CANTON REGIONAL CHAMBER 2026 ANNUAL MEETING FEATURED SPEAKER

LUCIAN BOLDEA

President and CEO of The Timken Company



Lucian Boldea serves as president and chief executive officer and a member of the Board of Directors of The Timken Company. He joined the company in 2025.

Boldea has over 25 years of global leadership experience spanning industrial technology, advanced manufacturing and digital automation. He leads with a strong commitment to customers, championing innovation, driving operational excellence and building high-performing, inclusive teams. Boldea is focused on taking the company to new levels of financial performance by advancing Timken's strategy.

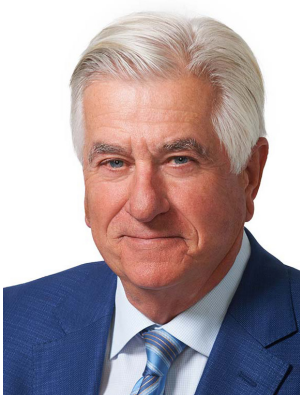
Boldea joined Timken from Honeywell, where he served as president and CEO of Honeywell Industrial Automation — a global business segment with over $10 billion in sales. Prior to that role, he led Honeywell Performance Materials and Technologies. At Honeywell and previously at Eastman Chemical Company, as executive vice president, he delivered transformative results by scaling businesses, accelerating innovation and instilling operational and financial discipline across global teams.

Boldea serves on the Board of Directors of National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and the American Chemistry Council. He holds a doctorate degree in organic chemistry from the University of Florida, a master's degree in business administration in finance from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of West Florida.

THE DENNIS P. SAUNIER AWARD FOR REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

BOB DEHOFF

CEO DeHoff Development



Most people look at an abandoned clay pit and see an abandoned clay pit. Bob DeHoff sees a business park. Then he starts figuring out the sewer lines, the financing, and which public officials he needs to call. In 1969, encouraged by community leaders including Henry Timken, Bob and his father, along with local investors, bought the property that became Akcan Industrial Park. The 370-acre site had three enormous clay pits, abandoned coal mines, difficult terrain, and a local nickname that probably did not help with marketing: the "Town Dump." It also crossed county lines and lacked municipal water and a sanitary sewer system. Apparently, an ordinary development project would have been too easy. Today, Akcan is home to dozens of businesses that employ hundreds of people in our community.

Through his leadership at DeHoff Development Company, that way of looking at the world has kept him busy for more than five decades—and given the rest of us plenty to be thankful for.

As the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce honors Robert "Bob" DeHoff with the Dennis P. Saunier Award for Regional Leadership, his story reminds us that a community's future often begins with someone willing to look at a difficult piece of real estate and imagine what it could become. For Bob, that has generally meant getting quite a few other people involved, too.

After graduating from Mount Union College and a stint as a medic in the U.S. Army Reserves, Bob joined the family business. His medical training may have prepared him well for real estate development: stay calm, assess the situation, and expect a few complications.

Between Akron and Canton, including lands adjacent to the Akron-Canton Airport, the family's work over some 60 years has included assembling more than 1,200 acres, extending water and sewer service, rezoning hundreds of acres, and holding property until development could fit the community's long-term plans. With hundreds of acres still inventoried for development, Bob is counting on his son Dan to carry on the family vision.

There may be a housing shortage, but not because of Bob DeHoff —over the last 55+ years, Bob and his partners have developed well over 30 mixed-use neighborhoods in Northeast Ohio consisting of thousands of homes, apartments, and retail businesses. DeHoff developments are always distinctive, high quality, and stand the test of time.

Tonight's recognition honors a partnership that carries special meaning and makes tonight's Dennis Saunier award especially fitting. When private investment was unwilling to commit to developing a Class A Industrial Park in Canton, Denny Saunier called Bob for advice. "The two of them decided on a novel idea." With help from local foundations funding the Canton Chamber Foundation, the Chamber Foundation, along with the DeHoff Family Foundation, bought 144 acres and developed the Mills Business Park. Today, it is home to several industries that employ hundreds in our community. Both foundations are committed to reinvesting profits in further economic initiatives that benefit Stark County.

Bob used this same concept when, in 2016, he brought together six local foundations to purchase and develop the 327-acre Stark County Farm in Navarre, Ohio. Today, The Foundation Business Park is home to Hendrickson Manufacturing and a Tractor Supply Distribution facility. Again, like Mills, profits will be reinvested to support the county's future economic development. As they say"The gift that keeps on giving."

Bob and his wife, Linda, have brought this same energy to philanthropy. Bob and Linda have been recognized for leading many community campaign drives, including United Way's Alexis de Tocqueville Society, Arts In Stark, Stark Parks, and many more. Above all, their children, Molly and Dan, and six grandchildren, Bill, Joe, Jackie, Miles, Drew, and Claire, are at the center of their lives.

With Dan now leading the family's development work into the next generation, Bob's outlook remains the same and is expressed in a few simple words: "The best is yet to come!" After 55 years, Bob still brings the energy of a man just getting started. If he takes the scenic route home tonight, someone might want to check whether there is a vacant piece of land along the way.