

## OBPA- Oakdale City Election Questionnaire

The Oakdale Business and Professional Association is a vital community organization serving Oakdale and surrounding community businesses. Our motto is: For A Better Community. In this goal we are actively encouraging our members and their employees to become better informed voters who are more actively engaged in the political process. The OBPA may choose to inform and/or endorse candidates in the general election. Please use brief answers to complete this questionnaire for our member businesses. Thank you for your commitment to improve our community.

Please return this form to:

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Deadline: September 3, 2013

Name Stan Karwoski Date Sept 10, 2014

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Employment Graco Inc.

Website www.stankarwoskiforoakdalemayor.com

Party Affiliation Non-partisan city election

How long have you resided in Oakdale? 28 years

Political Background: Beginning with the most recent position, list all public offices you have held. (Include positions on appointed boards and commissions: CURRENTLY – Oakdale City Council since 2001; 622 Education Foundation Board, Co-President; OBPA member; Washington County Open Space Commission, Chair; Oakdale Tree Board founding member; Oakdale Park and Recreation Commission Liaison; Oakdale Yellow Ribbon Network board member; Friends of Washington County board member; Tartan Ice Arena Joint Powers board member PAST – Oakdale Volunteer Fire Department Relief board member 2004-2013; Oakdale Park and Planning Commission member 1994-1999

1. Why are you running for this office? Continue to provide strong Mayor Leadership. Keep city moving in a positive direction. Dedicated to improving our city.
2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek. Loyal, involved, dedicated, and well rounded. A leader making sure goals and projects are successfully completed. I work in our community in many different capacities (i.e. parks, education, and business activities etc.) I am very active and visible attending a wide range of events in Oakdale and surrounding communities.
3. What experience do you have running a business, managing employees and controlling a budget?
  - 4 term Oakdale City Council member developing annual budgets of \$10-11 million dollars.
  - Founder of Vulcan Community Charities a 501C3 organization. Developed its board, funding mechanisms, and policies that are dedicated to charitable causes in the St. Paul area.
  - As a 37 year Graco Inc. employee working on engineering teams developing project budgets that deliver quality products, on time, to specifications and within staffing requirements and budget.

- Team building is very important to all of the above.
4. Please describe accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. Examples should illustrate skills and capabilities apply to this office, and may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional or public life. Innovative - 5 Invention Patents; Ongoing volunteerism in Oakdale, other communities, and thru employer; Positive progress in Oakdale my past 13 years on city council – Examples on council chairing the design committee for the popular Discovery Center and in 2014 representing Oakdale gave Senate testimony to successfully receive \$150,000 in CIP funding; Team player and consensus builder on City Council; Family success – with best friend and wife Linda of 35 years raising our 4 adult children through college and now starting their own families. I'm keenly aware of family challenges.
  5. What endorsements do you have, or are seeking; and what organizations are you a member of? In addition to the boards and commissions above I'm active member of: St. Paul Festival and Heritage Foundation member – past festival cabinet member; Fire & Brimstone – past board member and president; South Wind organization – current president.
  6. What role does the City have in encouraging job creation and retention in the City of Oakdale? (please describe the model/tools and/or incentives you would support to boost economic development) Job creation and retention is a very critical city role. Our city needs to work better with our county to keep taxes appealing so companies relocate to Oakdale, stay in Oakdale, and expand quality jobs in Oakdale. A top priority of mine as Oakdale mayor will be to consider working with a professional company and our business community to improve our image and marketing of Oakdale throughout the twin city area and beyond..
  7. What role does the business community play in Oakdale's success? A big role! A true city partner.
  8. What are your top budget priorities for the next fiscal year? A prudent 2015 budget near flat and under inflation rate. A flat budget that still improves our city. The 2015 budget funds two additional full time Firefighter/Paramedics to continue safe and reliable service to our community.
  9. What City services would you consider using shared services or contracting with other public or private partners? Each year everything should be considered. A big future sharing and cost saving is partnering with the county for police services. We also have potential for improved recreation programming by working with other cities and the county. I have already initiated staff to add a link in our city web site to offer county programming for our residents. Another area I pledge to work on as mayor is with shared efficiencies with our school system. Kaizen training and other techniques should be considered to evaluate simplifying how our city does its business. Privatizing duties should be considered when they can bring cost saving, efficiency, and improvements.
  10. What are your top priorities you will champion to move Oakdale forward
    - Improve economic development, marketing, and the image of Oakdale
    - Improve senior and teen community engagement
    - Improve housing stock and strengthening neighborhoods
    - Improve parks and enhance open spaces
  11. Businesses in Oakdale are impacted by a number of city regulations. In each of the areas listed below, how would you expand or contract current regulations?
    - a. Signage – As a city we are getting better with clearer and simpler guidelines for quality signage.
    - b. Permitting – Stream line, fast, and reward quality projects
    - c. Variances – Change ordinances to minimize the need to ask for variances.
    - d. Inspections (commercial & residential) – Strategy should be to improve stock. Reward quality.Overall - simplify a-d