

## Stearns Bank Announces New Board of Directors Member

*Kathy Persian, SVP and CIO of Schwan's Company, will join the Stearns Bank N.A. Board of Directors*

**St. Cloud, Minn. (March 17, 2020)** – [Stearns Bank N.A.](#), an employee-owned financial institution based in Minnesota, announces that Kathy Persian has joined the Stearns Bank N.A. Board of Directors. Kathy is the Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer for Schwan's Company in Bloomington, Minnesota. In her current role, she is responsible for the strategic direction and execution of the company's information services department.

"We are absolutely thrilled Kathy is joining our Board. Her strong technology background and seasoned executive experience will diversify and deepen the talent and strategic leadership of our Board," said Kelly Skalicky, President & CEO, Stearns Bank. "For more than 30 years, Kathy has excelled and pursued excellence, making her a perfect fit for Stearns Bank. We're excited to welcome her to the Board."

Before entering her current position, Kathy served as Chief Information Officer and Senior Vice President of eCommerce and Business Transformation for The Sports Authority, Inc. In that role, she led information technology, e-commerce and corporate strategy for the Englewood, Colorado-based sporting goods retailer. She has also served as Chief Information Officer for Eden Prairie, Minnesota-based Supervalu and has held leadership positions at Best Buy.

Kathy's addition to the Board of Directors follows Donald Weeres retirement from the Stearns Bank N.A. Board of Directors after more than 17 years. Donald is Founder, President, and CEO of Spee Dee Delivery Service, Inc., St. Cloud.

"Don started his position on the Board in 2003," said Skalicky. "He brought a strong vision that will be greatly missed. We are grateful for his service and the invaluable business experience Don provided to grow our enterprise into one of the top-performing banks in the nation."

###

### **About Stearns Bank**

Minnesota-based Stearns Bank National Association is a \$2.2 billion, independently-owned financial institution with locations in Minnesota, Florida and Arizona, and over 35,000 small business customers nationwide, in every U.S. state. Recognized as one of the nation's top-performing banks by both *American Banker* and *Independent Banker* magazines, Stearns Bank specializes in small business lending and equipment financing. Driven by a passion to help others achieve their greatest ambitions, Stearns Bank gets the job done! For more information, visit [StearnsBank.com](#).

### **Media Contacts:**

Anthony Thomas

[Anthony.thomas@creativepr.com](mailto:Anthony.thomas@creativepr.com)

612-270-9683

Rory Bidinger

[Roryb@stearnsbank.com](mailto:Roryb@stearnsbank.com)

320-258-4863