

Valpo Strategic Plan results 2020 to 2023

- 1. Establish a program with Valpo Community Schools, Porter County Career Center, and Ivy Tech Community College to expose students to various Career Opportunities for future Employment.**

Action Taken:

In 2022, the Chamber President started making presentations to middle school students. He spoke to classes about various career opportunities and how the Chamber could be a resource for bringing in career vocational speakers. In 2023 the Chamber and some of our insurance brokers met with the Assistant Superintendent to offer Insurance Career Programs for high school students attending Valpo and Chesterton high schools. Additional programs are under consideration by the Superintendent of Valpo School System.

- 2. Research and take a position on the upcoming referendum the Valpo Community Schools will be taking before the voters.**

Action Taken:

In Spring of 2022 before the referendum vote, the Valpo Chamber took a Board policy position to support the Valpo Schools Referendum to increase the school taxes to add money to the school budget. In the May primary election, the referendum passed by the voters to increase taxes to support the schools.

- 3. Develop a systematic method to reach out to members in small focus groups and periodic survey.**

Action Taken:

Due to a major construction renovation in the spring of 2023 of the administrative offices at the Valpo Chamber, this project was rescheduled for 2024 in early fall. The ICEA Survey will be sent out to all members of the Chamber in a Monkey survey.

- 4. Alter our computer technology purchases to ensure each employee can work remotely when conditions dictate.**

Action Taken:

Every employee was provided with their own laptop so that they could work remotely when conditions dictated. Their laptops were all connected to the Chamber server through our VPN.

5. Collaborate with City Officials on updating the comprehensive plan to be more encouraging for economic development.

Action Taken

In early 2023 the public policy division of the Chamber started talking with the Planning Director and Mayor about the need to review and update the comprehensive plan of city. City officials felt that since the mayor was not going to run for a second term this process would best be started in 2024 for our first term of the new administration since staffing and city council positions could change.

6. Complete the Accreditation application for submission and approval to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Action Taken:

In 2022, two Vice Presidents of the organization with a combined 50-year chamber service retired from the organization. The President spent a significant time recruiting new staff members for those two positions in the second half of 2022. In 2023, two additional staff members left the organization and the president continued recruiting additional staff and the necessary time to complete the Accreditation processes was taken up with orienting new staff and additional recruiting. This strategic plan of Accreditation will need to be folded into the next plan due to its time-consuming block by all staff.