NORTH TAMPA BAY CHAMBER

FY27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPLICATION

Ms Jody Thorson

COMPANY	PROFESSIONAL TITLE
Tampa Metropolitain YMCA	SVP Mission Advancement
SUBMISSION DATE	**APPLICANT**
2026/09/24	Jody Thorson

BOARD SERVICE

Why do you want to serve on the Chamber board?

I want to serve on the North Tampa Chamber Board because I believe strongly in the role that businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations can play together in creating a stronger and more connected community. Through my work with the YMCA, I have seen firsthand how recreation, wellness, and community engagement contribute to the overall quality of life and economic vitality of an area. I would welcome the opportunity to bring that perspective to the Chamber while giving back to the North Tampa community. I am particularly interested in helping strengthen connections between the business community and organizations that serve individuals and families every day, ensuring that recreation, lifestyle, wellness, and community needs are part of the broader conversation around North Tampa's growth.

What skills or expertise can you bring to the Chamber board?

I bring a combination of nonprofit leadership, community engagement, relationship-building, strategic planning, and business development experience. My position within the YMCA gives me a valuable perspective on recreation, wellness, lifestyle, families, and the needs of the broader community.

I also bring strategic experience in helping organizations move forward, identifying opportunities, developing partnerships, engaging stakeholders, and creating strategies that support sustainable growth. While I am not able to directly solicit funds in a fundraising capacity, I can provide significant value by helping develop fundraising and development strategies, identifying opportunities, strengthening relationships, and helping connect people and organizations around shared goals.

Most importantly, I enjoy bringing people together, understanding what matters to them, and finding ways to turn relationships into meaningful partnerships and community impact.

Will other nonprofit or professional commitments prevent you from fulfilling your commitment? If yes, what are they?

No. While I have professional responsibilities through my role with the YMCA and other community commitments, I understand the importance of active board participation and would ensure that I can fulfill the expectations and responsibilities associated with serving on the Chamber Board.

I also see my professional role as complementary to this opportunity, as it keeps me closely connected to the community and provides insight into the needs, opportunities, and partnerships that can benefit North Tampa.

Committee area in which you can contribute expertise or work

Chamber Foundation

Community organizations previously served

Board of Kaiser University, Tampa Chamber - Leadership Tampa Alumni, Chair for Membership

What aspect of board service appeals to you?

The opportunity to contribute strategically while building meaningful relationships is what appeals to me most. I enjoy being part of conversations that bring different perspectives together and lead to action.

I am particularly interested in contributing a recreation, wellness, lifestyle, and community perspective to the Board while also using my experience in strategy, relationship-building, partnerships, and engagement. Board service provides an opportunity not only to support the Chamber's current work but also to help identify new opportunities for collaboration and strengthen connections across the North Tampa community.

What do you hope to gain from board service?

I hope to gain a deeper understanding of the businesses, leaders, and organizations shaping North Tampa and to build relationships with people who are equally invested in the community's success.

I also see board service as an opportunity for professional and personal growth. I want to learn from other leaders, broaden my understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing local businesses, and better understand how the nonprofit, recreation, wellness, and business communities can work together.

Ultimately, I hope this experience allows me to both contribute and learn, bringing my own knowledge, relationships, and community perspective to the table while gaining insights and connections that will help me become a stronger community leader.

COMMITMENTS & ELIGIBILITY

Willing to submit to a background check

Yes

Willing to assist with recruitment and/or retention of members

Yes

Willing to personally visit at least three current members per year

Yes

Can contribute financial support through sponsorship or fundraising

Yes

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Preferred material for committee review

Resume/CV, LinkedIn Profile

Resume/CV uploaded

Resume_Jody_Thorson.pdf

Headshot uploaded

Profile Pic JT.jpg

LinkedIn profile

www.linkedin.com/in/jody-thorson-91a01712b