

CHAMBER NEWS

April 2026
Volume 33 - No. 4



Official Newsletter of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce



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topics and
issues
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Spring Into
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45 minutes of
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Annual Chamber Meeting 2026

Join us for our Annual Meeting as we celebrate a year of accomplishments and look ahead to what's next for the Chamber and its priorities. This signature event brings together Chamber members for an afternoon of connection, conversation, and community. Enjoy light appetizers, a cash bar, and the chance to reconnect with fellow members, strengthen relationships, and celebrate the impact of our business community.

Keynote speaker, Princess Paula, will deliver an engaging presentation tailored specifically for a business audience, using her memorable "Be the Ferrari" story to spark both insight and inspiration. Through humor and real-world perspective, she will

share ideas about the mindset to show up with clarity, purpose, and authenticity in how your business can serve their customers and community.



**Thursday, May 7, 2026
3:00 - 5:00 PM
Detroit Country Club**

Sponsorship opportunities are available; don't miss your chance to be part of this impactful event!
Become a Sponsor!



Register Today!



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Coffee + Community Importance of Local Journalism

**Save the date for our next
Coffee + Community on April
29th at the Becker County
Museum from 8:00 - 9:15 AM!**

Our April topic is the importance of local journalism. More details to come soon!

Coffee + Community is a series of expert panel discussions designed to provide valuable insight into the local organizations and services that shape our community.

Brought to you by the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce and League of Women Voters Detroit Lakes



DLChamber@VisitDetroitLakes.com • 218-847-9202

GET IN TOUCH

218-847-9202

700 Summit Ave.
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

DLChamber@VisitDetroitLakes.com

VisitDetroitLakes.com/Chamber

Jackie Buboltz

President

jackie@visitdetroitlakes.com

Jean Erickson

Office Coordinator

jean@visitdetroitlakes.com

Joanna Thoennes

Membership & Business

Support Specialist

joanna@visitdetroitlakes.com

Megan Gilsdorf

Events Coordinator

events@visitdetroitlakes.com

Cleone Stewart

Tourism Director

cleone@visitdetroitlakes.com

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#DLCHAMBER

OUR MISSION



The mission of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce is to promote and enhance a vibrant business community while contributing to the quality of life through leadership, connection and community.



Our Reach in 2026

Feb 2026

Walk-Ins

89

Phone Calls

151

Website Viewers

24,113

2026 Totals

Walk-Ins

167

Phone Calls

189

Website Viewers

47,753

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair

Kim Bettcher - 2026

DLCCC

Chair-Elect

Liz Holzer - 2026

Dynamic Homes

Treasurer

Jason Kuehn - 2026

DL School District

Past Chair

Nate Hunter - 2027

HomeSmart Adventure Realty

Directors

Molly Albrecht - 2028

Lakelife Hospitality

Cara Frank - 2026

Bell Bank

Emily Haverkamp - 2027

MState

Jennifer Hagman - 2026

Better Every Day Consignment

Joe Skogmo - 2026

First Lutheran Church

Tiffany Voigt - 2028

DL Tribune/Forum Communications

Jennifer Winn - 2027

Arvig

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Economic Summit Brings Leaders Together to Look Ahead



Nearly 140 business leaders, community partners, elected officials, and engaged residents gathered for the Chamber's Annual Economic Summit – demonstrating the value of bringing people together to better understand the forces shaping our economy and our region's future.

Convening these conversations is an important part of the Chamber's role. The Summit creates an opportunity for employers and community leaders to hear directly from experts, gain perspective on emerging trends, and consider how those insights may shape decisions for their businesses and organizations.

This year's program offered a look at the economy from several perspectives. The Federal Reserve Bank shared national and state economic data, while the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development provided state and regional workforce insights. Local leaders also shared updates on economic development efforts and priorities influencing growth in our area.

Beyond the data and presentations, the Summit created space for connection and conversation among those who invested in the future of our business community.

Thank you to the speakers, sponsors, and everyone who joined us. When we come together to share information and ideas, we strengthen both our businesses and our region.



BREAKFAST SPONSOR:



PLATINUM:



GOLD:



SILVER:



HR CONNECT

1st Thursday of every month!

If Human Resources is in your job description, this is the group for you! Join us to share best practices and discuss HR topics & issues.

**Thursday,
April 2**
8:15 – 9:30 am

LOCATION:
Chamber Conference Room
700 Summit Ave.
Detroit Lakes

Free for Members
\$10 for Non-Members



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Ambassador Visit



Our Chamber Ambassadors were honored to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Washington Ball Park Project - a long-anticipated investment in a treasured community amenity.

This project reflects the importance of honoring the park's history while improving it for today and future generations. The enhancements will strengthen the experience for local families and athletes, create a welcoming space for visitors, and send a clear message that this is a community that believes in investing in itself.

Beyond quality of life, projects like this also bring economic impact - supporting tourism, events, and local businesses. Congratulations to everyone who has contributed years of planning, collaboration, and commitment to bring this vision to life.

Member News

Essentia Health St. Mary's Detroit Lakes welcomes Kristine Stompro, a certified PA, who will practice orthopedic surgery. She has been in Detroit Lakes for eight years as a PA. Prior to that, she worked in athletic training.

Vitalant has a nonprofit Give Back Program that allows your organization to raise money for nonprofits by encouraging community members to donate blood. For every successful donor, \$10 will be contributed to the selected nonprofit, making each donation both lifesaving and impactful for the cause. In order for the nonprofit to receive any funds, a minimum of 40 successful donors must participate. If fewer than 40 donors give, the funds will not be awarded. Once the goal is met, the nonprofit will be recognized and presented with a ceremonial check representing the total amount raised.

Ag in the Classroom

Each year, our area 4th grade students have the opportunity to participate in the **Ag in the Classroom Program**. Students from Rossman, Roosevelt, Holy Rosary, Faith Christian, Ogema/Waubun, Lake Park/Audubon and Circle of Life learn about dairy farming, raising beef, sheep and pigs, as well as farming crops like potatoes and grains and more. They also learned about soils and farm safety. The Chamber is proud to help sponsor this opportunity for students to learn the importance of agriculture in our area. Thanks to Crystal Dibley, Mary Ann Jorgenson and Denise Olson for coordinating the event.



Demo of Traditional Spinning Wheel

Welcome New Members

The Collins Foundation

Conner Collins, President
2282 – 57th Avenue South, Fargo, ND 58104
Email: thecollinsfoundationinc@gmail.com
www.thecollinsfoundation.com



Established in 2024, The Collins Foundation is dedicated to supporting communities through scholarship & grant programs. They provide student athlete scholarships for senior students in MN & ND along with providing financial grants to schools and/or park districts to improve the activities experience.

CP Financial Services

Chad Plettl, Owner/President
12615 So. Abbey Lake Lane, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
701-541-0247
Email: cpfinancialservicesnd@gmail.com
www.cpfinancialservicesllc.com



With over 18 years of experience in accounting and financial services, Chad Plettl is a seasoned expert in navigating the complexities of bookkeeping, accounting, payroll, tax prep, business setup and customer reporting.

Merry Melody Music Academy

Leah Knight, Owner/Director
Melissa Jay, Office Manager
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218-325-0224
Email: tim@offdutychief.com
www.offdutychief.com



Tim Eggebraaten, retired DL Police Chief, is a keynote speaker, musician and emcee serving communities locally and nationwide.

MEMBER RENEWALS

Thanks to the following members who have renewed their Chamber Membership from Feb. 24, 2026 – March 26, 2026!

Adobe Acrobat

Al's Bar & Grill/Audubon Liquor Store

Mayor Matt Brenk

Detroit Lakes Public Library

Fairfield by MARRIOTT

Golden Manor

Home Sweet Bakehouse

Hub 41

Keller Williams Realty Professionals

Lake Detroiters Assoc.

MANNA Food Co-op

Minnesota Inboard Water Sports

Kim Mollberg

Northwestern Mutual – Andrew Barker

Pit 611

Precision Electric, LLC

RE/MAX Lakes Region, LLC

Strive Chiropractic

Walmart Supercenter #2957

Chamber Memberships renew throughout the year.

For a complete list, visit business.visitdetroitlakes.com/list



Wednesday, April 22nd
12:30 – 2:30 PM
Detroit Lakes City Park

Join us for a fun and meaningful way to give back to our community by helping with spring cleaning at the city beach! Make an impact, enjoy the outdoors, and connect with your fellow YPs before cooling off with a sweet treat at Hub 41.

Event Schedule:

Beach Cleanup: 12:30 – 2:00 PM
 Ice Cream Social at Hub 41: 2:00 – 2:30 PM

Must be COMPASS YP member to attend.



Scan here to register for free!

We'll provide safety vests and all cleanup equipment. This event is made possible in partnership with City of Detroit Lakes Parks and Rec.

In case of inclement weather, this event will be postponed to Wednesday, April 29th.

Program Sponsored by:



Regional Leaders Attend First Joint Capitol Visit



Business and community leaders from the Detroit Lakes region traveled to St. Paul on March 11–12 for the Chamber's first Capital Visit, held in partnership with the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber. Together, the organizations brought a joint delegation of nearly 50 leaders to represent northwest Minnesota at the State Capitol.



During the two-day visit, attendees met with legislators and policy leaders while gaining insight into legislative issues shaping Minnesota's business climate. Conversations included infrastructure, Paid Family and Medical Leave, tax policy, technology and fraud, and other priorities affecting businesses and communities across the region.

Participants shared the importance of connecting with legislators while making connections with business and community leaders from across the region. Participants also learned more about the current legislative landscape, and the priorities of the Minnesota House and Senate representatives.

A special thank you to **PRO Resources** for sponsoring the Detroit Lakes Chamber's participation and helping make this opportunity possible.

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Legislation the Chamber is Watching

The Minnesota legislative session is underway, and lawmakers are considering proposals that could affect businesses across the state. The Chamber is monitoring legislation that may impact employers in our region and sharing updates to help members stay informed.

This is not a comprehensive list, and members are encouraged to stay informed about legislation affecting their specific business or industry. Information was current at the time of printing and may change as the legislative session progresses.

This year's session also comes with unique dynamics that includes an evenly split House between Republicans and Democrats, while the Senate holds a narrow one-seat DFL majority. With committee deadlines approaching March 27 and adjournment scheduled for May 18, lawmakers face a compressed timeline and most legislation will require bipartisan agreement to move forward.

Paid Family & Medical Leave (PFML) Updates

Minnesota's PFML program began January 1, 2026. A MN Chamber survey of nearly 700 employers and HR professionals provided feedback on administrative complexity, slow claim approvals, staffing disruptions, and cost concerns—especially among small employers. Proposed changes include reducing the number of weeks available, narrowing the definition of eligible family members, adjusting benefit levels, strengthening provisions for small businesses, and improving program administration.

Tax Conformity – Pass-Through Entity (PTE) Tax

Proposals would align Minnesota's treatment of the PTE election with federal rules, allowing partnerships and S-corporations to pay state income tax at the entity level rather than through individual owners.

Tax Conformity – Section 179 Expensing

Section 179 allows businesses to deduct the cost of certain equipment and capital investments in the year they are purchased rather than depreciating them over time.

Training Repayment Agreements ("Stay or Pay")

This legislation would prohibit employers from requiring employees to repay certain training, education, or hiring-related costs if they leave within a specified timeframe.

Stay Engaged

Members are encouraged to stay informed and connect with local legislators to share how these issues impact their business.



2nd Wednesday of every month!

Join the **:45 Fill Up** for networking and share business and event information! Be sure to bring business cards and flyers to share!

**Wednesday,
April 8
8:15 – 9:30 am**

LOCATION:

**Arvig
340 US-10,
Detroit Lakes**

*Want to host a :45 Fill Up
at your business?*

Contact the Chamber!

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Detroit Lakes
Regional Chamber
of Commerce

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SUMMER EVENTS

**Save the Date for
your favorite summer
events!**

Cruise DL Nights

- Wednesday, June 10
- Wednesday, July 8
- Wednesday, August 12
- Wednesday, September 9

Art in the Park

- Sunday, July 26

WE Fest Shuttle

- Thur. - Sat., August 5-8

Crazy Daze

- Tuesday, August 11

*Volunteers needed for help with
Art in the Park, WE Fest Shuttle,
and Crazy Daze. Email
events@visitdetroitlakes.com
for more information!*

What's Happening - April 2026

- 1..... The Magic School Bus, 10am & 12:30pm, Holmes Theatre
- 2..... **HR Connect, 8:15-9:30am, Chamber Office**
- 4 Winter Farmer's Market, 11am-1pm, Bucks Mill Brewing
- 8 **:45 Fill-up, 8:15-9am, Arvig**
- 10-11..... Home & Sport Show, 4-8pm, 10am-7pm, Freeman Arena
- 11..... Heart O' Lakes Harmony Show, 7:30pm, Holmes Theatre
- 15 Heartstrings: A Remembrance Service, 5-6:30pm, DL Public Library
- 16 Family Resource Fair, 4:30-6:30pm, Boys & Girls Club
- 17 Deep Dive DL, 8-9am, Bucks Mill Brewing
- 17 Lakes Crisis Center Ann. Banquet & Auction, 5:30pm, Holmes Ballroom
- 18 Autism Acceptance Walk, 10am, Rossman Elementary
- 18 Aiming High for PAD Sports Fundraiser, 5pm, VFW
- 19 360 ALLSTARS, 6pm, Holmes Theatre
- 22..... **COMPASS YP Spring Into Service, 12:30-2:30pm, DL City Park**
- 23 Lakes Co. Networking Visitor Day, 8am, DL City Office
- 23 **Chamber Board of Directors, 8am, Chamber Office**
- 23 Clayton Ryan & Maddie Thies Concert, 7pm, Cornerstone, Frazee
- 24 Holy Rosary Spring Interlude, 5:30pm, The Barn at Dunvilla
- 25 Holmes Art Crawl, 10am-5pm, Holmes Art Cellar
- 25 Ignite Fights, 5pm, Freeman Arena
- 25 Electric Avenue, 7:30pm, Holmes Theatre
- 29..... **Coffee + Community, 8-9:15am, Becker Co. Museum**

See full calendar of events and local information at
VisitDetroitLakes.com

Please let us know if you have events for our calendar.

Route Around Your Office
Please route to:

_____	_____
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