



## BOARD SPOTLIGHT

# From Member to Advocate

Why service, education,  
and community  
truly matter



### Laurie Stuntz/Board of Directors

Growing up, I was never aware of credit unions. Even as an adult, I viewed them as no different from banks, never truly understanding the distinction. To me, banks simply existed for transactions and little else.

When I was shopping for my most recent vehicle, my husband suggested I consider the Credit Union for their favorable interest rates. With both car prices and loan rates significantly higher than when I last purchased a car, I was eager for any way to reduce the overall cost. That's when I experienced the Great Erie difference firsthand. The team was incredibly friendly and made it easy to set up an account and get pre-approved for an auto loan. I had never had such a pleasant experience with a financial institution before.

Less than a year later, I received an email seeking new Board Members. At first, I glanced at it and moved on, but the idea lingered in my mind until I decided to explore it further. I had been hoping to get more involved in my community, and this felt like the perfect opportunity. Having spent my entire career working with retirement plans, I've seen firsthand the difference the right financial tools and education can make. I've also witnessed people struggle financially through no fault of their own, and I know how challenging it can be to recover. These experiences have made me a passionate advocate for financial education and resources that help everyone succeed—values that align perfectly with the Great Erie mission.

Serving on the Board has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I've had the chance to meet more of the outstanding staff, connect with members of our community, and learn just how much Great Erie FCU offers its members. It is refreshing to see an organization that genuinely prioritizes member service and satisfaction, always striving to support both members and the wider community.

My experience working with financial reports—both professionally and through my MBA—along with my background in leading meetings and improving efficiency, has served me well on the Board. However, the greatest asset in my role has been the people I work alongside. The other Board Members and Great Erie FCU leaders have been instrumental in helping me deepen my understanding of financial reporting, the broader credit union landscape, and our members' needs. I feel truly fortunate to collaborate with such dedicated teams to advance my passion for helping others achieve financial success.

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