As 2020 starts, the Watertown Area Community Foundation thanks Angie Reppe for her service on the WACF board and welcomes Julie Ranum.

Reppe, who was appointed by the City of Watertown, served a five-year term, during which time the Foundation began the Area School Partnership Program, awarded its largest grant in history ($500,000 multi-year grant to the Boys & Girls Club) and celebrated its 40th anniversary (2019).

“It is an important avenue for many organizations to go to for assistance when there is a need and the need grows every year,” Reppe said of the Foundation. “It is amazing the number of people whose lives are touched and bettered by WACF.” We are lucky, she said, to have the Foundation and serving on the board was an honor.

Reppe is an entrepreneur and the owner the Gather coffee and gift shop in downtown Watertown. She earned a sales/marketing/management degree from Lake Area Technical Institute and is a member of the Watertown Development Company Advisory Board, the Codington County Historical Society, Watertown Area Chamber of Commerce. She is also heavily involved in revitalizing downtown Watertown.

She and her husband, John, own the Foley Building on Kemp Avenue where Gather and other businesses operate. The couple has two children.

Ranum serves on the Governor’s Tourism Advisory Board. She was appointed by Governor Bill Janklow and has been reappointed by Governor Rounds, Governor Daugaard and Governor Noem. Locally, Ranum serves on the Watertown Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors and the Watertown Business Improvement District’s Board of Directors.

Ranum is also a member of the Foundation’s Women & Giving Committee, the Watertown Alzheimer’s Council, and the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church Finance Council.

In her free time, Ranum and her husband, Jeff, enjoy bicycling, entertaining, and spending time with family, friends, and their Shelties, Jasper and Josie.

“Years ago, I attended the very first Women & Giving event hosted by the Watertown Area Community Foundation. It was the first time I realized that I, too, could make a difference. That my gift, no matter how big or small, when pooled with other contributions, could make my community stronger, healthier, and safer,” Ranum reminisced. “Today, as a member of the Women & Giving Committee, I see firsthand how the gifts made to the Watertown Area Community Foundation can, and do, have life changing effects on people in our community. I am honored to serve on the Watertown Area Community Foundation’s Board as we ‘look forward and give back’ for another 40 years!
Ewalt Re-elected Board Chair

WACF Board member Charlie Ewalt will continue as Board Chair for the 2020 year. Ewalt was appointed to the board in 2016 by Wells Fargo Bank, NA. He has been president for Enercept, Inc., for the past seven years. Prior to that he had a successful 28-year career in banking, including roles in agriculture, business and leadership. He and his wife Jayne have been married for 35 years and have three children and two granddaughters. Ewalt is a University of South Dakota graduate. I feel privileged to be a part of an organization that has done so much good for our community,” Ewalt said. “I continue to be humbled by the generosity of our donors who make it possible for the Foundation to do its work.” Dr. Jeff Danielsen, superintendent of Watertown School District, will continue as Vice Chair. Other WACF Board members are: Tom Beadnell, Liam Culhane, Kristen Henderson, Julie Ranum and Joel Vockrodt. Trustee representatives are: Scott Olson, Great Western Bank; and Jake Schaffer, Wells Fargo Bank.

Happy Anniversary Jan!

Thanks to all those who came to the Foundation office in January to celebrate Jan DeBerg’s 20th year as executive director. The visits, flowers, congratulations and good wishes were truly appreciated!