



CANTON
REGIONAL
CHAMBERSM



CANTON REGIONAL CHAMBER



STARK FORUM

PRESENTED BY  AULTCARE

STARK FORUM: A SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 27 • 8-10 AM

Stark State College

PRESENTED BY:  AULTCARE

SPONSORED BY:



THIS SUMMER IN CANTON!



EXPERIENCE
the Tradition
VOLUNTEER NOW!



As a Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival volunteer, you'll join a team that's 2,500 people strong! These volunteers support and staff the 18 community and national events we produce each summer here in Canton, the Hall of Fame City!

WHY VOLUNTEER? VOLUNTEERING ALLOWS YOU TO:

- Create a powerful and rewarding bond with fellow volunteers
- Experience great networking opportunities
- Take pride in your community and support good causes
- Assist current Enshrinees, Hall of Famers, and dignitaries
- Contribute to the social and economic vitality of our community

JUST A FEW OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

BALLOON CLASSIC // UP, UP & AWAY 5K // COMMUNITY PARADE // ENSHRINEES' GOLD JACKET DINNER
CLASS OF 2025 UNSCRIPTED & TAILGATE // FASHION SHOW // GRAND PARADE

**LEARN MORE &
SIGN UP TODAY!**



STARK FORUM | MARCH 2025



Moderator

Madison Connor
Senior VP, Regulatory Compliance
and External Affairs, Employers Health

Madison Connor is Senior Vice President, Regulatory Compliance and External Affairs at Employers Health. In her role, Madison is responsible for monitoring state and federal legislation and providing updates to local and national employers about how these efforts impact employer-sponsored health plans.

She obtained her bachelor's degree from The University of Toledo and her law degree from The University of Akron School of Law. Outside of work, Madison is an avid volunteer in the community.

She currently serves on the board of directors for CommQuest Services, the Domestic Violence Project, Inc. and the Women's Board of Aultman Hospital. She also co-chairs the United Way of Greater Stark County's Young Leaders Society.

COMMUNITY SALUTE WINNER



Award Recipient

Jeff Burner
Realtor, Keller Williams

Jeff Burner is a dedicated realtor at Keller Williams Legacy Group Realty with a strong commitment to his community. A proud graduate of East Canton High School and David Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee, Jeff brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his real estate career.

Throughout his career, Jeff has shown a deep passion for service, volunteering and chairing on various festival committees and taking on leadership roles within his community. He is a past president of the East Canton Rotary Club and has served as a board member of the Greater East Canton Community Development Association.

Jeff is also a passionate advocate for local economic growth, working with Helping Osnaburg Prosper Economically. In addition to his professional and volunteer roles, Jeff is a dedicated member and deacon at Indian Run Christian Church, where he actively contributes to the spiritual growth of his congregation.

COMMUNITY SALUTE WINNER



Award Recipient

Derek Watkins

Owner, The Junkluggers of Akron & Canton

Derek Watkins is a proud husband and father. His two daughters are 7 and 9, and keep him busy with school, ballet, karate and softball. He and his wife, Sarah, had their “meet cute” in Carrollton OH, while Derek was traveling for work in the pipeline industry, and they celebrated their 10-year anniversary last year.

His hobbies are reading (yes that counts), weightlifting, volunteer work and the pursuit of continuous self-improvement. Derek opened the local Junkluggers franchise in Canton in the Spring of 2022, where his goal was to chase the American Dream while balancing his time spent with the family.



STARK FORUM | MARCH 2025



The Panel

Allyson Bussey
President & CEO, Visit Canton

Allyson (Ally) Bussey has spent her entire career marketing, developing, and advocating for the travel and tourism industry. She has been at Visit Canton, the Stark County Convention & Visitors' Bureau, for over 18 years. During this time, she has worn many hats, beginning as the Tourism Marketing Manager and, in 2016, was appointed as the President/CEO. Before her time at Visit Canton, she spent eight years at the Amish Door Village as Marketing Director.

Ally's passion for tourism has driven her to serve in many industry leadership roles, including serving on the Ohio Travel Association Executive Board, a co-founder of a statewide tourism association named Ohio Has IT, and a Past President of the Ohio Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus. She also serves on several local Boards, including Arts in Stark, National First Ladies Library, Downtown Canton Partnership, Strengthening Stark Trustee Board, YMCA Central Stark County Board, and the Capital Campaigns Committee for Stark Community Foundation. She has been awarded ystark's Twenty under 40, Adventure in NE Ohio Leadership Excellence Award, and the 2014 Ohio Travel Industry Emerging Leader Award. Ally is a graduate of Kent State University, Leadership Stark County, and the Ohio Tourism Leadership Academy. She resides in Canton with her husband, Jason, and daughter, Avery, who attends Baldwin Wallace University.

A SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS



The Panel

Domenic Ferrante
COO, Sol Harris/Day Architecture

Domenic Ferrante is a Perry High School graduate, went onto Kent State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture in 1995. He has worked at Sol Harris/Day Architecture for over 27 years. He is a registered architect in Ohio, became a Partner in 2007, in 2013 he became the Chief Operating Officer for the firm. Domenic's focus is working with the firm's education, recreation and institutional clients. Domenic is a LEED Accredited Professional and a member of the American Institute of Architects. He is also a graduate of the Leadership Stark County Signature Program (24th class) and is heavily invested in the success of the local community through volunteer work.

Among his involvement, he volunteers for PFHOF Enshrinement week (18 years and counting), 6 years of those years Vice-Chairman of the HOF Security Committee, Board member for the Paul & Carol David YMCA (11 years and counting), Board member for the Finance Committee on the YMCA of Central Stark County (7 years and counting). He has also been a volunteer for Leadership Stark County Signature Program - Retreat Committee (6 years), Arts-in-Stark and Family Resource Advisory Group (FRAG) at Stark County DD.

STARK FORUM | MARCH 2025



The Panel

Vi Leggett
CDO, The Aultman Foundation

Vi Leggett has devoted more than 40 years of leadership experience to Aultman Health Foundation in a variety of clinical and non-clinical areas. Prior to joining the Aultman Foundation leadership team, she was Vice President for Community Engagement at Aultman College. In her current role, she works collaboratively to connect grateful communities with philanthropic opportunities within the Aultman organization. Having served on various committees and boards throughout the community, Leggett is currently the immediate past chairperson of Women's Impact, Inc., a member of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Endowment Board and most recently the chairperson for the Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinees' Roundtable.

Leggett is a graduate from Kent State University with an Associate of Applied Sciences in Nursing degree, Ashland University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the University of Akron with a Master of Science in Nursing. Her family includes her husband, Don, along with her daughter, son-in-law and grandson.

A SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS



The Panel

Donna Shadle Community Volunteer

Donna Shadle has volunteered for the last 35 years for the Canton Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame Festival activities. She has served as a chairperson for three different committees, as well as participating in Leadership Stark County, and was chairperson of the Summertime Kids Grant Committee and other events put on by the Chamber, like Vintage Canton. She is currently in her 18th year on the board of CommQuest Services. She served as co-chair of the centennial celebration of the 100th anniversary of CommQuest a few years ago and shared as Chair of the first annual Taste of Hope. She continues to volunteer whether it's for the federal government survey, sorting clothes, passing out Christmas gifts or whatever else she is asked to do for the agency!

She's is a retired educator: teacher and administrator for 40+ years. She was a state representative to the NCEA, Chair for the Ohio Catholic School Accreditation Association, consultant for Sadlier Inc Phonics Series, and presenter at national conferences. While bringing up a family of four children in the community, Donna and her husband volunteered with sports and school activities, including presenting Broadway plays at Central Catholic High School for 13 years. All while she completed two master's degrees in early childhood and education specialist. She is very pleased that many of her seven grandchildren realize volunteering in their community is very important. She is also the great grandmother of a great granddaughter!



CANTON
REGIONAL
CHAMBER SM



**The Stark Forum is a periodic event series
produced by the Canton Regional Chamber of
Commerce and presented by AultCare.
Each forum brings together regional leaders
to address key public interest issues shaping
Stark County's future and fostering meaningful
dialogue and collaboration.**