

Rebecca Gries

Rebecca Gries is the executive director of the Milwaukee 7 (M7). Since joining M7 in 2018, Gries has marketed southeastern Wisconsin as a premier location for business, assisting companies with their expansion and relocation efforts. She was honored as a 2024 40 Under 40 by the Milwaukee Business Journal and named a North American Top 50 Economic Developer in 2022. Gries serves on the boards of the Northwest Side Community Development Corporation and Literary Services of Wisconsin. She holds a master's degree in global politics from Loyola University Chicago and a bachelor's degree in political science from St. Norbert College.

Gale E. Klappa

Gale Klappa is chairman of the board of WEC Energy Group.

Based in Milwaukee, WEC Energy Group is one of the nation's premier energy companies, serving nearly 4.7 million electric and natural gas customers in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota.

Klappa has more than 45 years of experience working in the public utility industry, and more than 30 years at the senior executive level. With his extensive experience, Klappa leads the board with a deep understanding of the investment decisions and public policy issues facing large public companies.

Klappa joined Wisconsin Energy as president in April 2003. He was elected to the company's board of directors in December 2003. From May 2004, Klappa served as chairman and chief executive officer of Wisconsin Energy and We Energies. Under his leadership, the company successfully completed its 2015 acquisition of Integrys Energy Group, at which time he assumed those same roles for WEC Energy Group.

Klappa served as non-executive chairman of WEC Energy Group after retiring as CEO in May 2016. In October 2017, Klappa resumed the role of chairman and chief executive officer to provide leadership and continuity following a medical setback that sidelined his successor. He returned to the non-executive chairman role in May 2024.

Before joining the company, Klappa held executive leadership roles at Southern Company, a public utility holding company based in Atlanta serving the southeastern United States. He served as executive vice president, chief financial officer and treasurer. Klappa also was chief strategic officer at Southern Company, North American group president of Southern Energy Inc., and president and CEO of South Western Electricity — Southern Company's electric distribution utility in the United Kingdom. Before his assignment in the U.K., he was senior vice president of marketing for Georgia Power, Southern Company's largest subsidiary.

Klappa is a 1972 graduate cum laude of the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM), with a bachelor's degree in mass communications.

Klappa is a member of the board of directors of Associated Banc-Corp. He is co-chair of the Milwaukee 7 regional economic development initiative, and serves on the UWM School of Business Advisory Council. In addition, Klappa owns a minority interest in the Milwaukee Bucks National Basketball Association franchise.