to be more of a servant within my community. A community that has been so welcoming to me, an outsider, who moved from Columbus, Ohio to all places.

The first step I took to serve the community, was being a present figure at chamber events. I wanted to make sure I attended as many events as possible. I wanted to learn about the community and the people. My next step was taking on the duties of the Ambassador Chair. This program and the energy the ambassador team was bringing to it, caused it to gain more and more momentum. Unfortunately, Covid put a strain on it but we're working on getting things back up and running in a positive direction.

Being apart of the Verona community is important for me even more since my wife and I welcomed our first child. I want him to grow up and see the importance of being invested in the people around you. The importance of listening and paying attention to the events happening right where you live. Most importantly, I want him to know he can make an impact and the biggest impact can be made by starting with your smaller circle of the world; your local community.

If I'm honored enough to be voted in, I will continue to listen, advocate any way I can and be the best example to my peers, my family, and the individuals within Verona and beyond.

Kassie Gorski

Owner
Big Apple Early Learning Academy



My name is Kassie Gorski and I am extremely interested in continuing as a member of the Verona Chamber Board. Originally from a small town in Illinois, I now call Verona home with my husband Steven and daughter Tessa. Before welcoming my own little one into the world I have always has a passion for children. It has always been a dream of mine to be able to own and operate my own children center. I was able to make this dream come true last November in 2018 when I opened the doors to Big Apple Early Learning Academy here in Verona on Keenan Court. Being able to build a successful and highly recommended private center as an early 30s female is quite an accomplishment. But this is just the beginning of my commitment to contribute back to our beautiful community.

2020 Verona Area Chamber of Commerce Board Election

Candidate Biographies

With years of extensive background of experience from being a classroom teacher with several age groups and working my way up into management roles I was able to gain my knowledge in order to make my dream come true. I've greatly enjoyed bringing affordable and quality childcare to Verona and its surround areas. I would love to be able to continue giving back to the community by being a representative of the Verona Chamber Board.

When I am not staying busy with the day to day operations at Big Apple, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, attending local events, being outdoors and active at the gym. I look forward to continuing to be a valuable member of the Verona Community and hopefully your consideration to be a member of the board. Any questions please feel free to reach out to bigapple.owner@gmail.com or 608-535-9398! Thanks.

Gail Groy

Attorney

Axley Brynleson, LLP Madison

My name is Gail Groy and I have lived in Wisconsin since 2005 and settled in Verona in 2014. I have been a British lawyer since 1998 and became a US lawyer in 2011. I am employed by Axley Brynleson, LLP, Madison. Prior to that, I had a law office in Verona on W. Verona Avenue. It was during this time that I got to know many local businesses and people around Verona. My children attended preschool, elementary, middle and high school in Verona and I have been actively involved in their schools, serving on the Core Knowledge governing council and supporting many Verona high school activities, including teams sports, and career days. I love it in Verona and have attended many of the events with my husband and children, from the VAPAS musical performances, the community theatre, library activities, downtown Halloween "boo" events to market days. We walk and cycle, enjoy picnics and social time in the Verona parks, including the wonderful splash park, with friends and family. Verona is a lovely place to live and I would like to see this continue well into the future. This is why I would be honored to serve on the Verona Area Chamber of Commerce board. Incidentally, in our free time, my husband and I have started a vineyard growing grapes in Verona. I look forward to promoting local businesses, involving the community in fun events and supporting Verona's growth. Thank you for considering me for this role as a Verona Area of Chamber board member.



Mark Hewitt

Realtor

Realty Executives – Capital City

My name is Mark Hewitt and I'm an independent real estate agent with Realty Executives Capital City, a newer brokerage in the Madison area. After working for one of the top producing real estate teams in Dane County, I chose to join Realty Executives Capital City as an independent realtor because of our brokerage's strong focus on personal relationships, the high level of customer service & satisfaction, and our innovative approach to real estate in the Dane county area.

I was introduced to the Verona Chamber in the Fall of 2017 and immediately started getting involved with sponsoring and attending the local Chamber events around town. Whenever there is a VACC event, you can count on my participation and promotion of our local businesses. Specifically, I enjoy partnering and featuring our Verona businesses for my client giveaways, closing gifts, and event drawings. I joined the Board of Directors for the VACC



2020 Verona Area Chamber of Commerce Board Election

Candidate Biographies

during a mid-term when there was a vacancy, but I still feel like I'm scratching the surface of my involvement with this important community group. With that said, I would welcome and be excited about serving another term!

My wife, Rebekah, and I have four children (Denison, Luke, Roger, & Beatrix), and we have spent our entire married lives connecting with the communities we live in -- moving to Verona has been one of the best decisions we've made and we are so thankful for our community here. Lastly, I want to share a fun video about me and Hometown USA. I was recently selected by the Realty Executives Regional Office for a "[Executive Feature Video](#)" -- I chose to highlight my involvement in our Verona community and all of the great work that the VACC does to promote our local businesses and our community.

Sara Hoechst

Owner
Hop Haus Brewing Co.

Sara is the owner of Hop Haus Brewing Company in Verona and now Fitchburg as well! Sara grew up in Verona and enjoys getting to know and work with local business owners and helping Verona continue to grow.



Jason Hunt

Owner/Manager
Verona Vision Care

Jason and his wife, Tami, own Verona Vision Care, which they started in December of 2006. Jason has been active in the past with Chamber, serving on several committees and filling an interim board position. In addition to working with the Chamber, Jason has been involved with several City of Verona committees over the years, most recently serving on the newly formed Tourism Commission.



Jason grew up in Elkhart Lake, Wi, a town of a ~1,000 full time residents so he understands the value each locally owned business provides to a community. Value by not just providing a place to obtain a service or shop but the value to the local economy. Local dollars which are kept in the community that allow Verona to add more services for the residents and businesses and add to the already thriving economy.

Jason would like to work with others on the board to continue to make Verona a destination for consumers and businesses. At the same time continuing to make Verona a great place to raise a family and grow a business.

Jason has lived in Verona since 2004 with his wife and their two daughters, Mazie and Kinley.