



[Bay Area Community Council](#)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: TOM SCHUMACHER

"Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving." – Tom Schumacher

Reflection

I'm not the first person to say that, but it has indeed been an honor to lead an organization that I respect and believe in. I am proud of what we accomplish and bring to the community and humbled by the support of the BACC board and our BACC partners at the Greater Green Bay Chamber, Brown County United Way and Greater Green Bay Community Foundation. Many hands make light work, but many talented hands make that work soar.

The Greater Green Bay: 2017 Envisioning the Future conference in September was our big event of the year. With the help of around 90 volunteers, funders and partners, we convened 200 community leaders for a day and a half focus on improving our community. There's more to come on that in 2018, with a conference report and futuring workshops to help navigate the seas of change we face.

Departures

Each year we have retirements from the BACC board. This year Jeff Mirkes, David Littig and David Pamperin decided to step down. Each of them has contributed to the organization and we will miss them. Jeff Mirkes brought us a downtown connection and served on our Resource Committee. David Littig served for over 15 years and contributed a lot to BACC and the community. He brought a passion for transportation and immigrants. His leadership of the Connecting our Community project allowed us to see more clearly the common shared values that transcend ethnicity or background. David Pamperin is another pillar of the BACC, serving for 10 years as ex-officio director in his capacity as the CEO and President of the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation and continuing to serve after his retirement this year. David Littig and David Pamperin also served as past BACC presidents. We thank Jeff, David and David for being part of BACC and wish them all the best.

Another recognition that's due is of Nan Nelson. She has long held the position of Secretary-Treasurer and is one of our founding directors. Nan's insights, perspectives and history with BACC have been invaluable to the organization and its leaders. In the coming year, Nan will remain BACC Secretary, but relinquish the Treasurer position which she ably held for many years.

Elections

Our recently concluded annual election of officers and directors went off without a hitch. Fr. Paul Demuth will be the new BACC President. Jennifer Hill-Kelley and David Wegge are in line as 2019 and 2020 Presidents and I will move to Past President. Nan Nelson will continue as BACC Secretary and Larry Rose is our new Treasurer. We have six continuing directors; Brian Danzinger, Natalie Bomstad, Randall Lawton, Nan Nelson, Bob Woessner and David Wegge. Please join me in thanking everyone for their willingness to serve.

Closing Thoughts

At last week's board meeting, three members of the local Somali refugee community shared their stories with our board. Two things struck me. The first is that Somali ethnicity doesn't coincide with the current boundaries of Somalia. Our guests are ethnically Somali, but came from Kenya and South Africa. The second is why they left places like Seattle, Minneapolis and Washington D.C. for Green Bay. They came because of good schools, affordable cost of living, low crime, jobs and quiet, friendly neighborhoods, the same values that connect pretty much everyone in our community.

Have a blessed Christmas and a Joy-filled New Year.