



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

PAHIC Announces New Leadership Team

Reading, PA:

The Pennsylvania Hemp Industry Council (PAHIC) was founded in 2015 to help accelerate the passage of the legislation that legalized hemp in the state. PAHIC was honored to be invited to attend Governor Wolf's ceremonial bill signing and to be the first in the state to plant a hemp field.

Since the hemp bill passed, PAHIC continuously worked to improve the program, participated in pilot programs, aided others in obtaining seed and overcoming the obstacles of a new industry. We represented hemp at the Pennsylvania Farm Show many years and hosted or participated in numerous other events to help educate both farmers and the general public.

Moving forward PAHIC is looking to take a more proactive role in attracting investment into the PA hemp industry, building supply chains and shaping legislation and regulations.

To fulfill this mission, the Pennsylvania Hemp Industry Council has appointed new officers, expanded the board, and created a new advisory board.

Chair – Erica Stark

Erica Stark was a founding member of PAHIC and has served as its Executive Director since its formation in 2015. Since 2017, she has also served as the Executive Director of the National Hemp Association.. Erica serves on PA Hemp Steering Committee, which is an advisory council to the PA Dept. of Agriculture. She was instrumental in enacting legislation and testified at hearings on hemp in Harrisburg. She is a sought-after speaker with years of experience in hemp education and legislative advocacy, including testifying before the US Senate Ag Committee.

Secretary – Lori Daytner

Lori Daytner works for the DON group of companies in New Castle, PA as the VP of Program Development. Launched in 2002, DON works in several sectors to drive economic development and improve communities, all with a focus on empowering people with disabilities to live as independently as they choose. DON companies include disability rights advocacy, in-home support care, accessible, affordable housing construction, commercial building reconstruction, construction materials reclamation and reuse retail, and more. Lori spearheads DON's work to establish an industrial hemp

fiber processing and production hub. DON has invested in a Hemp Fiber Test Acres Program, giving local farmers a low-risk opportunity to learn to grow hemp for fiber. In the early nineties in what was still the Soviet Union, Lori began a twenty-year career in the fast paced, developing restaurant industry in Russia and eastern Europe. As CEO, she led the company through a successful \$100M IPO and significant growth to reach \$490M in system-wide revenues, operating 336 restaurants in 9 countries. Lori believes her experience in emerging markets with a lack of infrastructure, standards and expertise prepared her well for her current work in the emerging industrial hemp industry in Pennsylvania.

Treasurer – Cynthia Petrone-Hudock

Cynthia Petrone-Hudock, CEO of Hemp-Alternative has over 15 years of consulting experience, ranging from financial institutions to healthcare and now the cannabis industry. She has worked with Cannabis companies for over 5 years assisting with strategic plans, go-to-market tactics and operational execution by focusing on people, process and technology.

Cynthia is an investor and advisor to New Frontier Data (a data analytics company dedicated to the cannabis industry), Co-Chair of the Pennsylvania Agriculture Hemp Steering Committee and a member of her local Chester County Agriculture Development Council.

Her company is anchored by a 4th generation farmer that farms over 5k acres. They have collaborated with the Stroud Water Research Center for their hemp studies as well as launched initiatives to include sustainable products for the horticulture industry, hemp grain-based food products, a seed to sale initiative building a vertically integrated supply chain for woven and nonwoven natural fiber applications, cannabinoid wellness products and a cannabis services quality index company.

Board Member -Cameron McIntosh

Cameron McIntosh, along with his partner Melissa McIntosh, is the owner of Americhanvre Cast Hemp out of Allentown, PA. Americhanvre is a supplier of raw materials, equipment, consultation and installation services for hempcrete and specializes in spray application via the Eready Hempcrete system. Since their founding in 2018, Americhanvre has supplied and installed hempcrete on a variety of projects concentrated in the northeastern United States, but also reaching as far west as British Columbia, Canada. Many of their projects have been collaborations with others in the hempcrete building space including Coexist Build, Homeland Hempcrete and Hempstone to name a few. The spirit of cooperation and collaboration with others in the space has brought to bear many wonderful projects, as have many other collaborations with motivated homeowner-builders and green building contractors throughout the country. To date, Cameron has installed over 18,000 cubic feet of hempcrete on 30+ projects around the country.

Board Member – Drew Oberholtzer

Drew Oberholtzer is co-founder of Coexist Build, an architecture firm and manufacturer of hemp-based building materials. He operates a research farm that focuses on creating proof of concept products from agricultural crops for commercialization. He is also an Emmy awarded media professional with over 15 years of experience for National Geographic, ABC studios, VICE Media, and many others.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to chair the Pennsylvania Hemp Industry Council. Born and raised here in PA it has always been my goal to see Pennsylvania regain its historic position as a leader in hemp production. I am also extremely grateful to have such a dynamic new team with a wide depth and breadth of experience to lead us forward. With these team members I know we are well positioned to serve all aspects of the PA hemp industry. In the coming months we look forward to sharing our ambitious plans to move the industry forward. “, said Erica Stark, Chair, PAHIC.

As part of the restructuring a Chair Emeritus position was created and outgoing President, Geoff Whaling, is the first to serve as Chair Emeritus. PAHIC also created a new advisory board which will seek to bring in talent from across the state to advise the board. The first member appointed to the advisory board is Les Stark, outgoing board member and PA Hemp Historian.

The board would like to thank PAHIC founder and current Chair Emeritus, Geoff Whaling for this opportunity. Geoff’s leadership laid the foundation for which PAHIC now builds upon. We also thank Les Stark for his decades of advocacy and his many years of service.

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About PAHIC:

The Pennsylvania Hemp Industry Council is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization that seeks to accelerate the return of the Industrial Hemp Crop to the Pennsylvania agricultural landscape. To effectively achieve our aim of broad adoption of Industrial Hemp as a rotational crop by farmers, we will build a vital and effective collaboration of agencies, individuals and the general public.