

Oakwood Bank - Named Industry Top Loan Producer

Washington, D.C. July 22, 2020 - Independent Banker, the award-winning magazine of the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) and the number-one source for community banking news, recognized Oakwood Bank, Whitehall, WI, as an ICBA top lender in its July issue. Oakwood Bank's recognition is based on the strength of its competitive banking services and operational efficiencies throughout 2019.

"Through innovation, resourcefulness and an unwavering commitment to their customers and communities, these top lenders are creating a culture of success," ICBA President and CEO Rebeca Romero Rainey said. "ICBA is proud to recognize Oakwood Bank and its staff for their outstanding efforts and wish them continued prosperity."

The "ICBA's Top Lenders 2020" feature reveals the secret to these community banks' success as agricultural, commercial, and consumer and mortgage lenders. It showcases their commitment, ingenuity, and skill in adapting to market dynamics and evolving customer needs.

The annual list is based on the strength of competitive banking services and operational efficiencies using FDIC data for 2019. Scores were determined by combining the average of the bank's percentile rank for lending concentration and for loan growth over the past year in each lending category and asset size and adjusted for loan charge-offs at certain percentile thresholds.

"Oakwood Bank is honored to be recognized by ICBA for the growth and performance of our community bank," said William J. DeBruyckere, President/CEO, Oakwood Bank. "We are proud to serve our neighbors of Augusta, Eau Claire, Pigeon Falls and Whitehall and strive every day to build lasting banking relationships that help our customers realize their financial goals and dreams—all while helping our local economy prosper. Our success is a testament to the faith of our customers and the hard work and dedication of our talented employees."

[Click here](#) to view this year's ICBA Top Lenders listings.

OAKWOOD BANK

The past and present culture of the Oakwood Bank expresses its principal shareholders' focus on maintaining a strong and secure independent bank in west central Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota, where it is exposed to significant outside banking competition. To assure its independence, the Bank will continue to maintain a strong capital ratio.

Bendik M. Sletteland organized the Oakwood Bank in 1920. His son, Oscar B. Sletteland, quickly distinguished himself as an agricultural banker and guided the Bank through the Great Depression. His insistence on maintaining a strong capital base remains a tenet we will not violate. The Sletteland family owned the bank until September 2018. PF Investors, Inc., led by long-term President William DeBruyckere (area native), completed the acquisition of PFSB. In November of 2018, the Bank's name was changed to better align with our future goals and build our brand.

Our management's policy is to reach out beyond the Bank's immediate community such that its trade area now encompasses multiple states. The Bank offers individual attention and value-priced services to its customers. Today, the Bank seeks to expand its customer base within a 75-mile radius of our 4 locations by personal solicitation and customer referrals.

Our focus is on obtaining knowledgeable, credit-worthy customers who are attracted by individual attention and continuity of service.

About ICBA

The Independent Community Bankers of America creates and promotes an environment where community banks flourish. With more than 50,000 locations nationwide, community banks constitute 99 percent of all banks, employ nearly 750,000 Americans and are the only physical banking presence in one in three U.S. counties. Holding more than \$5 trillion in assets, nearly \$4 trillion in deposits, and more than \$3.4 trillion in loans to consumers, small businesses and the agricultural community, community banks channel local deposits into the Main Streets and neighborhoods they serve, spurring job creation, fostering innovation and fueling their customers' dreams in communities throughout America. For more information, visit ICBA's website at www.icba.org.