



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mission: Empower Rochester's young professionals to advance their professional and personal life by creating a welcoming atmosphere to cultivate long-term connections.

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

Committee Members

- Katie Olson - *Chair*
- Briana McDonald - *Past Chair*
- Matt Diny
- Adam Giannini
- Mark Miller
- Kate Van Hout
- Blair Bestor
- Tyler Lenzner
- Dani Buck

RAB Staff

- Rebekah Nielsen
- John Eischen

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Chair

Katie Olson - Kimley-Horn
Katelyn.Olson@kimley-horn.com
Member Since April 2017

Katie is a civil engineer at Kimley-Horn & Associates with experience in multi-family, commercial, industrial, retail, and solar and wind renewable energy developments. Katie's education is in physics and civil engineering from the University of Minnesota Upon graduating, Katie relocated to Rochester and has been here since. In her free time, Katie enjoys joining her friends at The Half Barrel listening to local musicians. She also enjoys long walks with her pup Kiera baby along Rochester's many trails. Rollerblading makes her list of favorites, but the accidents that inevitably come along with it seem to set that one back a little bit. Driving forward with her career as a civil engineer, Katie defines success as "living the life I'd want to live again".



Past Chair

Briana McDonald - Doubletree
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.



Tyler Lenzner - Knutson Construction
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.





COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Blair Bestor, PE - MEP Associates, LLC
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.



Mark Miller, Assoc. ASLA - Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH)
mmiller@sehinc.com
Member Since November 2018

Mark Miller is a landscape architect with an emphasis on natural resources management and environmental design. He has worked at Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH) since 2016 following graduation from North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota. At SEH, he has taken on the role of a company-wide technology and visual engagement expert, as well as, the Rochester office GIS specialist. He has worked on a wide range of projects throughout the United States.

In Mark's free time he usually spending time with friends and family and attempting to get better at volleyball through multiple leagues in the summer. He also enjoys hiking with his dog, nature photography, and creating drawings/digital artwork.



Matt Diny - Weis Builders, Inc.
mattdiny@Weisbuilders.com
Member Since August 2017

Matt Diny is a Project Manager with Weis Builders, Inc in the Rochester market. Matt has been with Weis since graduating from UW-Stout in 2013. He has recently completed projects in the Rochester market including the Hilton Home2Suites, Northwest Commercial (home of the new Dunkin'), as well as numerous renovation projects for Mayo Clinic.

Matt's free time is typically centered around a sporting activity – whether its watching one of his Wisconsin sports teams or playing in one of the many Rochester rec leagues. Matt and his wife, Ashley, also spend as much time as possible traveling to new and exciting destinations.

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Vice-Chair
Kate Van Hout - WSN
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.



Dani Buck - MN 97.5-KNXR
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



Adam Giannini - Meyer Borgman Johnson
agiannini@mbjeng.com
Member Since October 2017

Adam Giannini is an engineer in training for structural at Meyer Borgman Johnson in Rochester. He has worked at MJB since 2017 after he graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth with a degree in Civil Engineering. In 2013 he enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard as a Carpentry and Masonry Specialist and is currently in the 850th Engineering Construction Company out of Cambridge, Minnesota. During his time in the Army he was deployed in 2018/19 to the Middle East, spent a month in Croatia rebuilding a town hall, and various trainings and construction missions in the states. In his free time, he enjoys hitting the gym and the links in the summer and the hockey rink and broomball rinks in the winter. Most weekends of the year you can find him at his family's cabin in western Wisconsin. Other than the 40 Below Executive Committee, he is also a member on the RAB Board of Directors.





STAFF MEMBERS



**Rochester Area Builders
Executive Director
John Eischen
John@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
Rebekah@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.

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