

CHAMBER NEWS

May 2026
Volume 33 - No. 5



Official Newsletter of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce



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Annual Chamber Meeting 2026

Our Annual Meeting is right around the corner—**May 7th**—and it's shaping up to be one of the most energizing events of the year. Connect with other members, hear what's happening in the Chamber, or simply step away from the day-to-day to recharge.

Beyond the keynote, the Annual Meeting is designed to be engaging, social, and worth your time. You'll have the chance to:

- Connect with fellow Chamber members and build new relationships
- Get a fresh, high-level look at what the Chamber has been working on—and what's ahead
- Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere with light appetizers and a cash bar

It's a great mix of connection, insight, and energy—all in just a couple of hours.

Sponsored by:



This year's keynote speaker, **Princess Paula**, is bringing a message that's bold, real, and incredibly relevant: "Be the Ferrari: You're Not for Everyone and That's Exactly the Point." It's the kind of message that challenges you to think differently, lean into what sets you apart, and lead with confidence. You'll leave inspired—and likely with a few ideas you'll want to put into action right away.

Thursday, May 7, 2026

3:00 - 5:00 PM

Detroit Country Club

Scan below to Register!



AI for Business and Individuals Workshop Series

Artificial Intelligence is already transforming how businesses market, hire, and operate—but knowing where to start can be the biggest challenge.

Join this 6-part virtual seminar series, presented in partnership with the SBDC, designed to give you practical, step-by-step guidance for using AI in your business. From understanding the basics to advanced prompting and building custom GPTs, each session is built to help you apply what you learn right away.

Wednesdays, May 20 – June 24

12:00-1:00 PM

\$30-\$35 per session

Scan to Register



DLChamber@VisitDetroitLakes.com • 218-847-9202

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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

March 2026

Walk-Ins

98

Phone Calls

143

Website Viewers

19,332

2026 Totals

Walk-Ins

265

Phone Calls

332

Website Viewers

67,085

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kim Bettcher - 2026

DLCCC

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Liz Holzer - 2026

Dynamic Homes

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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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4th of July Fireworks Donations

Summer is right around the corner, and that means the 4th of July celebrations will be here before we know it! In recent years, we've been fortunate to increase our budget and expand the Detroit Lakes fireworks display—and the community response has been overwhelmingly positive.

Each year, this tradition is made possible through the generosity of

our community and local businesses. As we get closer to the holiday, we will once again be reaching out for donations to help fund the display and keep this celebration strong for everyone to enjoy.

We appreciate the continued support that helps make this a highlight of the summer in Detroit Lakes, and we look forward to sharing more details on how you can get involved very soon.

Be Part of Button Days

Join the 90th Northwest Water Carnival (July 10–19) by participating in Button Days—a simple way to bring more customers through your doors while being part of a community-wide celebration.

What it is: Businesses offer a special deal to shoppers who show their 2026 Water Carnival button, and the offer is completely up to you. Whether it's a small discount, a free item, or a fun in-store special, every participation helps create energy and excitement across our local business community.

It's an easy, flexible opportunity to increase visibility, drive traffic, and connect with both locals and visitors during one of the busiest times of the year.

Sign up to participate and be included in event promotions! Brought to you by the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Detroit Lakes Jaycees.

**Button Days
July 10th – 19th
Scan below to register**



Email events@visitdetroitlakes.com with any questions!



HR
CONNECT

**1st Thursday
of every month!**

If Human Resources is in your job description, this is the group for you!

Presentation by Jen Strand
from JobsHQ

**Recruitment ROI: Better
Hiring Outcomes with AI &
SEO and Smarter Strategies**

**Thursday,
May 7**

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



The Chamber Ambassadors recently were invited to celebrate the Grand Opening of Lakes Country Healthcare in McKinley Plaza.

Owner and practicing Physician Assistant Ashley Schultz PA-C, MPAS, is bringing her experience in family practice, urgent care, and emergency medicine to the Detroit Lakes area. Lakes Country Healthcare offers urgent care services, hormone optimization, and medical weight management, providing another healthcare option for residents in the region.

Intern Spotlight - Cadence Bloom



Hi! My name is Cadence Bloom, a senior at Detroit Lakes High School with a growing interest for business and connecting with my community. This year, I've had the opportunity to intern at the Detroit Lakes Chamber of Commerce. It's been a great fit for me since I'm planning to major in business after graduation. At the Chamber, I've been able to help with events and experience firsthand what goes into building a strong and supportive community.

After graduation, I'm excited to continue my journey into the business world and explore opportunities where I can keep learning and making a positive impact. I enjoy meeting new people, trying new things, and finding ways to stay involved in my community.



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,
May 13**
8:15 – 9:30 am

LOCATION:

Chamber Conference Room
700 Summit Ave.
Detroit Lakes

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

Contact the Chamber!

West Lake Drive Project Updates 2026 West Lake Dr Phase III

Stay up to date on the latest news, construction progress, and project timelines for the West Lake Drive improvement project. Scan the QR code to access current updates anytime.

More Information:

218-847-5658

cityofdetroitlakes.com/westlakedrive



Welcome New Member

The Music Shop

Brian Ferdon, Owner
Washington Square Mall
808 Washington Avenue, Ste. 28
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
757-756-9028
Email: themusicshopdl@gmail.com
www.themusicshopdl.com



THE MUSIC SHOP LLC

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Lakes Country Healthcare

Ashley Schultz, PA-C, MPAS
920 McKinley Avenue
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
218-371-1966
Email: care@lakescountryhealthcare.com
www.lakescountryhealthcare.com



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MEMBER RENEWALS

Thanks to the following members who have renewed their Chamber Membership from March 27, 2026 - April 24, 2026!

Adventist Community Services & Thrift Store

At Ease Dock & Lift

Beaudry Oil & Propane

Bluebird Books

Design 2 Sell

Detroit Lakes Pizza Ranch

First Baptist Church

Jack Pines Resort

Jiffy Lube

Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union

Miller Yard Care & Construction

Patriot Assistance Dogs

United Way of Becker County

Venom Products, LLC

Verizon BeMobile – City Center

Member News

Congratulations to **Nick Christenson, State Farm Insurance**, on achieving Lifetime Presidents Club in 2025! This recognition is earned by being ranked among the Top 100 State Farm agencies in a single line of business five times in five years.

Congratulations to Amy Hochgraber, **M State**, on receiving the Distinguished Achievement Award from Minnesota State Community

and Technical Colleges! Hochgraber is also celebrating 10 years with the college.

Essentia Health St. Mary's Detroit Lakes welcomes Anders Braaten to their emergency medicine department. Braaten is an advanced practice registered nurse and certified nurse practitioner in emergency medicine.

Chamber Memberships renew throughout the year.

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



**Friday, May 8, 2026
8:15 - 9:30 AM
Becker County Museum**

Calling All Young Professionals!

Join us May 8th for a high-energy keynote with Princess Paula, a nationally recognized speaker redefining networking. Learn how to connect with confidence, spark great conversations, and actually enjoy the experience—no matter your personality.

This event is **FREE and open to all young professionals (ages 18-40)**—bring a friend, grow your network, and see what COMPASS Young Professionals is all about!

Register now for Permission to Mingle: A New Take on Networking with Princess Paula on May 8th and get ready to **network with confidence!**



**Scan here
to register!**

Program Sponsored by:



Join Us for Coffee + Community

Local journalism plays a vital role in shaping informed, connected, and resilient communities—and that role continues to evolve across print, radio, and television. While the ways people consume news are changing, one thing remains consistent: local sources are still among the most trusted and valued forms of information. Research from Pew Research Center shows that 85% of Americans say local news is important to the well-being of their community, and about seven in ten believe local journalists are doing a good job covering the issues that matter most.

Local television continues to play a significant role, with about 64% of Americans getting news from TV at least occasionally, making it one of the most widely used sources of local information. At the same time, local radio remains a trusted and accessible source—particularly in rural communities—offering real-time updates and a strong connection to local voices and issues. Across all formats, local journalism stands apart from national media by focusing on the people, decisions, and stories that directly impact daily life—from schools and businesses to public safety and economic development. Studies consistently show that trust in local news is higher than trust in national outlets, reinforcing its importance in maintaining an informed public. At the same time, local media organizations are navigating rapid change, including shifts in how audiences consume news and ongoing financial pressures. Even so, communities continue to rely on these outlets for credible, relevant, and timely information. This is exactly why the conversation matters.

Join us for our upcoming Coffee + Community panel on local journalism, where representatives from print, radio, and television will share insights into how news is gathered, what makes a story newsworthy, and how these outlets continue to serve our region. It's an opportunity to better understand the role journalism plays—and why it matters to all of us.

Coffee + Community: Importance of Local Journalism | June 3 | 8-9:15am | Becker County Museum

Sources:

Pew Research Center. *Americans' Changing Relationship With Local News*. May 7, 2024.

Pew Research Center. *When Americans Say They Get News From TV, What Do They Mean?* November 20, 2025.

Digital Content Next. *Trust in News Varies by Source and Demographics*. August 13, 2024.

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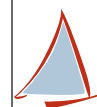
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Activity at the State Capitol

Activity at the State Capitol continues to move forward as legislators advance omnibus bills and policy proposals across key committees, with several issues of importance to the business community under active discussion.

Recent updates include changes to PFAS reporting requirements, with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency extending the initial reporting deadline to September 15, 2026. The extension is intended to provide manufacturers additional time to utilize updated guidance and reporting tools, with an option for a 90-day extension if needed.

Tax policy remains a central focus. In the Senate Taxes Committee, discussion has included SF 5052, the governor's proposed tax bill, which contains a provision for a social media tax that could impact businesses using digital advertising. Broader tax conversations also include potential expansion of the sales tax to certain professional services, along with areas of alignment such as federal tax conformity and extension of the pass-through entity (PTE) tax.

Workplace management legislation continues to advance in both chambers. The Senate Labor Omnibus bill, SF 2373, includes provisions related to increased enforcement authority and penalties for employers, expanded job posting requirements, and new workplace standards such as employee seating requirements. It also addresses the use of artificial intelligence in employment decisions, including restrictions on certain automated tools. It does not include any modifications to ESST or PFML. In contrast, the House Jobs and Labor Omnibus bill, HF 3732, focuses on restructuring grant-making processes through the creation of an Office of Community Investment and does not include any modifications to ESST or PFML.

Other policy areas remain active including human services funding in SF 4612 and HF 4466, and environmental and commerce proposals such as SF 4365. As the session progresses, differences between House and Senate proposals will need to be reconciled, shaping final outcomes for businesses and communities across Minnesota.

Source – April 20th MN Chamber At the Capital Email

Members are encouraged to stay informed and contact local legislators to share how potential legislation might impact their business.

YOUR LOCAL LEGISLATORS	Senator Amy Klobuchar (DFL) 202.224.3244 Senator.Klobuchar@Senate.Gov	Pete Stauber (R) - 8th District US House https://Stauber.House.Gov/	Jim Joy (R) - House 4B 651-296-6829 Rep.Jim.Joy@House.mn.gov
	Senator Tina Smith (DFL) 202.224.5641 Scheduling@Smith.Senate.Gov	Paul Utke (R) - Senate 5 218-255-1131 Sen.Paul.Utke@Senate.mn	Krista Knudsen (R) - House 5A 651-296-9918 Rep.Krista.Knudsen@House.mn.gov
	Michelle Fischbach (R) 7th District US House 202-225-2165 or 218-616-2802	Rob Kupec (DFL) - Senate 4 651-296-3205 Sen.Rob.Kupec@Senate.mn	To find your local representative, go to www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/

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What's Happening - May 2026

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

- 1.....Open House, 1-3pm, Holbrook Farms
- 2.....Farmer's Market, 11am-1pm, Bucks Mill Brewing
- 2.....Opening Reception of MINO-BIMAADIZWIN: The Good Life Exhibit, 5-7:30pm, Becker Co. Museum
- 2.....Fabulous Armadillos, 7:30pm, Holmes Theatre
- 5.....Wine Tasting, 6pm, Spanky's Stone Hearth
- 6..... Ambassadors, 9:30am**
- 7..... HR Connect, 8:15-9:30am, DL Chamber Office**
- 7..... Chamber Annual Meeting, 3-5pm, Detroit Country Club**
- 7-9.....DL Lions Geranium Sale, 4-7pm Th & Fri, 9am-noon Sat., St. Luke's Episcopal Church
- 12.....Pitch 412 Competition, 6:30pm, Holmes Theatre
- 13..... :45 Fill-up, 8:15-9am, DL Chamber Office**
- 13..... Free Tax Seminar, 8:30am-12:30pm, DLPD Community Room**
- 14-16 ... Festival of Birds**
- 14.....Finding Your Beat: An Evening of Music & Inspiration with Tim Eggeraaten, 7pm, The Venue at Meadows on Lind
- 16.....Lakes Area Farmer's Market, 10am-1pm, Peoples Park
- 18 Blood Drive, 11am-2pm, Bloodmobile at DL Chamber Office**
- 19.....Lakes Area Farmer's Market, 10am-1pm, Peoples Park
- 20 AI for Business & Individuals Workshop #1, 12-1pm, Virtual**
- 21.....United Way Day of Caring
- 23.....Lakes Area Farmer's Market, 10am-1pm, Peoples Park
- 24.....Pickleball Tournament, 9am, Fair Hills Resort
- 24.....Fair Hills Resort Centennial Celebration Open House & Community Day, 10am-4:30pm
- 26.....Lakes Area Farmer's Market, 10am-1pm, Peoples Park
- 27..... AI for Business & Individuals Workshop #2 12-1pm, Virtual**
- 29-30 ...Street Faire, 10am-7pm Fri, 10am-5pm Sat, downtown DL
- 30.....Lakes Area Farmer's Market, 10am-1pm, Peoples Park

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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