

Rick Fitzpatrick named to Central Savings Bank Board of Directors



Rick Fitzpatrick, owner of Pingatore Cleaners, Inc., was recently elected to the Board of Directors of Central Savings Bank.

Rick began his employment at Pingatore Cleaners in 1979 while attending Lake Superior State University. He continued working and going to school until he purchased the Cleaners in 1986. Rick has owned and operated Pingatore Cleaners, Inc. ever since, providing dry cleaning, uniform rental and laundry service throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

Rick served on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Institute of Launderers and Drycleaners (MILD) for more than 10 years, serving both as President and Chairman of the Board. MILD's

mission is to help ensure environmental compliance for its members; to work with legislators on issues concerning the industry; and to provide professional development and training for its members.

Rick previously served on the local board of directors for First of America Bank.

Rick also has had the opportunity to serve on the Bi-National Regional Initiative Developing Greater Education (BRIDGE), consisting of representatives from LSSU, Algoma University and Soo College. This board's goal was to form collaborations between the three schools to provide for improved efficiencies.

For six years Rick served as Board secretary for the Economic Development Corporation of Sault Ste. Marie. He also served on the initial re-chartered Board of Directors for the LSSU Alumni Association.

Rick's involvement in the community led him to be a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Lions Club, serving as president for two terms. Lions International recognized Rick with the Melvin Jones Award for outstanding leadership and humanitarian efforts.

Rick currently serves as president of Immanuel Lutheran Church Council, his second stint in that office. Previously he has also served as president of Immanuel Lutheran School.

Rick had the honor of being recognized as the Sault Chamber of Commerce “Bud Mansfield Business Person of the Year.” Pingatore Cleaners, Inc. has also been recognized by the Chamber as Historic Business of the Year.

Rick received the Donald and Catherine Finlayson Award from Lake Superior State University in 2002 in recognition of his success in his profession and community, along with strong advocacy for the university. He is also an honorary member of Student Alumni Involved for Lake State (SAILS).

During professional development classes through the Dale Carnegie Courses Rick was twice recognized, with the Special Award for Achievement and with the Outstanding Performance Award.

Rick’s love of his community has led him to contribute philanthropically to multiple organizations, including a \$1,000 annual scholarship to a Sault Area Schools Skills Center student furthering his or her education. LSSU has also been a frequent recipient of Rick’s benevolence, as he has supported numerous capital projects, golf tournament fund raisers, Laker athletics and various other LSSU projects and departments. Pingatore Cleaners is also the signature sponsor for the annual Tanglewood Golf Club Championship, which donates the proceeds to a local non-profit organization.

Rick loves Sault Ste. Marie and lives there with his wife Susan, to whom he has been married for 32 years. They have two children – Andrea and Ryan (wife Brittany).