



Senior VP Cindy Steber to Retire from Great North Bank

FLORENCE, WI – Cindy Steber, Senior Vice President at Great North Bank, will retire as of July 1, 2018 after 33-1/2 years of service. “We will absolutely miss Cindy and all she offers to our operation,” said Tom Wittkopf, President and CEO of the bank, “and we wish her the very best in a well-deserved retirement.”

Great North Bank will hold a public appreciation day for Cindy at its main office in Florence on Friday, June 29, and will be serving refreshments throughout the day. Customers, non-customers, vendors, friends, neighbors and current and former employees are welcome to stop in to congratulate her and wish her well. As part of its appreciation day, the public is invited to send Cindy a note, a personal thank you or share a special memory with her at cindy.steber@greatnorthbank.com or to Cindy Steber, PO Box 500, Florence, WI 54121.

Cindy began her banking career as a teller at First National Bank of Iron Mountain following her graduation from Kingsford High School in 1974. She married Gary Steber, moved to Florence and after spending several years at home while her three children, Laura, Christopher and Daniel, were young, she joined the family-owned, independent community bank, State Bank of Florence, in Florence, Wisconsin on January 2, 1985.

As the bank has grown, so, too, have Cindy’s role and her responsibilities. Her willingness to learn and dedication to the bank, her fellow employees and bank customers, have expanded her career from a Teller and Personal Banker to a Senior Vice President, Cashier, Compliance Officer, Director of Education, HR Officer, Consumer Loan Officer and a host of other titles earned along the way. “Cindy has exemplified what a ‘team’ player offers an organization,” said Wittkopf. “The financial services industry has changed dramatically during Cindy’s tenure here and she has always been willing to accept those changes, that new technology and the need to learn to do things differently.” Over the years she has taken numerous banking courses and attended many workshops and seminars to enhance her knowledge.

Some of the changes include three core computer system conversions, 1994, 2005 and the most recent one experienced the 7th of June this year. Cindy was an integral part of the opening of the bank’s branch locations, Aurora in 2004, Wausaukee in 2006 and Eagle River in 2015. She also experienced the re-branding of the bank and the changing of its name in 2016 to “Great North Bank”, embracing inclusion of its expanding service area. She has welcomed new employees, helped them to develop in banking careers of their own, and watched some as they moved on to other ventures. “Cindy was a teacher, a mentor, a valuable resource to other employees,” Wittkopf commented. “We all will miss her willingness to share her depth of experience and knowledge.”

As one part of Cindy Steber’s journey comes to an end, another chapter begins. She will be able to spend more time with her husband, her children and her grandchildren, Madelaine, Alex and Samuel Hemgren, along with Bradley, Carter and Wes Steber. She will be able to travel, or just stay home to pursue other interests and hobbies. She will be able to continue learning new things...not necessarily related to banking.

“We thank Cindy for her wonderful, dedicated years as a valued employee and a good friend. We will miss her,” remarked Wittkopf.

Great North Bank is a family-owned, independent community bank serving Wisconsin, upper Michigan and beyond. Great North Bank, established in 1891, offers a full array of banking products and services, as well as consumer and business loans. Great North Bank works with a variety of businesses including timber, wood products, forestry, manufacturing, transportation and more.