

Fond du Lac Area Foundation Elects Ahern, Hornung, and Shady to Board of Directors

The Fond du Lac Area Foundation recently welcomed Tripp Ahern, David Hornung, and Loree Shady to the board of directors.

John E. “Tripp” Ahern

John E. “Tripp” Ahern is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of J.F. Ahern Co. A native of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, Ahern attended St. Mary’s Springs High School, and earned an Associate Degree in HVAC and a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering technology from the Milwaukee School of Engineering. Upon graduation from MSOE in 1986, he spent two years as an estimator and project manager for mechanical contractors in New York. In 1988, he joined J.F. Ahern as a Project Manager. He was named Mechanical Department Manager in 1990, and assumed President and Chief Operating Officer responsibilities in 1994. Ahern was named Chief Executive Officer in 1997. In 2018, he was named Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Tripp Ahern is the fifth generation of the Ahern family to lead the company and serves on its Management Committee and Board of Directors. He has been very active with the Mechanical Contractors Association of America, the Mechanical Contractors Association of Wisconsin, the Associated General Contractors of Wisconsin, and has served on various national committees. He previously served on the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Associated General Contractors and also as President of AGC’s Subcontractor Division Board of Directors. Ahern was also a member of the Fond du Lac Area Joint Plumbing Apprenticeship Committee.

In addition to his business career, Ahern is active in local community service. He is a member of the Fond du Lac Rotary Club, and is a past Chairman of the Fond du Lac Area Association of Commerce, and past President of South Hills Country Club. Ahern is a past Co-Chairman of the Fond du Lac Family YMCA Annual Campaign Committee, past Co-Chairman of St. Agnes Hospital’s Hospice Hope fundraiser and has also played an active role in fundraising for the Fond du Lac Area United Way.

David Hornung

David (Dave) Hornung is a life-long Fond du Lac resident. Dave is a 1971 graduate of St. Mary’s Springs High School and attended St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business & Communications. He then went on to earn a Master of Science in Advertising from the University of Illinois Champaign/Urbana, IL, and was also a Dale Carnegie Instructor in Human Relations classes.

Dave began his professional career in 1976 with the Ad-Scape Advertising Agency that he co-founded in Champaign/Urbana, IL. He then went on to own and operate from 1979-2019 the Graphic Center Inc. in Fond du Lac, WI. Started from the ground up in his extra bedroom creating flyers, portfolios and advertisements, Dave created award-winning designs for clients throughout the state of Wisconsin and beyond. Dave started Wisnet.com, an internet marketing firm, in 1993 until it was eventually taken on by new ownership. Dave also started a sign imaging business to compliment the print business in 2005. Dave retired in 2019 after spending 40 years running an owner-operated business.

In addition to his professional career, Dave has been very active in community organizations and affiliations. Dave has been involved with Berry House (Board of Directors, 6 years), Fond du Lac Parking and Traffic Board Member (10 years), Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Fond du Lac

County (Board of Directors), United Way of Fond du Lac County (Board of Directors, 10 years), Fond du Lac Convention & Visitors Bureau (Board of Directors - two-time Past President), Agnesian Charity Golf Open (Co-chair and member, 23 years), Fond du Lac Business Builders (founding member, 18 years), Business Networking International (member, 2 years), National Association of Quick Printers (member & session presenter, 16 years), CPrint International (member, 7 years), Fond du Lac Noon Rotary Club (Past President, 34 years), District Advisor for Rotary International Foundation, Marian University Trustee (9 years), Fondy 100 Gives (Board member), Team Fond du Lac Cyclery (rider/member), DuTriRun - Race the Lake Bike Race Ambassador, Bike to the Beat - Safety Assistance Coordinator, Ride for Carol - coordinator and donor, CEBO Annual Bike Ride - participant and donor, Birky 67 Bike Ride - assistance and donor, Ride for Brenna - participant and donor, and various police and community events.

Loree Shady

Loree Shady is a life-long resident of Fond du Lac County. Loree attended University of Wisconsin - Fond du Lac and obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Finance at University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh. She is a Vice President with Hometown Bank where she has spent 20 years in commercial banking. Loree is a member of Fond du Lac Rotary, where she is also a past board member. She is a founding member of Fondy 100 Gives. Loree has been married to her husband Kevin for 17 years, has two daughters, Alexa and Abbey, and three grandchildren. She enjoys spending time with family, friends, reading, and gardening.

Tripp Ahern replaced retiring board member, Bob Fale; David Hornung replaced retiring board member, Jack Twohig; and Loree Shady replaced retiring board member, Steve Cramer. Thank you to all of the retiring board members for their service and leadership to the Fond du Lac Area Foundation and the community.

The Fond du Lac Area Foundation was established with one fund from a contribution of \$53,000 from the disbanded Fond du Lac Children's Home in 1975. As of 2019, 44 years later, community members have established over 365 funds and one supporting organization, the Sophia Foundation, Inc., with a combined market value of more than \$43,000,000. Each of those funds represent a unique charitable interest, including support for scholarships, churches, youth activities, the arts, the needy, the environment, and more. Those endowment funds are now generating more than \$1,400,000 each year that is being returned to the community in the form of charitable grants and scholarships.

Current Board Members serving as volunteers to the Fond du Lac Area Foundation are Tripp Ahern, Dawn M. Colwin, Steven J. Dilling, Thomas G. Gross, David J. Hornung, Carol B. Hyland, Therese Massey, Paul W. Rosenfeldt, Aaron A. Sadoff, Loree L. Shady, and Karen A. Wuest.

If you would like more information on the Fond du Lac Area Foundation, please contact (920) 921-2215 or visit www.fdlareafoundation.com.