

CHAMBER NEWS

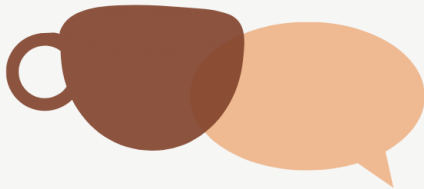
January 2026
Volume 33 - No. 1



Official Newsletter of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce

DETROIT LAKES REGIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
DETROIT LAKES



COFFEE + COMMUNITY

COME CURIOUS, LEAVE CONNECTED

WE BELIEVE THAT THE KEY TO A THRIVING COMMUNITY LIES IN INFORMED CITIZENS WHO ARE EQUIPPED WITH KNOWLEDGE TO ENGAGE THOUGHTFULLY IN COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS. OUR PANELISTS WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO THE WORLD OF FUNDING & ENROLLMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN OUR LOCAL AREA.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- EXPERT PANEL SHARING VALUABLE INSIGHTS
- COFFEE & ASSORTED PASTRIES
- CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS

FUNDING & ENROLLMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

21 JAN. 2026

8:00 - 9:15 AM
BECKER COUNTY MUSEUM EVENT HALL

OUR JANUARY PANEL TOPIC IS **FUNDING & ENROLLMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS** WITH PANEL SPEAKERS:

- **MARK JENSON**, SUPERINTENDENT
- **RENEE KERZMAN**, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & TECHNOLOGY
- **JASON KUEHN**, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS



**REGISTER FOR
FREE HERE!**

SPONSORED BY LEIGHTON MEDIA &
ZERR BERG ARCHITECTS



What a year it's been for the Chamber! Elevating leadership, connection, and community guided the Chamber's work this past year, driving stronger engagement, refreshed programs, and continued growth. Inside, take a look at the **2025 year in review** for a full recap on the initiatives, events and accomplishments that made a difference for our members and community.

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

:45 Fill-Up Location Change!



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, Jan. 14th

8:15 – 9:00 am

Bell Bank, Lower Level

920 Lake Ave, Detroit Lakes

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



HR Connect

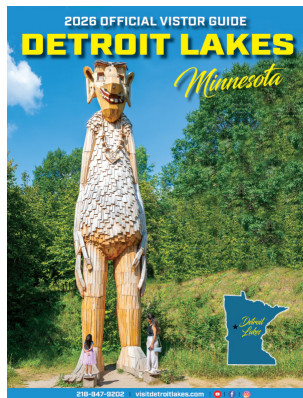


Thursday, Jan. 8th • 8:15 - 9:30am



Chamber Office - 700 Summit Ave.

Agenda will include a presentation from MAHUBE on the Child Care Assistance Program that may help employees with child care costs for qualifying children and sites, IRS updates for 2026, and open discussion of PFML experience so far.



AVAILABLE NOW!

The 2026 Visitor Guide and Snowmobile Map are now available! These updated resources highlight local businesses, attractions, and trail information,



making it easy for visitors and locals to explore and enjoy the area year-round. Grab yours today!

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!



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

Member 101 – Feb. 24th, 2026

Member 101: Get the Most from Your Chamber Membership

Whether you joined the Chamber last month or years ago, one thing is always true: the more you engage, the more value you gain. That's exactly why we're hosting **Member 101**—a welcoming, informative session designed to help you fully understand, use, and benefit from your Chamber membership.

Member 101 is a casual, engaging overview of your Chamber—who we are, what we do, and how we support businesses through connection, leadership, and community. You'll learn about the programs, events, advocacy efforts, and visibility opportunities available to you, along with practical tips for plugging in based on your goals and interests.

This session on **February 24th, 2026** is ideal for:

- New members who want a strong start and a clear roadmap for engagement
- Current members who want to reconnect, refocus, or discover benefits they may not be using yet

You'll also have the chance to meet other members, ask questions, and make connections in a comfortable, no-pressure environment.

Your Chamber membership is an investment—and Member 101 helps ensure you're getting the greatest return. We'd love to see you there and help you make the most of being part of a strong, connected business community.

More event details to follow!

COMPASS YP Holiday Social Recap

Our **COMPASS YP Holiday Social** brought tropical vibes to Long Bridge and the energy did not disappoint! From nonstop laughs to meaningful connections, young professionals came together to celebrate the season island-style, capped off with a festive Santa's Beach House decorating contest. It was the perfect mix of fun, friendship, and community.



Want in on the next one?

Join COMPASS YP and be part of the fun! Email the Chamber to register!

Our next session is City Hall 101 on Jan. 15th!

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

<u>Nov. 2025</u>	<u>2025 Totals</u>
Walk-Ins 117	Walk-Ins 2,754
Phone Calls 143	Phone Calls 2,248
Website Viewers 20,311	Website Viewers 667,973



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)

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



Jaimie Deraney, MD



Michael Norgard, MD



Becky Peterson, APRN



Jenny Lessman, PA-C

SANFORD
WOMEN'S



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

detroitlakesdisposal.com

Promotion & Events Committee Updates



Small Business Saturday Selfie Winner - Kelly M.!

Our Promotion and Events Committee has been busy finding fun ways to support local businesses and engage the community! For **Small Business Saturday**, we hosted a selfie giveaway that encouraged shoppers to snap photos while supporting their favorite local spots - boosting visibility and celebrating shopping local in a creative way.

We also wrapped up our **Shop. Drop. Win. Weekly Giveaway**, which was a huge success. **Congrats to our Week 4 Winner - Sara V.!** Thanks to the support of participating businesses, winners received over \$600 in cash and gift cards, creating excitement and driving foot traffic throughout the promotion. A big thank-you to our generous sponsors, **Midwest Bank and My Kind of Bank - 1st National**, for helping make Shop. Drop. Win. possible.

We're excited to keep the momentum going by continuing to develop creative, high-impact promotions that support our members and strengthen our local economy. Our commitment is to foster a united business community - one that works together to generate excitement, increase visibility, and create a positive buzz throughout Detroit Lakes. By collaborating with our members and community partners, we aim to highlight all that our local businesses have to offer while building lasting connections that benefit the entire community.



Our Shop. Drop. Win. Week 1 Winner - Richelle R.!



Our Shop. Drop. Win. Week 2 Winner - James R.!



Our Shop. Drop. Win. Week 3 Winner - AJ K.!

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 & Designs
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 Members

Fred Astaire Dance Studio-Fargo West

Elizabeth Narasimha, Owner
4500 - 36th Avenue South, Ste. 100
Fargo, ND 58104
701-670-1385
Email: fargowest@fredastaire.com
www.fredastaire.com/fargo-west/



We help individuals and couples enrich their lives physically, mentally, emotionally and socially, through the joy and transformative power of dance.

The Nines

Lauren & Garrett Larson
917 Washington Avenue
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
218-234-0608
Email: lauren@shopthenines.com
www.shopthenines.com



A women's boutique offering affordable outfits for any occasion. In addition to the Detroit Lakes Store, we have an online store and a location in Fargo.

Lakeside Outdoor Solutions

Lance Briard, Owner
45214 Co. Hwy. 80
Perham, MN 56573
218-849-3870
Email: lance@lakesideoutdoormn.com
www.lakesideoutdoormn.com



We specialize in new-build landscaping for homes throughout the lakes area. Our focus includes both hardscapes and softscapes, shoreline work, grading, seeding, riprap, and sod installation. We provide quality craftsmanship and attention to detail.

Member Renewals

Thanks to the following members who have renewed their Chamber Membership from Nov. 25 - Dec. 26, 2025!

A Place to Belong
Becker County Food Pantry
China Buffet
Detroit Lakes Kiwanis Club
Detroit Lakes Lions Club
Detroit Mountain Recreation Area
Fidium Business
Metal Sales
Minuteman Mortgage

Odegaard's Sinclair
Outlet Recreation
Beth Priddy
Propel DL
Quality Inn & Suites
RCH Custom Homes
S & S Promotional Group
Solutions Behavioral Healthcare Professionals P.C.

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



**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/

Member News

Essentia Health St. Mary's in Detroit Lakes has once again received national recognition for the exceptional care it provides. The latest accolade is a five-star rating on the Forbes Top Hospitals list. Forbes evaluated about 2,500 general acute care hospitals nationwide. After careful analysis, 10% of them received an overall rating of five stars, the best possible score.

Lakes Country Association of Realtors gave awards to the following: Nate Hunter, **HomeSmart Adventure Realty** – Rookie of the Year; Jim Keeley, **HomeSmart Adventure Realty** – Beau Shroyer Distinguished Service Award; and Jason Witzke, **Jack Chivers Realty** – Realtor of the Year.

Correct information for: **Deana Deitchler Real Estate**, 218-252-3302, Email: deanagdeitchler@gmail.com, www.218RealEstateAgent.com

Member Meet & Mingle (M³)

Our next **Member Meet & Mingle (M³)** is right around the corner, and it's shaping up to be another energizing opportunity to connect, share ideas, and build relationships with fellow Chamber members. These gatherings are all about real conversations, new connections, and strengthening the business community—without the pressure or formality.

Each M³ has its own vibe, shaped by the space, the people, and the conversations that happen when members come together. Whether you're a longtime member or brand new, this is one of the easiest and most enjoyable ways to stay engaged and plugged in.



Want to spotlight your business?

We're currently looking for a sponsor/host for the upcoming M³. Sponsoring gives you the chance to host the Meet & Mingle at your business, showcase what you do, welcome members into your space, and put your brand front and center with our engaged membership.

If you're looking for visibility, authentic connections, and a memorable way to tell your story—this is it.



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

DLCChamber@VisitDetroitLakes.com

Minimum Wage Increase Effective Jan. 1st, 2026

Beginning January 1, 2026, Minnesota's minimum wage will **increase to \$11.41 per hour** for all employers statewide. This adjustment is tied to inflation and represents a **2.5% increase**. The 90-day training wage for employees under the age of 20 will also rise, increasing to \$9.31 per hour.

State law requires employers to post current labor law notices in a visible location for employees. Updated required posters are available through the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry at <https://www.dli.mn.gov/posters>

Employee Wage Notice Requirement

Minnesota labor standards law requires employers to provide each employee with a written notice at the start of employment outlining key terms, including the employee's rate of pay, pay schedule, and the legal name of the employer. Employers must also provide written notice of any changes to this information—such as a pay rate change—before the change takes effect. A signed copy of the notice must be kept on file for each employee.

Learn more about the Minnesota Employee Wage Notice at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry website at <https://www.dli.mn.gov/employee-notice>

Source: MN Department of Labor and Industry

MN Chamber Offering Virtual Town Hall

Following the release of the Minnesota Chamber Foundation's *2026 Business Benchmarks*—highlighted in our December newsletter—the Minnesota Chamber has launched a new statewide initiative: the Economic Imperative for Growth. The data shows Minnesota's competitive position is slipping. Rising costs, increasing regulations, and workforce challenges are making it harder for businesses to grow and compete. This initiative aims to reverse that trend and restore Minnesota's strength as a leader in economic performance, innovation, and opportunity. The Minnesota Chamber Federation is bringing together local chambers and business leaders to help shape solutions and elevate the importance of a strong private-sector economy.

Economic Imperative for Growth: What It Means for Minnesota Businesses

Virtual Minnesota Chamber Federation Town Hall

Thursday, February 5

12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM

Register to receive the link to join

Chamber members are invited to a virtual town hall with Federation partners from across the state to learn more about the initiative, hear an outlook for the 2026 Legislative Session, and understand how businesses can engage effectively with policymakers. Speakers include Doug Loon, President & CEO, and Laura Bordelon, Senior Vice President. This exclusive session is open to Detroit Lakes Chamber members through the Minnesota Chamber Federation partners and their private-sector members.

Register at <https://member.mnchamber.com/atlas/events-v4/register/1093838> or call the Chamber for assistance.

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 - January 2026

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

6-7....ALICE Active Shooter Training, 8am-5pm, M State

7Ambassador Visits, 9:30am

8HR Connect, 8:15-9:30am, DL Chamber Office

8 Grand Opening, MANNA Food Co-op; Ribbon Cutting & Social
at 5pm

10..... Flight Notes-The Imaginaries, 7pm, Holmes Theatre

10..... Phil Vassar Concert, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino

14:45 Fill-up, 8:15-9am, Bell Bank, Lower Level

15..... Young Professionals City 101, 8:15am, DL City Office

17 Beach Front Big Band Swing Dance, 7pm, Holmes Ballroom

21..... Coffee & Community, 8-9:30am, Becker County Museum

22 Parrothead Paradise, 7:30pm, Holmes Theatre

29..... Chamber Board Meeting, 8am, DL Chamber Office

30 Craig Morgan Concert, 8pm, 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:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____