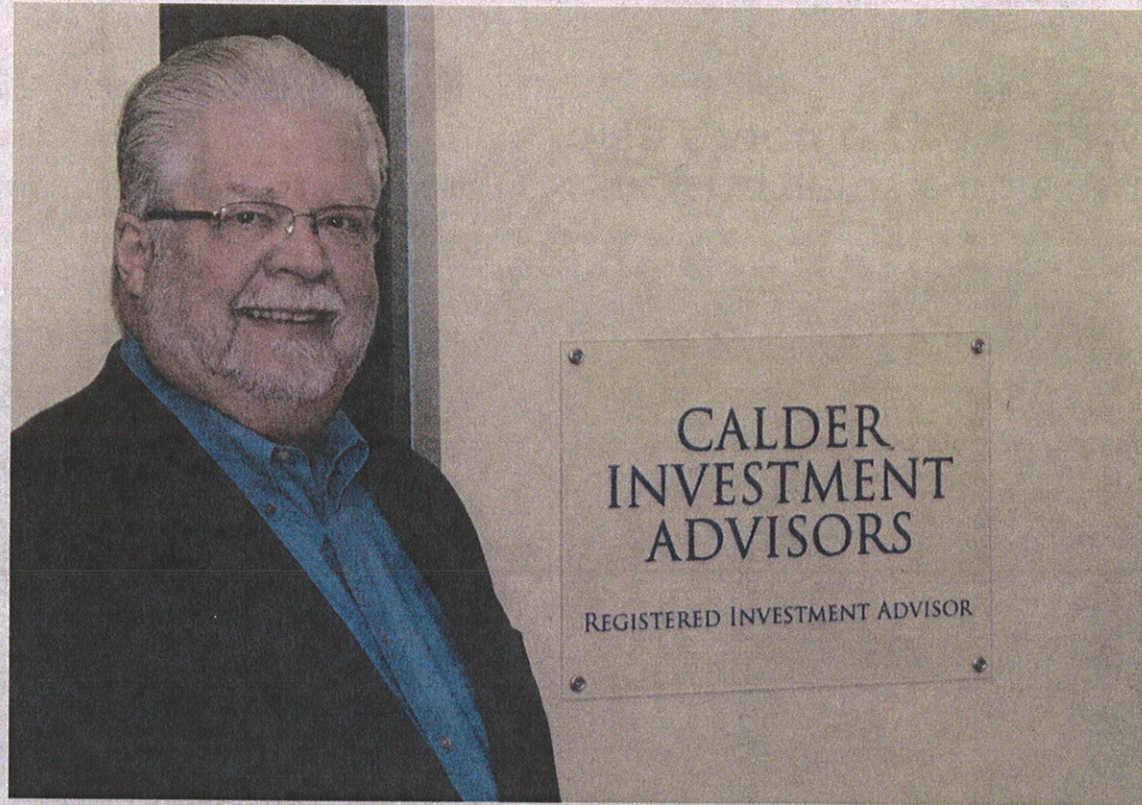


Bob Stark enjoys the benefits and camaraderie of the Chamber's CEO Roundtable.

Photo by
Brian Borbot

CEOs value Roundtable experience



By KIM RACETTE | Press Advertising

"The members really get to know each other beyond a surface level because we have the opportunity to earn each other's trust. That is such a treat."

The CEO Roundtable Program at the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce is unique in both the opportunities it provides and the confidentiality pledged by its members.

This structured discussion group brings together business executives who meet monthly to discuss issues in a confidential setting.

For Bob Stark, of Calder Investment Advisors, becoming a member of a CEO Roundtable has been one of the richest experiences he has had working with other professionals. "As a member (of this group) for the past three years, and this year as a facilitator, I have had the chance to work with others who

understand the challenges and opportunities I face each day," he explains.

Calder Investment Advisors is a locally owned, personalized, registered investment company. As corporate president, Stark says that, because of the confidentiality agreement he and others sign when they join the program, there is an environment that lets people open up and share without fear of their trust being violated.

"The members really get to know each other beyond a surface level because we have the opportunity to earn each other's trust. That is such a treat," he says.

Stark says that being an executive, as are the other members, it can be hard to carve out time to build networking relationships.

"The Roundtable helps me to specifically set a time to do just that. It has allowed me to expand my relationships with people I trust implicitly. I can pick up the phone or send a quick e-mail and know that the other members of my Roundtable are there for me."

Stark adds with a smile, "Or they can call me. It goes both ways."

For more information about Calder Investment Advisors, call 616.235.2442 or visit www.calderadvisors.com.

For more information about the CEO Roundtable Program, contact the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce at 616.771.0300, or visit www.grandrapids.org.