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THE

Solano women lead the way in leadership roles

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Meet Jared Neumayr fairfield-suisun chamber's new ceo

By Brianna Boyd

hen he stepped in as the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber's new CEO last month, Jared Neumayr didn't spend too much time introducing himself to the Chamber's Board of

Directors or Ambassadors – he already knew them all. He has worked with and interacted with the Fair-

field-Suisun Chamber for the past four years, not as a general member, but also as a peer. He first joined the chamber's ambassador team in 2018 and became a Fairfield-Suisun Chamber Director in 2019.

Over the past year, he and the other directors have searched for a new president/CEO to take over the reins from a retiring Debi Tavey. When the process first began, becoming the chamber's next leader was the last thought on Neumayr's mind.

"Debi did have a conversation with me and said she thought I would be a good fit and at the time, although I was flattered she felt so highly of me and it meant

so much, I was in my banking career and never envisioned myself in the chamber CEO position," said Neumayr, who worked for Solano First Credit Union/ Valley Strong for 15 years. "But Debi ended up being that little bird on my shoulder that just kept chirping."

Neumayr began his banking career as a Member Services representative and worked his way through the ranks to assistant vice president of Member Services. He was content in his career, but every time the chamber board met to discuss the president/CEO position, the thought kept coming up in his mind.

"I kept thinking, 'Should I do this, could this be the right choice for me?' " he said. "Then, I just decided to give in. It sounds so simple but that's the truth. I gave in and I followed my gut and realized this is truly a

calling for me."

Looking back, Neumayr can see where his career trajectory began to change with his involvement in the chamber. He joined the ambassador team because he wanted to see the banking organization become more involved in the community and rebuild relationships that may have been lost over the years.

"From the beginning, as an ambassador, I saw the passion and drive of all these people I got to work with

> and I really got to see what the chamber was all about," he said. "It was somewhat like the industry I was in from the standpoint of advocacy and being involved in the community. It resonated for me, and I felt naturally, the next step was serving on the board of directors."

He was appointed to the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber's executive board in 2021.

"Moving my way up the ranks on the board, I was able to see the underlining contributions the chamber facilitates in the business community many are not aware of," he said. "People see the networking and events, but many do not realize the layers of advo-

cacy and support provided to ensure that businesses are protected and know what is coming their way, from local government to state and federal."

Neumayr plans to be 'louder about the quiet things' that are done through the chamber. It is also important to him to continue to connect with the overall business base in the community. To that end, he updated the email and phone systems in the chamber to allow chamber staff to be more accessible to the public.

"As far as I'm concerned, if you are a member of the Fairfield-Suisun chamber, you are a member of a bigger family," he said. "You are part of our story as a chamber." •

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Solano County women LEAD THE WAY in leadership roles

By Edie Thomas, scwg chair and Ana Petero, commissioner

ey Fairfield-Suisun, Happy Spring! If you haven't heard, Solano County has a lot of amazing females in leadership roles! Back in 2017, a group of these strong women gathered to create the framework for a committee to support and advocate for women and girls in Solano County.

In 2018, these founders presented their concept to the Solano County Board of Supervisors and the Solano Commission for Women and Girls (SCWG) was established.

The 17-member commission is comprised of appointees from the Solano County Board of Supervisors, City Councils, the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE), at-large commissioners, and at-large youth commissioners who are appointed by the commission itself.

Our commissioners reflect the demographics of Solano County, culturally, socio-economically, professionally, and serve two- or three-year terms with the option of renewing their appointments.

But this idea of a commission for women didn't start in Solano County.

We are a small part of a larger worldwide effort that began with the United Nations in 1979. The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women is an international treaty and is described as an international Bill of Rights for Women.

While California is supporting new commissions all around the state, we are proud that Solano County got a jump start and we have been making progress.

The mission of the SCWG is to improve the economic status, health and social welfare, and overall quality of life for women and girls in Solano County.

To begin, we were tasked with researching to create a status report on the plight of women and girls in Solano County, and in October 2018, the commissioners got to



work under the direction of our first chair, Rochelle Sherlock.

After two years of research, presentations and lectures from experts in their respective fields throughout Solano County, we presented a thorough status report, which identified four broad areas: child abuse, crimes against women and girls, disabilities, health, and safety. The complete report can be found on our website at solanocommissionwomenandgirls.com/status-report.

The report was presented to the Board of Supervisors whose direction was to collaborate with organizations in Solano County to implement the findings in the status report. And then COVID happened, but the work didn't stop.

Work groups were created; meetings were conducted via Zoom, and within one year, SCWG conducted the first annual "Birth Justice" webinar series addressing health and birth disparities, including the urgent need for midwives and doulas.

Additionally, the commission supported the Momnibus Act (SB65) tackling racial disparities in maternal and infant health, which was signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in October 2021.

The second annual Birth Justice event will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 7 on Zoom and promises to be even better with a focus on progress and successes. You can register on Facebook and our website.

In 2021, to honor March's Women's History Month, the commission, under the direction of Chair Laura Petty, organized a webinar featuring 16 prominent women leaders in Solano County, including Deanna Cantrell, who is Fairfield's first female LGBTQIA+ chief of police; Lisa Howard, co-owner and winemaker of Tolenas Vineyards and Winery; Lori Wilson, the first Black female mayor to serve in all of Solano County; K. Patrice Williams, community organizer/Empower Solano; and District 2 Board of Supervisor Monica Brown, among many other phenome-



Administrative • Hospitality • Winery • Light Industrial • Manufacturing nal women.

The second annual Women's History Month celebration was held on March 26, via Zoom, honoring 14 Generation Z entrepreneurs and seasoned community organizers throughout Solano County. Raffle prizes were provided from female-owned businesses, including Chez Soul in Fairfield.

Last year, the commission partnered with the American Medical Women's Association at Touro University and faith centers to collect and distribute feminine hygiene products to the houseless women and students throughout the county. We are looking forward to another campaign of collaboration this year.

One of the commission's next projects is to partner with restaurants and bars throughout Solano County to support the 'Angel Shot' project.

An angel shot is not a drink. Instead, it's a code, when a woman feels threatened or is in distress, she can order an angel shot, sending a secret signal to the bartender that she needs help. We expect to roll this project out in preparation for Memorial Day weekend, so when you see our notices on restroom walls, check out the QR code to learn more about the project.

We are grateful to collaborate with so many great bars and restaurants in Fairfield-Suisun and throughout the county to get the word out. We will be joining many major cities across the country as we introduce this project to Solano County.

Our meetings are open to the public and held from 6 to 8 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Solano County Building, 675 Texas St., in Fairfield.

In conclusion ...

Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman said, "There is always light if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."

The Solano County Commission for Women and Girls seeks to highlight and advocate for the needs of women and girls in our county for the betterment of our entire community.



April Is Autism Awareness Month



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community



The NorthBay Urgent Care facility in Fairfield opened in February 2020 near the Solano Town Center mall.

Retail + Medicine

NorthBay Healthcare teams up with Carbon Health to provide urgent care services where you shop

hen it comes to the success of NorthBay Urgent Care, it's all about timing, partnerships and ingenuity, according to Wayne Gietz, president of NorthBay Healthcare Group.

NorthBay, teaming up with Carbon Health, currently operates two urgent care centers in Vacaville and Fairfield, with two more under construction, all in strip malls.

Retail and medicine? It was indeed a strange concept when Gietz pitched the idea to then-NorthBay Healthcare CEO and President Gary Passama. And even current CEO and President Konard Jones admits he was skeptical.

But today, the proof is in the numbers, and the fact that the enterprise continues to grow.

The idea, hatched by Gietz in tandem with

then-NorthBay Healthcare Group President Aimee Brewer; and emergency room physicians Seth Kaufman, M.D., and Cesar Djavaherian, M.D., was to partner with Carbon Health, then known as Direct Urgent Care. At the time it had just three locations in the Bay Area. Today, it is the second fastest growing privately held urgent care company in the country.

"And yes, we can take some of the credit for that," said Gietz with a chuckle.

The shared vision was that people deserved more accessible, efficient and service-oriented healthcare. And they wanted convenient locations and affordable prices.

NorthBay decided the Nut Tree Plaza in Vacaville was the right spot for the first facility. It opened in January 2018 with 10 exam rooms, an X-ray room and office space and the volume of patients quickly proved the venture was solid. Patients from pediatric to geriatric came to receive care for everything from pink eye and allergies to broken bones and bronchitis.

"The Vacaville Urgent Care was immensely popular, right from the first," said Mary Jameson, director of Urgent Care, Womens Health and the Center for Primary Care in Vacaville. "Within a short time we learned it was filling a gap between primary care and emergency care."

By February 2020, NorthBay was preparing for a grand opening celebration of a Fairfield site – just

down the road from NorthBay Medical Center. Unfortunately, the pandemic had different ideas and festivities were scuttled in order to immediately open to patients, taking the burden off a hectic Emergency Department, and quickly pivoting to provide COVID-19 testing for the community.

"I remember on the first day we saw 14 patients, and now Fairfield is our most popular location," Jameson said. "People who would have normally headed to NorthBay Medical Center's emergency department, now have another level of care."

The secret of success? Providing an affordable alternative to emergency room care, the right care, when and where people need it most, explained Gietz.

And on the plus side, it also introduces non-NorthBay patients to the "NorthBay Way" of delivering quality health care, added Jameson.

Another added benefit has come from Urgent Care's alliance with orthopedics. Patients who arrive with broken bones and the like are put on a fast track to connect with an orthopedic surgeon.

An American Canyon site is expected to open in June, with Dixon following in August.

Feedback from patients hits high notes across the board, Jameson said.

"Patients told us they appreciated the ability to get timely care, that there was an X-ray on site, and that testing was also available. It's also a bonus that we take Medicare patients and offer cash discounts. Patients also really liked the technology, in that they could make appointments and schedule follow-ups from home or their phones."

Easy, seven-day a week accessibility, friendly staff, the ability to get travel testing for COVID were also highly rated, Jameson noted, "and patients said they appreciated

'Patients told us they appreciated the ability to get timely care, that there was an X-ray on site, and that testing was also available. It's also a bonus that we take Medicare patients and offer cash discounts. Patients also really liked the technology, in that they could make appointments and schedule followups from home or their phones.'

– MARY JAMESON, DIRECTOR OF URGENT CARE, WOMENS HEALTH AND THE CENTER FOR PRIMARY CARE IN VACAVILLE that staff were going the extra mile, above and beyond, to assure the facilities were clean and safe."

When plans for the American Canyon and Dixon sites were announced, local communities greeted the news with enthusiasm. A story about the Dixon plan was published on the front page of The Reporter newspaper in Vacaville. NorthBay's Facebook post on the story reached more than 6,000 views in just a few days and positive comments abounded.

One LinkedIn user noted, "This is great news for Dixon, way to go NorthBay!" while another said, "So

excited to have an Urgent Care option even closer to home. The Vacaville and Fairfield sites have already been amazing."

"We are so excited to bring this level of quality care to these corners of the market that have a gap in this kind of service, and to introduce NorthBay to folks who may not have access to us before," Jameson said. "It really feels good to provide medical care to those communities who need it most."

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community

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he COVID-19 pandemic certainly isn't over, but the worst of it seems to be behind us now. Workers are trickling back to their offices, students have returned to their classrooms to some degree, and vaccinations and public health polices have allowed us all to return to restaurants, ballgames, concerts and community events.

Touro University California has been part of the effort to keep society afloat during this historic upending of daily life since the very beginning. Not only that, alumni, students, and faculty from all our programs touched this pandemic in some way.

As schools sent students home to learn in a virtual environment, many of the alumni from the Innovative Learning Master's program at Touro helped guide the best practices for digital learning, including working with teacher colleagues to maximize the available software tools to ensure student success was as high as could be under the circumstances.

Our many Public Health alumni working with the County of Solano, Napa, Contra Costa and beyond to help shape guidelines that allowed daily life to continue as safely as possible.

Pharmacists aided greatly in the development of COVID vaccines and once those vaccines became available for public distribution, our College of Pharmacy students, alumni, and faculty were on the frontlines of the vaccination roll out, protecting first responders, teachers, older Americans, those in high-risk categories and eventually the greater public. They weren't alone in that effort. Students, alumni, and faculty from the College of Osteopathic Medicine were engaged in clinics across Northern California to get as many people vaccinated as quickly as possible.

With our diverse campus, Touro volunteers were able to reach out to many underserved communities, some of whom have English as a second language. Our bi-lingual volunteers helped explain the vaccination process and answered any questions guests had in their native languages.

Nurses and hospitalists began treating COVID patients, often tirelessly, facing unknown risks about an infection people knew next to nothing about at the time. Nursing



AARON ROSENBLATT/DAILY REPUBLIC FILE (2021)

Francisco Rodriguez receives a Covid-19 vaccination shot from Chi Pham at the Public Safety Academy in Fairfield, July 16. Touro University partnered with the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District to operate the vaccine clinic.

volunteers, working with volunteers from other Touro programs, helped address the outbreak among the unhoused, using the opportunity to also tend to many untreated conditions, helping some secure permanent housing in the process.

Physician Assistant alumni, with their ability to effectively reach rural areas, helped keep the outbreak as contained as could be in remote farming communities, Indian Reservations, and other remote areas. Pharmacists, physicians, and nurses also aided in this effort.

TUC's motto, To Serve, To Lead, To Teach, is more than slogan to emblazon on letterhead and merchandise. Our campus community believes in this motto greatly, and our students, alumni, and faculty live daily.

We are so very proud and humbled that we were able to help keep our communities safe throughout this pandemic, and we are incredibly grateful to attract the type of professionals and students that help make this possible.

We don't stand alone, of course. We partnered throughout all of this with Kaiser Permanente, NorthBay Medical, Sutter Health, Medic Ambulance, Solano County Office of Education, and Partnership HealthPlan, whom we thank greatly for their bravery and compassion. •

member testimonial



Dear Voice of Business readers,

I am the Chairman of the Board of Directors for Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce. Being a part of the Chamber is one of the best decisions our company could have made. It allows the

company to leave footprints in the community. We have been able to establish community partners and forge good working relationships. The Chamber offers a variety of benefits to companies based on sponsorship levels however, there is no level that is too small to get your company in the forefront of the business community. The Chamber also offers various ways to improve, grow, and promote your business such as hosting a mixer, marketing assistance and partnering in our community to make it a better place to have a business or work and live.

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