

## **Diane M. Pearse**

Diane is Chief Executive Officer and President of Hickory Farms, LLC, a leading retailer of food gifts and specialty foods available online and in catalogs, leading mass merchants, supermarkets and approximately 700 seasonal retail shopping locations. She assumed this role in March of 2016 and is leading a transformation of the company to reinvent the brand and grow revenue by developing new products and growing the loyal customer base. The brand celebrated its 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2016, and is focused on being the best retailer in the food gifting space, making the next 65 years even greater than the first.

From May of 2015 to March of 2016, Diane held the position of Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of Finance for Garrett Brands, LLC. Garrett is a privately held Chicago-based retailer of gourmet, handcrafted popcorn with over 40 locations globally. In this capacity, she was responsible for developing the strategy to drive overall growth of the business, and had oversight of the company's supply chain, Ecommerce fulfillment, warehousing and distribution, information technology and finance functions. Immediately prior to joining Garrett, Diane spent four years as the Senior Vice President of Operations and Merchandising for Redbox Automated Retail, LLC. In this role, she was responsible for leading the company's field operations, technical support center, inventory and logistics function, and strategy and analytics team. Diane joined Redbox as the Senior Vice President of Finance in May of 2010, and was responsible for overseeing all finance activities, including accounting, financial planning and analysis, controls and financial systems. From 2001 to May of 2010, she served as the Chief Financial Officer of Crate and Barrel, a leading specialty retailer of home furnishings. In addition to her responsibilities for the company's finance function, she served on the company's Executive Committee, Operations Committee, Real Estate Committee and Management Information Systems Steering Committee. Prior to joining Crate and Barrel, she served as the Chief Financial Officer for iCastle.com, an internet start-up company in the home improvement industry. Before joining iCastle.com, Diane served as the Vice President, Business Financial Services – Americas for BP Amoco Corporation; with responsibility for corporate and structured finance transactions and risk management activities for the Americas-based businesses. After the merger of BP and Amoco, as a senior member of the Finance management team, she played a key role in the design and integration of the worldwide corporate finance and treasury function of the company. She began her career with Amoco Corporation in 1980, and over a period of eighteen years held a variety of financial positions in the corporate finance, treasury, accounting, and information technology areas.

Since 2004, Diane has served as a director for MSA Safety, Incorporated, a New York Stock Exchange listed company that develops, manufactures, and supplies health and safety products for workers in the fire service, homeland security, construction, and other industries. She chairs the Finance Committee and serves on the Audit, Compensation and Law Committees.

Diane also serves on the board of the Chicago Children's Choir and the Dean's Advisory Council for DePaul University's Driehaus College of Business.

Diane graduated Bronze Tablet from the University of Illinois-Urbana with a BS in Accountancy and obtained an MBA in Finance with Honors from DePaul University.

She resides in Western Springs, Illinois, with her husband, Jim.