



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## Chair

**Briana McDonald - Doubletree**  
[briana.mcdonald@hilton.com](mailto:briana.mcdonald@hilton.com)  
Member Since March 2017



Briana McDonald is a Catering Manager and Wedding Planner to the stars. (Local Rochester Celebrities count, right?) She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stout in 2011 where she majored in Hotel Restaurant and Tourism Management with a concentration in Event and Meeting Planning. Upon graduation she quickly found a home at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel where she still resides nearly seven years later.

Briana enjoys being involved in the community and is a part of the Rochester Area Chambers New Member Outreach Committee as well as the RDA's Downtown Culture Initiatives Committee. It was outside commitments such as these that gained her the prestigious 2013 Rochester Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year Award.

When Briana isn't spending time with friends you can find her sipping wine on Sundays in her hometown of Byron with her parents. What little spare time she has left is dedicated to her school work towards the completion of her M.A. in Organizational Leadership through St. Mary's University.

## Vice-Chair

**Kate Van Hout - WSN**  
[kate.vanhout@wsn.us.com](mailto:kate.vanhout@wsn.us.com)  
Member Since April 2017



Kate Van Hout is a Revit guru and Architectural Technician. She started her career working in the Residential industry designing homes, which eventually lead to a BIM Manager and Architectural Technician position with Widseth Smith Nolting in Rochester, MN. Spending her free time on the lakes in her home town of Alexandria, MN, or Hiking at some of the secluded parks in the Southeast Minnesota area are among some of her favorite things to do.

Kate has been pretty involved with the Rochester Area Builders since her move to Rochester, MN joining her first committee, the RAB Community Relations Committee, in January of 2016. Since then she has also joined the MN Children's Museum of Rochester's Events & Sponsorship Committee, the National Association of Women in Construction's STEAM committee, and CADD Technology Committee.

## Past-Chair

**Alissa Moe - Cambria**  
[Alissa.Moe@cambriausa.com](mailto:Alissa.Moe@cambriausa.com)  
Member Since March 2017



Alissa Moe is a Market Representative for Cambria in the Rochester market. She has worked at Cambria since 2015. She attended the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, where she majored in Marketing and Communications. She spent her time at the U working with various businesses to develop their brand locally and ramp up community engagement. These experiences gave her the skills to help Cambria increase community involvement and partnerships with local small businesses. Her position allows her to network and build relationships with experts in the building and remodeling industry.

In her free time, she enjoys hitting the gym and practicing yoga. When she isn't entertaining business partners at Minnesota sporting events, she tries to sneak in a round of golf or a happy hour with friends.

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**Vision:** An active, connected, and engaged group of young professionals building communities in southeastern Minnesota.

## Committee Members

Briana McDonald  
Kate Van Hout  
Alissa Moe  
Blair Bestor  
Alex Boecher  
Tyler Lenzner  
Vanessa Hines  
Ryan Phipps

## RAB Staff

Rebekah Nielsen  
John Eischen

## Get Social with Us

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# COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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**Blair Bestor, PE - MEP Associates, LLC**  
[blairb@mepassociates.com](mailto:blairb@mepassociates.com)  
Member Since November 2017

I am a mechanical engineer for MEP Associates and have been with the company since March of 2014. Prior to this, I worked as an intern for an engineering firm in Minneapolis since October of 2010. I received my professional engineering license in December 2018. I grew up in Harmony, MN and went to school at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities and majored in mechanical engineering. I am also a member of the professional engineering group ASHRAE and have been for over 5 years. I joined the Rochester ASHRAE chapter committee when I moved down to Rochester in the fall of 2016 where I help set up seminars, tours, and our annual golf fundraiser. In my free time I enjoy being outdoors where I can hunt, fish, and golf.



**Alex Boecher, PE (MN) - Braun Intertec**  
[aboecher@braunintertec.com](mailto:aboecher@braunintertec.com)  
Member Since March 2017

Alex Boecher is an environmental engineer for Braun Intertec in the Rochester office. He has worked at Braun Intertec since 2014 when he moved to the Rochester area with his wife. He attended the University of Wisconsin – Madison, where he received a Masters in geological engineering. He keeps busy working with commercial lenders, developers, and construction firms to address environmental contamination and asbestos/lead paint issues on sites throughout Rochester and the surrounding communities. He engages with the community through Rochester Area Builders, Habitat for Humanity, the RCTC STEM Summit, and interactive classroom sessions with local schools about geology and water resources.

Alex and his wife recently returned from a three-month around-the-world tour adding unique pieces to his collection of fossils and rocks. He now spends his time remodeling his Silver Lake-area home and participating in various sports with the Rochester Parks League.



**Tyler Lenzner - Knutson Construction**  
[tlenzner@knutsonconstruction.com](mailto:tlenzner@knutsonconstruction.com)  
Member Since March 2017

Tyler is an active community member and takes every opportunity to give back. His strong values coupled with his assortment of project experience makes him a unique fit for this team. His flexible, proactive, and fun loving approach to everyday challenges make him an exceptional communicator and problem solver, which improves quality, productivity, and efficiency. Tyler is extremely organized and detail oriented making him a natural at effectively coordinating activities and managing a multitude of personnel. His work ethic and strong communication skills make him just the type of leader needed to assist this team.



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**Vanessa Hines - WSN**  
[vanessa.hines@wsn.us.com](mailto:vanessa.hines@wsn.us.com)  
Member Since March 2017

Vanessa Hines is a Civil Engineer for Widseth Smith Nolting. She is a Washington native and 2010 graduate from Seattle University. She began her career as a Project Engineer for a water utility before accepting a position at WSN. In 2013 she relocated to Rochester with her husband, who works for Mayo. Her background is in environmental engineering and works on commercial development projects in SE Minnesota. She is responsible for site planning, stormwater management, utility design, regulatory compliance, and construction observation. Vanessa is a member of National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC), National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), and is a member of this years Leadership Greater Rochester (LGR) class with the Rochester Chamber of Commerce. In her free time, Vanessa can be found traveling to see family, hosting wine nights with friends, or playing at the park with her bulldog (lab-bulldog mix).



**Ryan Phipps - Kimely-Horn**  
[Ryan.Phipps@kimley-horn.com](mailto:Ryan.Phipps@kimley-horn.com)  
Member Since April 2017

Ryan Phipps is a civil engineer with a background in a multitude of market sectors including government, healthcare, retail, commercial, industrial and education. Ryan spent the first five years of his career in Cedar Rapids, Iowa before moving to Rochester and accepting a position with Kimley-Horn and Associates in 2015.

Ryan's free time is typically spent with his dog or at his in-laws nearby lake cabin. That is unless the Iowa Hawkeyes are playing. Then Ryan can be found in Iowa City cheering on his alma mater.



**Dani Buck - MN 97.5-KNXR**  
[DaniB@MN975.com](mailto:DaniB@MN975.com)  
Member Since October 2017

Dani Buck is an Account Executive at MN 97.5-KNXR here in Rochester. She moved back to Rochester from La Crosse where she received her Associates of Applied Science in Marketing from Western Technical College. During college, Dani worked as a Manager at American Eagle, and bartended at Schmitty's Time Out Tavern in La Crescent. She is a strong believer in networking and building relationships throughout the community. Along with being on the Executive Committee for Forty Below, she is the President of the W.I.N. BNI chapter, a Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador, and advocating for local non-profits. In her free time, you can find Dani powerlifting at the gym, or at her favorite bar-Charlie's Eatery and Pub, belting out Karaoke on Wednesdays



# STAFF MEMBERS

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**Rochester Area Builders**  
**Executive Director**  
 John Eischen  
[JEischen@RochesterAreaBuilders.com](mailto:JEischen@RochesterAreaBuilders.com)

John Eischen is Executive Director of Rochester Area Builders, Inc. (RAB) an education and event management company that reinvests its profits in advocacy on behalf of the construction industry in southeast Minnesota (in other words, a local builders' trade association). With 25 years' experience in the construction industry, John is uniquely qualified to understand the challenges and opportunities that the industry faces and works hard to provide RAB members with an environment that helps them to be successful.

John studied English and Business Administration at The Winona State University while working as a bartender and waiter. Unbeknownst to John, that job experience would also be beneficial to his role at RAB when preparing for events, meetings and interacting with RAB members.

In his spare time, John enjoys brewing and consuming home brewed beer which goes hand-in-hand with his other pursuit of sidestepping the quagmire that is living with teenage daughters.



**Rochester Area Builders**  
**Membership and Education Director**  
 Rebekah Nielsen  
[RNielsen@RochesterAreaBuilders.com](mailto:RNielsen@RochesterAreaBuilders.com)

Rebekah Nielsen is the Membership & Education Director for Rochester Area Builders. She organizes the monthly networking events, annual holiday party, Remodelers Tour and Studs, Struts & Stilettos, in addition to her responsibilities with membership and education. One of her biggest accomplishments was receiving the 2008 Membership Growth Award from the Builders Association of MN. Rebekah is currently a member of the American Heart Association's Executive Leadership Team, the MN Children's Museum of Rochester's Events & Sponsorship Committee, and the National Association of Women in Construction's Membership & Marketing Committee and 25th Anniversary Committee.

