

Baroda

Fire Department



2025

Annual Report

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IN MEMORIAM

This year we open our annual report with a remembrance for retired Fire Chief Larry Reifschneider. Larry was a volunteer paramedic, firefighter and later Chief of the Baroda Fire Department. After his retirement, Larry also served on the Baroda Fire Board.

CHIEF LARRY REIFSCHNEIDER

On April 15, 2025, retired Chief Larry Reifschneider passed away.

The morning of April 23rd, members of your Baroda Fire Department, Weesaw Township Fire and Rescue and Bridgman Fire Department paid their final respects to Chief Larry Reifschneider.

Rest easy Chief. We have the watch from here.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

- One trainee joined the department
- Members attended FDIC
- One firefighter continued active membership in Michigan Technical Rescue Team – Region 5
- Setup monthly training schedule with two Mutual Aid Partners

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

Total number of fire calls 85

Total In-Person Training hours 1,086.75 hours

Total Online Training hours 135 hours

Total Donated hours 303 hours

RESPONSES BY APPARATUS

220 - 5

221 - 4

222 - 43

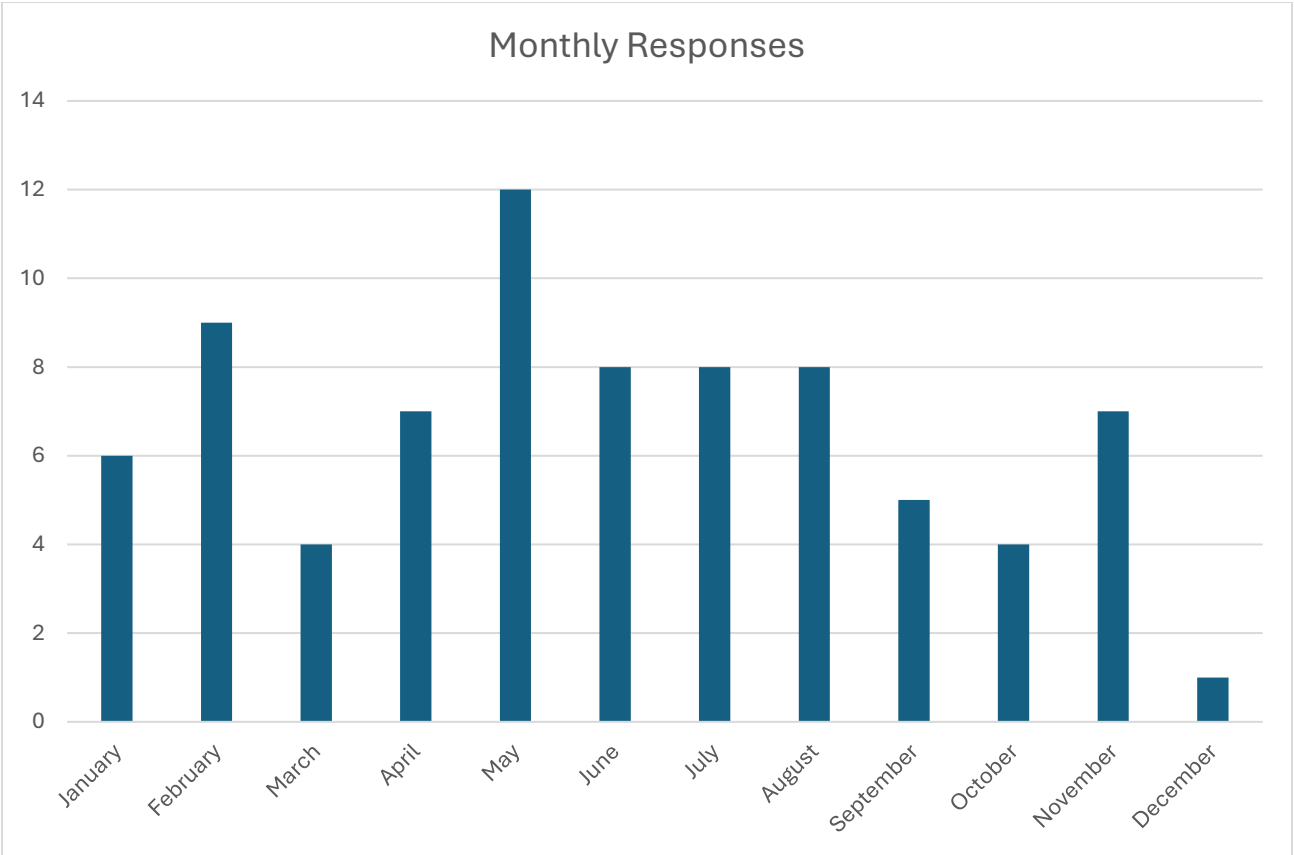
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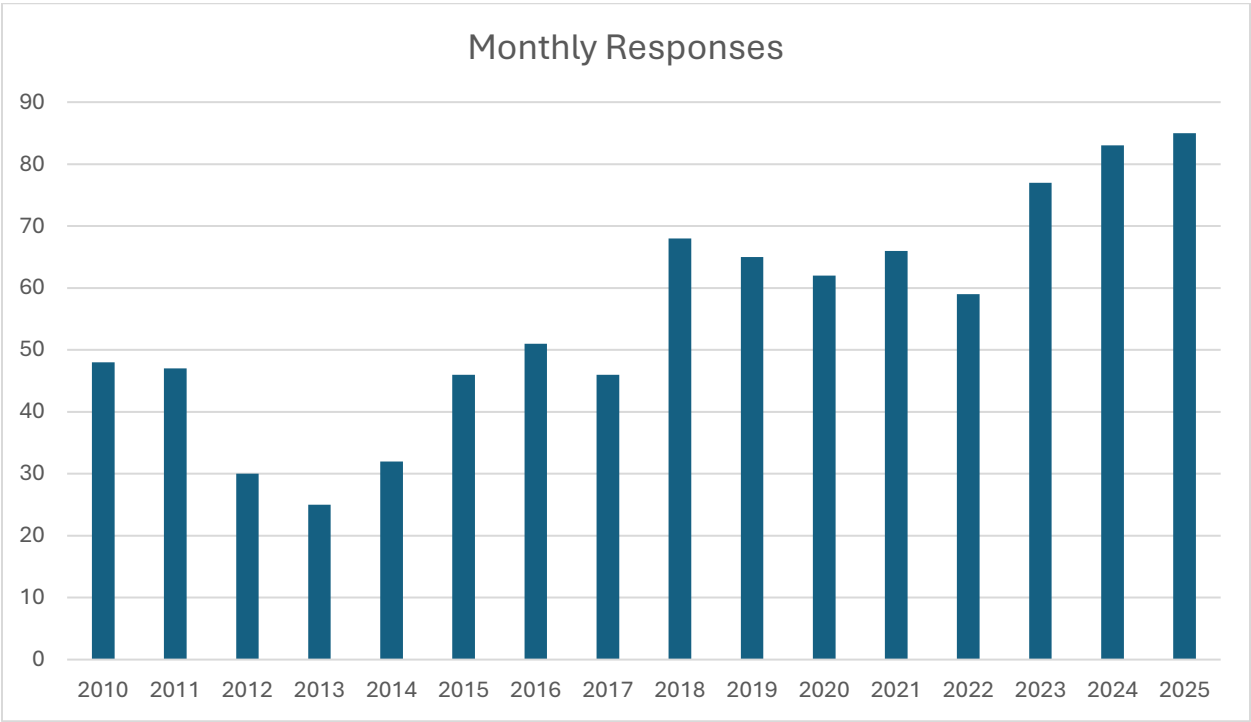
261 – 11

280 - 11

MONTHLY RESPONSES



COMPARISON OF RESPONSES SINCE 2010



Source: National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), U.S. Fire Administration, FEMA.

TRAINING

SEARCH AND RESCUE – JANUARY 2025

Last evening, your Baroda Firefighters, practiced Search and Rescue during our last training for February.

Several scenarios were conducted including, finding a missing infant, adult victim and firefighter rescue. We also worked on doing these things as a team and worked on communicating with each other.

Practicing here in a controlled environment keeps our skills up and allows us to better work on the fireground.



ICE RESCUE TRAINING

Received Christmas 2024, Mustang Suits for Ice Rescue.

This afternoon, members of your Baroda Fire Department were at the Township Park training on Ice Rescue.

After getting the suits in December, we were ready to train with them. We learned that in an ice rescue response, everyone plays a critical role in the rescue effort.

It was a good afternoon of training. Everyone learned something whether it was those certified to be on the ice or those on shore we all took something away today and now look forward to the next training to put what we learned into practice.

The Baroda Firefighters would like to thank [Medic 1 Ambulance](#) for standing by in the event we needed them.



GRAIN BIN RESCUE – SEPTEMBER 2025

On September 15, members of the Baroda Fire Department attended Grain Bin Rescue training along with other departments from across the area.

With grain bins across our township, this training is critical for our department. The training focused on skills and teamwork to make sure everyone has the skillsets needed to complete the task of a grain bin rescue safely.

Thanks to Weesaw Township Fire and Rescue for putting the training together and D&S Farm in Galien for having us there.

It was a great evening for enhancing our skills and knowledge.



ROYALTON BURN HOUSE – NOVEMBER 2025

The morning of November 15, members of the Baroda Fire Department had the opportunity to do training in a home to put real world scenarios into practice.

We practiced Search and Rescue, ladders, forcible entry, roof operations, hose advancement, ventilation and setting up a portable monitor. It was a great day for training!

The Baroda Firefighters would like to thank Royalton Township Fire Department for giving us the opportunity to train in the house.



MUTUAL AID TRAININGS

WATER SHUTTLE

Hosted by St. Joseph Charter Township Fire Department Station #1

This evening, members of your Baroda Fire Department took part in a training with St. Joseph Charter Township Fire Department Station #1 for water supply and relay pumping.

This was good training for both teams as I-94 (covered by St. Joseph Charter Township Fire Department Station #1) doesn't have hydrants so water will need to be shuttled to the scene and Baroda has a number of long driveways that we would have to setup relays to get the water to the fire off the road.

It was a great night for training. Much was learned and it was great to work with another neighboring department. At the end of training there was even a nice rainbow.

Thank you, St. Joseph Charter Township Fire Department Station #1, for inviting us to your training.



EXTRICATION/PATIENT HANDLING

Saturday morning, your Baroda Firefighters along with members from Medic 1 Ambulance trained in extrication/patient handling at our station.

Firefighters were the patients in the vehicles and Medic 1 Ambulance personnel advised what kind of injuries each had and how the other firefighters needed to handle moving each patient to safely remove them from the vehicles. We even used our baby mannequin to train on how to handle a child in a car seat.

It was a cool but great day for some hands-on training on extrication/patient handling and it improves our skills working together with our first responding partners to help our community.

Thanks to Medic 1 Ambulance for coming to our station for this important training.

Thanks to Jeffs Towing and Recovery LLC for the four vehicles used in the training.

Thanks to Jada Fulghum for spending her Saturday morning getting these pictures for us.



MUTUAL AID TRAINING AGREEMENT – NOVEMBER 2025

In November, an agreement was reached with Weesaw Township Fire and Rescue and Bridgman Fire Department to begin conducting monthly trainings together in 2026.

On November 24, 2025, the three departments met together for the first time to 'Get to know each other' and go over the apparatus brought to the Bridgman Fire Station.

Joint Department Trainings will take place on the last Monday of each month at one of the three departments (rotating each month).

CERTIFICATIONS

STATE OF MICHIGAN FIREFIGHTER 1 & 2

Emily Ludwig

Graduated May 31, 2025 from the Firefighter Academy put on by Berrien County Firefighter Training Committee.



MICHIGAN – TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM – 5

David Davis continues to work with MI-TRT-5. This year training included Structural Collapse, Confined Space Farm Related Rescues, Trench Rescue

FIRE PREVENTION/COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

SMOKE ALARM INSTALLATIONS

Originally started in April 2019, the Baroda Fire Department rejoined the Smoke Alarm Installation Program through MI Prevention in December 2023.

The State of Michigan has delivered the following to the Baroda Fire Department since December 2023 (as reported by MI Prevention):

Smoke Alarms - 396

CO Alarms - 36

Combo Alarms - 96

Strobes - 9

Bed Shaker Alarms - 9

2025 Smoke Alarm Installation Program

Total Residences serviced - 28

Total Smoke Alarms installed - 208

Total Carbon Monoxide Alarms installed - 35

Total Bed Shaker alarms installed – 2

Total Installations since program inception in April 2019

Total Residences serviced - 89

Total Smoke Alarms installed - 533

Total Carbon Monoxide Alarms installed - 91

Total Bed Shaker alarms installed – 2

SOCIAL EVENTS

EASTER EGG HUNT

Members of the Baroda Fire Department were on hand for the annual Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Baroda American Legion.

LINCOLN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY EASTER EGG HUNT

On April 6, members of the Baroda Firefighters, we at the Township park for the Lincoln Township Public Library Easter Egg Hunt.

Our friend Sparky the Fire Dog was also there to welcome the children.

Thanks to Jada Fulghum for all the photos!



HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PARADE – May 2025

This afternoon, if you were in the township, you may have seen our trucks out at three locations.

We were out for the Senior Parade for Lakeshore High School.

Thanks Jada Fulghum for the pictures.



THE EVA MARTIN PROJECT

Come on out this morning and support The Eva Martin Project. Come have breakfast and support the project.

Breakfast is being served until 11AM.



MOVIE NIGHT

August 30, 2025

The Family Movie Night showing of Toy Story 4.

About 100 people attended the outdoor showing.

Special thanks to the following:

Food donations

Papa Vino's

Public House

Mason Jar Cafe

Projector and screen

Lincoln Township Public Library

Silent Auction Items

Happy Hooves

Competitive Edge

Happy Poochie Eatery

Lazy Ballerina Winery

Evolve Healing Arts Center

Watermark Brewing Company

Pebblewood Restaurant & Banquet Hall

The Brick House Brews & Eats

Curious Kids' Museum

Silver Beach Pizza

Alex's Veggies

The Hidden Jem

Baroda Soda

Sesshin Grooming & Spa

Techxperience

Monetary Donations

Darren Mayer Performance Engineering

Family Chiropractic

Baroda Tire Center

Ellis Family Farms LLC.

LeRoy's Body Shop

Secret Garden

After the showing Chief Burch gave the movie to one lucky attendee. His mother reported that he saw the movie 4 more times before the holiday weekend was over.



November 9, 2025

Holiday Family Movie Night showing several classic Peanuts Cartoons.

Special thanks to the following:

Projector and screen

Lincoln Township Public Library

Food donations

The Buck Burgers & Brew

Due to the inclement weather about a dozen people showed up.



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OPEN HOUSE

OCTOBER 11, 2025

The topic for this year's Fire Prevention Week is "Charge into Fire Safety".

Come on down and meet your firefighters and get some information on lithium-ion batteries and charging them safely. We'll be here until 4PM.

Anything powered by a lithium-ion battery — phones, laptops, e-bikes, or power tools — can become a fire hazard if not charged safely.

Always use the charger that came with the device or one approved by the manufacturer.

If your cord only works when you bend it just right, it's time to replace it.

Charge Into Fire Safety this Fire Prevention Week!



TRAIL AND TREAT

October 25, 2025

Members of the Baroda Fire Department were in attendance at this years Trail and Treat, along with our friend Sparky the Fire Dog.

Sparky even met Safety Pup from Baroda/Lake Police Department.



HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE

October 31, 2025

Our annual Halloween Open House was enjoyed by many residents and firefighters. Firefighters, and Auxiliary members, handed out candy, checked candy for foreign objects, passed out juice and greeted the residents as they came to the station.



SPLASH IN THE FIELD

June 22 & 29, 2025

To help everyone beat the early summertime heat, the Baroda Fire Department held 2 Sunday afternoon Splash in the Park. This was in the field that is used for parking for the annual Fireworks show.



FIREWORKS – JULY 3, 2025

Hosted annually by the Baroda Fire Department.

The Baroda Firefighters would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their assistance during the fireworks presentation.

FIRE SERVICES

Berrien Springs Oronoko Fire Department
Royalton Township Fire Department
Lake Township Fire & Rescue
Weesaw Township Fire and Rescue
Galien Firefighters
Buchanan Township. Fire/Rescue

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Baroda-Lake Township Police Department
Berrien County Sheriff's Office
Lincoln Township Police Department

RESERVE OFFICERS

Berrien County Mounted Division
Berrien County Sheriff's Office
Lincoln Township Police Department

Honor Credit Union
Baroda Queens
Baroda Lions Club
Baroda Fire Department Auxiliary
Baroda Village
Baroda Township

COMMUNITY SPONSORS

GOLD LEVEL SPONSORSHIP

Baroda Township
Lakeshore Die Casting
Five Star Heating & Cooling
Honor Credit Union
National Christian Foundation

QME, Inc.
Smitty's Heating & Air
St. Johns Church

SILVER LEVEL SPONSORSHIP

Baroda Village
Baroda Lions
Baroda Party Store
Ott Insurance Agency
Dan Nitz
Sand Land Farms

PRE-INCIDENT PLANNING

No review of current Pre-Incident Plans took place during 2025 but a plan is in place to begin review, in 2026, of all current Pre-Incident Plans to make sure everything is up-to-date and then to begin adding new plans.

While speaking with business owners, information will be presented about Knox Boxes and the use of them for Fire Department access outside of normal business hours for emergencies.

BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION MEETING

PROPANE/ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

Baroda Fire Department hosted the Berrien County Firefighters Association Monthly Meeting on May 8, 2025.

After the evening meal and meeting, the program for the evening was Anhydrous Ammonia/Propane safety put on by Keystone Cooperative.

Chief Burch welcomed members of the fire service, and other agencies, from around Berrien County to our station.

We'd like to thank Keystone Cooperative for demonstrating tank design, safety features and how to respond to propane/anhydrous ammonia emergencies.



SPECIAL MEETINGS / EVENTS

FDIC

April 11-12, 2025

Members of the Baroda Fire Department spent time at FDIC (Fire Department Instructors Conference) in Indianapolis.

Member attending were Chief Chris Burch, Assistant Chief Donnie Johnson, Lieutenant Thomas Giudice, Lieutenant Sarah Henderson, Engineer Kevin Burkhard, Firefighter Brendan Rasgdale, Firefighter Trainee Emily Ludwig and Firefighter Trainee Lindsey Fulghum.

While there we were able to speak to vendors, see the newest technology (equipment, safety, etc) to help us better serve you.



LARGE PURCHASES

THERMAL IMAGING CAMERAS – JANUARY 2025

The past week, your Baroda Firefighters received new/upgraded Thermal Imaging Cameras (TICs).

These will be in our first due engines shortly and we'll train on their proper use and care.

Thanks to Jeff Starbuck and Dinges Fire Company for the upgrades.



AEDs

Two new AEDs were purchased for replace older model AEDs on our two first out engines.

ICE RESCUE ROPE

The rope was purchased after our first Ice Rescue training as a way to have a rope that will float should the ice break, it's a polyester based rope which makes caring for it easier.



RACK FOR BRUSH 260

A bed rack was purchased for Brush 260 to better layout tools, to be able to carry additional equipment over the tank and hose reel (ie. Porta-tank, hard suction, etc.) to the fire scene for use by our firefighters.

ELECTRIC CHAINSAW

The electric Chainsaw was purchased to replace an aging fuel powered chainsaw. This chainsaw runs on batteries that we use for other battery powered tools.



LEAF BLOWERS

The leaf blowers are an up-and-coming tool in the extinguishment of grass fires. The idea is that you blow the fire out by pushing it back against the area that has already burned.

Two leaf blowers were purchase.



GRANT PURCHASES

ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) – JANUARY 2025

In January, your Baroda Firefighters received word of a grant award in the amount of \$30,240.00, from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant, for the purchase of new MSA air bottles.

As a result of the grant, we were able to purchase 27 new air bottles (arriving earlier this month). These new bottles are replacing our older bottles that are close to end of life.



HARBOR FREIGHT – FEBRUARY 2025

Thanks Harbor Freight for the grant and equipment we needed at our station.

Items include:

Hyper-wash cleaner, drill bits, SAE/Metric Wrench sets, Wire Wheel brushes, Battery Maintainer, Crescent wrenches, Tap & Die Set.



LAPTOPS – MAY 2025

The Baroda Fire Department is pleased to announce that we were one of 100 Volunteer Fire Departments to receive five laptops from a grant program with State Farm and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC).

As part of the conditions of the grant, these laptops will be setup for training purposes, especially for those that will be taking Firefighter I & II classes as well as other classes where having a laptop to complete coursework will be an asset. When not in use for training purposes, the laptops can be used for other fire department uses as dictated by the grant.

The Baroda Fire Department would like to thank State Farm and the NVFC for this equipment.



DONATIONS

CHEST FREEZER

During the year, a Village Resident donated a small chest freezer to the Fire Department.



Thanks to the donations from the Memorial for Chief Larry Reifschneider during his visitation and funeral the Baroda Fire Department was able to purchase the following items:

AIR BOTTLE RACK

The air bottle rack will hold 36 bottles and is on wheels for easy portability around the station.



GRILL

A 36" Blackstone Griddle was purchased with the donations from the Memorial.

GUARDIAN ANGEL LIGHTING

All Baroda Firefighters have Guardian Angel Lights for their gear. The lights are used for better visibility, for oncoming traffic, during roadway operations.



EXERCISE EQUIPMENT – MAY 2025

Members of your Baroda Fire Department spent time setting up our exercise area.

Equipment was donated by firefighters. We can utilize this equipment to stay fit to better serve our community.



EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

HOSE TESTING – JUNE 2025

On June 19, FireCatt came to Baroda to conduct their annual hose testing on all our hose, including hose on the apparatus.

Testing is done at the Township Park so that hose can be laid out and tested.



NEW PROGRAMS

KNOX BOX

The Baroda Fire Department is pleased to announce an expanded partnership with Knox Box.

We had a Commercial partnership with Knox Box in the past but now we've expanded to offer residential Knox Boxes as well.

Just what is a Knox Box? It's a safe location to put keys to your business or residence that only you and your Baroda Fire Department can access.



NEW FIRE STATION PROJECT

A Committee was formed to talk with other Chiefs, around Berrien County, on the construction of their stations, as well as Pros and Cons of each project.

The 5-person Committee consisted of the Fire Chief, 2 members of the department, a Village Board member and Township Board member.

Visits were made to 5 stations, starting in May 2025, that were either recently built or met a similar need for our department.

After station visits, a rough design was created and reviewed with the Township board before sending it off to Wightman for review.

BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR



This year, the Baroda Firefighters were on duty at the Berrien County Youth Fair for a total of 211 hours. Brush 261 was on station on the fairgrounds all week and Engine 222 was on station the evening of August 15th.

During the fair, members of the department participated in fire watch, inspections, locating missing parents, assisting patrons on the fairgrounds and the Berrien County Firefighters Association Education Center.

Members of the fire department on duty during this year's Youth Fair:

Fire Chief Chris Burch
Captain Thomas Giudice
Firefighter Jessica Walker
Firefighter Emily Ludwig
Firefighter Brendan Ragsdale
Auxiliary Member Audra Johnson

Assistant Chief Donnie Johnson
Lieutenant Sarah Henderson
Firefighter Ric Hoffman
Firefighter Matthew Johnson
Firefighter Braeden Shannon



NEW MEMBERS ON DEPARTMENT

Ken Borr – Joined in December

DEPARTMENTAL PROMOTIONS

Thomas Giudice – Captain

Matthew Johnson - Engineer

CURRENT DEPARTMENT ROSTER

ACTIVE FIREFIGHTERS:

Fire Chief – Chris Burch

Asst. Chief – Donnie Johnson

Captain – Thomas Giudice

Engineer – Matthew Johnson

Lieutenant – Sarah Henderson

David Davis

Braeden Shannon

Emily Ludwig

Jessica Walker

Ric Hoffman

Nevin Schaller

Adam Schaller

Brendan Ragsdale

TRAINEES:

Lindsey Fulghum

Ken Borr

AUXILIARY MEMBERS:

Becky Seely

Audra Johnson