



## Candidate Statements

2022-2023 Board of Directors

### **Brian Aiello - Owner, Pinnacle Promotions**

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What does it take to be an effective Director? I believe that two strong qualities are desire and experience. Having been a business owner in Lafayette for over twenty years, I have a strong desire to see the business community thrive here. Not only so that my business will prosper, but so that the business environment will foster a positive overall effect. And having served on the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for the past seven years, three of which as an Executive Committee member, and as Chamber President in 2017, I feel I have the experience justify another term as a Chamber Director.

### **Katie Manning Santos - Owner, Fitness HR**

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We live and work in a unique and beautiful area. An area whose people are loyal to family and the greater community. I have been involved with a few Chambers in my life and having served on the Board of the Lafayette Chamber in the past, I find it's the most inclusive and collaborative chamber I know of. My goal of rejoining the Chamber Board of Directors is to promote Lafayette's business using open dialog with the City of Lafayette and its residents. Keeping our businesses supported as they exit this challenging time is vital to the health of our community. I will bring an open mind, critical thinking and a sense of humor to the Board of Directors. Now is an important time in Lafayette, managing the future takes insight, creativity and energy. I will use all these skills to benefit our city and its businesses.

### **Chris Lane - Branch Manager, Bank of the West**

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I grew up in Lafayette and raised my family here. I have been a member of the Lafayette business community for over 25 years and a past member of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and served as the President in 2002. With my passion for Lafayette, I would like to bring my experience to serve the members and the community once again. I have great ideas for a mentorship program, business and community clean-up programs, and business success seminars to help entrepreneurs be empowered for their own success and more. If elected to a full term, I will work to

fulfill our mission statement “to promote and maintain a healthy business climate and to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Lafayette”!

### **Matt Pease - Lafayette Rotary**

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I would be honored to serve on the Chamber Board again for a second term on the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. During my first term I volunteered to represent the Chamber on the City of Lafayette’s General Plan Advisory Board. I have made sure the views of the Chamber are being incorporated into the next 20-year plan for the City. I have also served as Chair of our Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee. We have added content about our DEI efforts on our Chamber website and we are developing tools for our businesses to use in their own DEI efforts. I continue to represent Lafayette Rotary which is an active member of the Chamber.

### **John McCormick – Owner, Lamorinda Music**

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My wife and I have owned Lamorinda Music in downtown Lafayette for the past twelve years. I have been on the Chamber Board for four years and I have been president of the Chamber Board for the past two years. These have been challenging times for everyone, especially for small businesses like we have in Lafayette. I have seen up close how valuable the Chamber is to not only local businesses, but the entire community as well. The Chamber has always been something special, but the way the Chamber has stepped up during the pandemic to help all businesses navigate these uncharted waters has been truly remarkable. There is no other chamber in this entire region that does what the Lafayette Chamber does and we are all very fortunate to have them in our corner. If I am elected again to the Board, I will continue to work hard to make the Chamber, our members, and the entire community better. It is very important that we are kind and fair to each other in everything we do.

### **Dennis Garrison – President, Oakwood Athletic Club**

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As President of Oakwood Athletic Club, it is important to me that businesses have strong and coordinated input into the economic activities in Lafayette. The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce has consistently represented the best interests of our local businesses for the fifteen years that we have been Chamber members. The City of Lafayette and local residents look to the Chamber to be an active participant in promoting the economic vitality and quality of life in Lafayette. It is a priority for me to be a contributor to this effort.

### **Nick Bozych – Managing Director, Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa**

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I am running for another term as a member of the Board of Directors. It is such an honor to be involved with such a passionate group of business leaders that continue to work for positive changes in our community. I feel blessed that I have been part of this team over the last 9 years and hope that I can continue to support the Chamber through experienced based input and help guide the directives that help form the structure of our town.

## **Kathy Merchant - Las Trampas**

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As someone active in a number of community nonprofit organizations, and a fundraiser for several, I could always reach out to local businesses for support. In gratitude, I agreed to serve on the Chamber board as a way of giving back. In my term as board president, after several local businesses were blindsided by ADA (Americans with Disabilities) lawsuits for unwitting noncompliance, we undertook an initiative to educate businesses about ADA regulations, publishing a brochure available to Chamber businesses and the broader community. I currently serve on the Chamber DEI Committee, Business Issues and Executive Committees, serving as Board Secretary. During the pandemic, our awesome Chamber staff worked tirelessly to support and inform our businesses of grants, health regulations and general guidance, and each of us on the board has assisted where possible. I'd be honored to continue to serve.