When Sherri Yandry takes on the duties of executive director of the Saukville Chamber of Commerce, she will bring with her a wealth of community connections.

Yandry will start as the business organization's director on Jan. 1.

SHERRI YANDRY was introduced last week to Saukville Chamber of Commerce members by President Russ Lund as the business group's new executive director.
Photo by Sam Arendt

She has been president of the Saukville Parent Association — the high-profile parent organization at Saukville Elementary School — for the past three years.

Before that, she served as vice president of the group and chaired a variety of committees at the school.

Yandry's success at leading the parent group provided a real advantage in the interview process, especially considering that Saukville Elementary Principal Chad Brakke and Port Washington-Saukville School District Supt. Michael Weber were on the Chamber's screening committee for the hiring.

Both knew Yandry well.

"All of the candidates were strong, but what made Sherri stand out was her enthusiasm and commitment to making it a better place," Brakke said.

"She is already a strong presence in the community, and has proven to be a very good organizer. Through her role in fund-raising with the parent association, Sherri has solid contacts in the business community."

Yandry and her husband Ron have lived in Saukville for 15 years. She devoted much of that time to raising their three children — Ellie, 13, Joe, 8 and Tessa, 6 — resulting in her involvement with the school group.

Before becoming a stay-at-large mom, Yandry worked for a Milwaukee insurance brokerage company.

When Stacey Frey resigned as executive director of the Saukville Chamber in September, the

organization was already in transition.

Chamber President Russ Lund stepped in temporarily to take on many of the administrative functions, including revamping the newsletter and lining up a lease on the organization's first office. It is located at the front of the Krohn Real Estate building, 101 N. Mill St.

With a location in place, the Chamber looked to fill the vacant director position, which drew eight applicants.

"I was impressed with the people we attracted, but Sherri was the standout candidate. Once anyone talks to her, they will understand what made her so appealing," Lund said.

As her family grows more independent, Yandry said the Chamber position was especially appealing.

"I thought it was time to get back into the workforce, and this part-time position will allow me to ease into it while remaining active with the school," she said.

Initially, the job will be for about 10 hours a week.

Members of the interviewing committee said one of the most appealing assets Yandry brings is a new perspective on what the Chamber should become.

One of those added benefits will be promotion of the I Heart Saukville program, which gives smaller businesses a presence on the Web.

"There will be a learning curve for me on the I Heart Saukville program, but this is something I can really see becoming an important part of belonging to the Chamber," Yandry said.

Recent changes in leadership have also taken place at the Port Washington and Grafton Chambers, which she said could open some more doors.

"I look forward to working with those new directors to see what kind of promotions we can do together. Having that kind of flexibility is a strength of living in smaller communities like ours," Yandry said.