

CHAMBER NEWS

February 2026
Volume 33 - No. 2



Official Newsletter of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce



MARCH 27, 2026 | HISTORIC HOLMES BALLROOM



The Annual Economic Development Summit brings together Chamber members, business leaders, and elected officials for a high-energy, forward-looking conversation about the region's economic future. This signature event sparks dialogue, shares insights, and connects decision-makers shaping growth and opportunity.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Anthony Schaffhauser
Regional Analyst for
Northwest Minnesota at DEED



Erick Garcia Luna
Regional Outreach Director at
the Federal Reserve Bank of
Minneapolis

AND MORE!

Join Us! Register on our website or check out the flyer inside and scan the QR code!



Interested in becoming a sponsor of our Annual Economic Development Summit? Check out the insert inside for more details!

Enhancing Your Member Experience

We're excited to share an important update! The Chamber is upgrading our member database and online Member Center. While we already have systems in place, this migration is designed to improve your experience and allow the Chamber to operate more efficiently—so we can better serve you.

What this means for you:

- An easier, more user-friendly Member Center
- Improved event registration and communication
- More efficient billing and payment options

What it means for the Chamber:

- Streamlined processes
- More accurate records
- More time focused on serving our members

There is nothing you need to do now but you will receive step-by-step instructions soon, and our team will be here to help every step of the way. Thank you for growing with us as we continue to elevate our member experience.

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



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, February 11

8:15 – 9:00 am

Ivory Nest, 106 Willow St W, Detroit Lakes

Want to host a :45 Fill Up at your business?
Contact the Chamber!



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, February 5

8:15 – 9:30 am

Chamber Conference Room, 700 Summit Ave

Free to Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce members
\$10 for Non-Members



Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026

4:00 – 5:30 PM

Bucks Mill Brewing

Scan here to
register for
free!



Whether you're brand new or have been a member for years, **Member 101** is designed to help you better understand, use, and maximize your Chamber membership.

Join us for a casual, informative session covering who we are, what we do, and how to plug in based on your goals.

Enjoy a taco bar and free axe throwing by **Woodsman Axe!**

Sponsored by:



The Chamber (USPS 699-170) is published monthly by the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce, 700 Summit Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501. Periodicals postage paid at Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-9998. POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to The Chamber, PO Box 348, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-0348. Annual subscriptions \$20.00

OLAF ANDERSON
GENERAL CONTRACTORS
4102 19th Ave N • P.O. Box 2766
Fargo, ND 58108-2766
701.237.3605
www.olafanderson.com
Jeff Furstenau, CEO
Troy Mallow, Vice President

REMODELING OR BUILDING A NEW BUILDING?
LET OLAF DO IT!

Steve's Sanitation
Commercial and Residential
Garbage Disposal
Single-Sort Recycling Services
218-346-4834
Locally owned since 1986

AUTOMATE, ENTERTAIN, & SECURE!

PRO CUSTOM & SECURITY
Commercial & Residential
Installation & Service

DESIGN & INSTALLATION

- Structure Wiring
- Surveillance Systems
- Security Systems
- Controlled Access Systems
- PA & Video Conferencing
- Audio/Video Systems
- Home Theater Systems
- Sport Simulators
- Smart Technologies

Visit or Call us for
FREE CONSULTATION! www.procustomandsecurity.com (218) 847-9278

City Hall 101 – COMPASS YP Recap



COMPASS Young Professionals recently hosted **City Hall 101** – an engaging session focused on understanding how local government works and how to get involved. Participants gained insight into the roles of the City Council, Mayor, and city departments, how decisions and budgets are made, and practical ways to engage and make an impact in the community.

Interested in joining COMPASS YP? COMPASS is a low-commitment group designed for busy

young professionals, with one high-impact event each month. Employers are encouraged to support and invite their young professionals to participate as a way to invest in leadership development, community connection, and talent retention.

Upcoming events include:

- February 11, 2026: Financial Literacy at City Hall
- March 9, 2026: St. Patrick's Day-themed Minute to Win It Games at Bucks Mill Brewing
- April: Spring Into Service – DL public beach cleanup with social to follow
- May 8, 2026: National speaker on networking
- June: Amazing Race Social
- July: Volunteering at Water Carnival events

Coffee + Community Jan. Recap

Coffee + Community was a great way to start the day! Thank you to our sponsors, **KDLM Radio** and **Zerr Berg Architects**, for supporting this important conversation on public school funding and enrollment.

We're grateful to our panelists—Mark Jenson, Renee Kerzman, and Jason Kuehn—and to Detroit Lakes Public Schools, as well as our partners at the League of Women Voters – Detroit Lakes.



Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the conversation meaningful. **Watch the full event on our Youtube Channel @detroitlakeschamber**

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.

FOLLOW US!



#DLCHAMBER

Our Reach in 2025

Dec. 2025	2025 Totals
Walk-Ins 139	Walk-Ins 2,893
Phone Calls 163	Phone Calls 2,411
Website Viewers 18,563	Website Viewers 686,536



While you're preparing for your whole world to change, partner with providers who are ready to help shape the best pregnancy and delivery experience for you. At Sanford Health in Detroit Lakes, you can build a relationship with our team of OB/GYN providers to support you at every step of growing your family.

[Learn more at sanfordhealth.org](https://www.sanfordhealth.org)



Jaimie Deraney, MD



Michael Norgard, MD



Becky Peterson, APRN



Jenny Lessman, PA-C

Sanford Detroit Lakes Clinic
1245 Washington Ave.
(218) 846-2000

SANFORD
WOMEN'S



Commercial & Residential Garbage, Recycling, and Roll-Off Services

detroitlakesdisposal.com

Ambassador Visits



Our Ambassador team visited **Chamber Member Goodin Company** for a behind-the-scenes look at their new facility. We appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the business and how this new space supports future growth. Thank you to the Goodin Company team for the warm welcome, and congratulations on the new building!



Chamber Ambassadors visited Young Life to learn more about their mission and celebrate their new space. It was inspiring to hear about their plans to expand and grow their programs supporting youth in our community. Congratulations to the Young Life team on this exciting milestone!



Our Ambassadors loved stopping by Jersey Mike's to say hello and officially welcome them to the community. We're excited to have you here!



Milestones like this deserve to be celebrated! Congratulations to **Chamber Member Manna Co-op** on their grand opening. The Chamber's Ambassador team was thrilled to take part in the celebration and support this exciting new chapter.

ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES
Serving Our Community in Christ's Name



THRIFT STORE
Low Prices • Open to the Public!

404 Richwood Road
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
(218) 847-0067

Tuesdays 9:00-7:00 pm
Thursdays 9:00-4:00 pm
Fridays 9:00-12:00 pm

JH SIGNS & DESIGN
Your Image is Our Business

SIGNS | DECALS | AWNINGS
DESIGN | SERVICE | AND MORE!

41357 460th St.
Perham, MN 56573
218.346.7446

jhsigns.com
jhsigns
jhsignsperham

FOLTZ BUILDINGS

- Completely Erected with Warranty
- Engineered, Designed Post Frame Buildings

Toll Free **800.255.9981**
www.foltzbuildings.com




Welcome New Member

Price 4 Charter Buses & Limos

Travis Salat, Manager

990 Sinson Way, Suite 201
West Palm Beach, FL, 33411

866-265-5479

Email: travis@price4limo.com

www.price4limo.com

With several locations in Minneapolis, St. Cloud and Duluth, they can provide your charter bus, party bus and limo needs. Established in 2011, they provide quality service. Call for a quote or go online for quotes and booking.



Member Renewals

Thanks to the following members who have renewed their Chamber Membership from Dec. 27, 2025 - Jan. 23, 2026!

Becker County Coalition of Lake Assoc.
Becker County Economic Development Authority
Becker Pet & Garden & The Candy Store
Bobcat of Detroit Lakes/Swanson's Repair, Inc.
DL Towing
Four Points Fiduciary
Jack Chivers Realty
Laker Prep Early Childhood Center
Lend A Hand Up

Minnesota Flyers Gymnastics
Northwestern Bank
State Farm Insurance-Greg Hildenbrand
Sunset Shores Resort & Campground
Two Men & A Truck
U Motors Inc.
ULTRA (United Lakes & Trail Riders Assoc.)
Zorbaz

Chamber Memberships renew throughout the year. For a complete list, visit business.visitdetroitlakes.com/list

NEW Sponsorship & Visibility Guide

We're excited to introduce our **Sponsorship & Visibility Guide**, a simple way for members to plan their sponsorships and marketing with the Chamber.

The guide brings all sponsorship opportunities into one place—making it easier for members to plan their sponsorships in advance to ensure consistent, year-round visibility, stronger alignment with their business goals, and a more intentional presence at the events and programs that matter most to them—while still having the flexibility to explore new opportunities as they arise.

Scan here to view the digital Sponsorship & Visibility Guide and start securing your sponsorships today! →



**Watch for Member Posts
by following us on Facebook
& Instagram!**

On Mondays we introduce you to our new Chamber members.

On Thursdays we highlight renewing Chamber members.

#DLCHAMBER



YOUR LOCAL LEGISLATORS

Senator Amy Klobuchar (DFL)
202.224.3244
Senator.Klobuchar@Senate.Gov

Senator Tina Smith (DFL)
202.224.5641
Scheduling@Smith.Senate.Gov

Michelle Fischbach (R)
7th District US House
202-225-2165 or 218-616-2802

Pete Stauber (R)
8th District US House
https://Stauber.House.Gov/

Paul Utke (R)
Senate 5
218-255-1131
Sen.Paul.Utke@Senate.mn

Rob Kupec (DFL)
Senate 4
651-296-3205
Sen.Rob.Kupec@Senate.mn

Jim Joy (R)
House 4B
651-296-6829
Rep.Jim.Joy@House.mn.gov

Krista Knudsen (R)
House 5A
651-296-9918
Rep.Krista.Knudsen@House.mn.gov

To find your local representative,
go to www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/

Elevate Our Voice: MN Day at the Capital

The Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce a new opportunity for Chamber members to elevate their voice at the state level—and it truly matters.

Through a new partnership with the Fargo–Moorhead–West Fargo Chamber, we are co-hosting **Minnesota Day at the Capitol on March 11–12 in St. Paul**. This two-day experience brings business and community leaders face-to-face with legislators, agency leaders, and executive branch officials—creating real conversations around the issues shaping our businesses, workforce, and region.

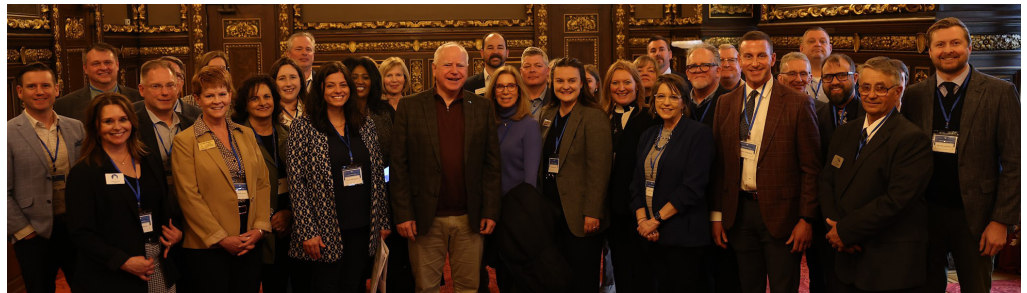
When business leaders show up together, relationships are built, priorities are understood, and our region gains a stronger voice where decisions are made. This is more than a trip—it's a chance to advocate, connect, and better understand how state policy impacts your business and our community.

A registration fee applies. Participants arrange lodging and transportation. A room block is available through February 25. **Full details and registration are at fmwfcchamber.com/events.**

A special thank you to **ProResources** for sponsoring this opportunity for Chamber members to access and influence the important decisions made in St. Paul.

Contact Jackie at the Chamber with any questions about this opportunity or if you want to know more about what to expect.

2025 Capital Visit



Treasury Issues FAQ on Penny Phase-Out

The U.S. Department of Treasury has officially stopped producing new pennies, and new guidance explains what this change means for businesses and consumers. According to the **Minnesota Retailers Association**, the decision reflects both rising costs and changing payment habits. Scan here to read more and understand what this means for businesses. →



MID CENTRAL DOOR
A BECHTOLD FAMILY COMPANY

Hollow Metal Frames
Hollow Metal Doors
Architectural Wood Doors
Door Hardware
Service / Installation

www.midcentraldoor.com

Mid Central Door
2661 US HWY 10 W
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
(218) 396-1815

Fundamental Technologies

We Accept:
Credit Cards
Paypal
Venmo
Check
More

Event Tech
IT Support
Sound & Light
Cell Service Boosters
On-Line Meetings
Sound For Meeting Rooms
Custom wood Working

If You Can Think I Can Build IT!

Contact Us for a Demo of Our New Premium Security Cameras & Door Card Systems and Environmental Monitoring

kevin@fundamentaltechnologies.com
218-234-5888 Text For Faster Response Call If You Need

CONTACT US!

218-847-9202

700 Summit Ave.
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

DLChamber@VisitDetroitLakes.com

Looking Ahead to 2026: Building on the Momentum

The momentum we've built together is creating exciting opportunities for the year ahead. In 2026, the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce will continue to elevate leadership, strengthen connections, and invest in community—while building the systems and partnerships needed to support our members and region.

Stronger Systems for a Stronger Chamber

Investing in infrastructure to improve efficiency for both members and the Chamber.

- Migrate to a more user-friendly and robust member database with enhanced features that better support members and create internal efficiencies.
- Implement a new accounting system that integrates with the member database, improves accuracy and efficiency, and allows for more automated member services.
- Launch a new Chamber website that makes it easier for members to connect with each other and Chamber services and provides information for the community



Leadership, Advocacy & Community Convening

Elevating the Chamber's role as a connector and convener.

- New partnership offering Minnesota Day at the Capitol for members
- Explore ways to convene members, partners, and leaders to discuss challenges, opportunities, and shared solutions

Connecting Members & Elevating Value

Building on connection while adding tools that create value.

- Continue :45 Fill Up, New Member 101, and Member Meet & Mingle (M³)
- Develop a Sponsorship & Visibility Guide to help members plan and maximize exposure
- Explore new ways to strengthen connections and support business growth and community growth



A Space & Strategy for What's Next

Investing in place and purpose.

- Complete an interior refresh to create a welcoming, functioning space for members, visitors and the community
- Conduct a board strategic planning session to plan for the long term and align priorities with the Chamber's mission

Looking Forward

The year ahead is about strengthening our foundation while continuing to elevate leadership, connection, and community. As the Board completes its strategic planning and we continue to seek member input, more details will be shared. We look forward to another year of learning, growing, and leading—together.



Human Resources Made Easy. On a Small Business Budget.

Human
Resources

Payroll &
Compliance

Workers
Comp

Benefits
Admin

Wellness
& Safety

All-In-One HR Equals Serious Time & Money Savings!



Andy Wills
HR Consultant
218.846.8097
awills@proresourceshr.com

PRO
Resources.
ProResourcesHR.com

Detroit Lakes Chamber Bucks Reminder:



For good customer service, please continue to accept ALL Chamber Bucks but let the Chamber know if you receive any \$10 checks from First Security Bank; we will exchange them for **new** 1st National Bank checks.



Detroit Lakes

Regional Chamber
of Commerce

PO Box 348
Detroit Lakes, MN
56502-0348

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE
PAID
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
USPS #699-170

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 - 2025
HomeSmart Adventure Realty

Directors

Molly Albrecht - 2026
Lakelife Hospitality

Cara Frank - 2026
Bell Bank

Emily Haverkamp - 2026
MState

Jennifer Morton - 2026
Better Every Day Consignment

Joe Skogmo - 2026
First Lutheran Church

Tiffany Voigt - 2028
DL Tribune/Forum Communications

Jennifer Winn - 2027
Arvig

What's Happening - February 2026

Every Friday – Live Music, 6:30–9pm, Detroit Mountain Rec. Area

Every Saturday – Music, 9pm–1am, Zorbaz

Every Sunday – Snowshoe Sundays, 12–4pm, Tamarac NWR

4.....Ambassadors, 9:30am

5.....HR Connect, 8:15–9:30am, Chamber Office

6–22....Polar Fest, see complete activity schedule at www.polarfestdl.com

6–22 ..Find Polar Pete, participating businesses

6Daddy's Little Sweetheart Dance, 6–9pm, Holmes Ballroom

6Mom & Son Bash, 6–9pm, Becker Co. Museum

6–8.....Vern Turner Memorial Bonspiel, Lakes Curling Club

7.....Kiwanis Pancake Feed, 8am–noon, American Legion

7.....Sweaty YETI Race Event, 9am, Detroit Mountain Rec. Area

7.....Poles 'N Holes Fishing Derby, 12–3pm, Little Detroit Lake

11.....:45 Fill-up, 8:15–9am, Ivory Nest

12Peking Acrobats, 7pm, Holmes Theatre

14Freeze Your Buns Run, 9am, DLCCC

14.....Valentine Tea, 1–3pm, Becker County Museum

14.....Adult Pinewood Derby, 1–5pm, Boys & Girls Club

14.....Fabulous Armadillos, 7:30pm, Holmes Theatre

15Cool Kites on the Lake, 10am–3pm, Little Detroit Lake

17Mardi Gras Kings, 7pm, Holmes Theatre

20Joe Nichols Concert, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino

21DL Vintage Snowmobile Rally & Swap Meet, 8am–5pm, Little Detroit

21Polar Pete's Market, 10am–3pm, Bucks Mill Brewing

21Polar Fest Plunge, 1pm, DL City Beach

21Frozen Fireworks, 7pm, DL City Beach

21Dude Dad's Parent's Night Out, 8pm, Holmes Theatre

24Member 101, 4–5:30pm, Bucks Mill Brewing

27.....Chamber Board Meeting, 8am, Chamber Office

28.....Throne MMA, 7pm, Shooting Star Casino

[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:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____