



# Detroit Lakes CHAMBER NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce

## The Great Polar Race

Saturday, February 8, 2020 ~ 10:00 am—1:00 pm

9:30 am check-in @ Washington Square Mall, Detroit Lakes

Teams of 2-4 people drive to various locations around DL to solve riddles and complete assigned tasks! Fun for families, friends and co-workers.

**TWO grand prizes:**

- \* First to complete the race AND
- \* a random drawing from teams that complete the race before 1:00pm!

The first 40 people to register will receive a commemorative keepsake.

Must pre-register by January 31st. See the insert in this newsletter for more information.



The Great Polar Race



The January :45 Fill-up Member Meeting will be at the DL Chamber Office  
Hosted by Propel DL and Polar Fest 2020!

Join us Wednesday, January 8th, 8:15-9:00 am for a personal update  
on all things Polar Fest, Chamber news, local updates, and treats!

We are currently looking for locations for the 2020 :45 Fill-ups  
call Carrie at 218-847-9202 if you would like to host.

Polar Fest



## Women's EDGE coming 2020!

2020 is going to be a year to: Engage, Develop, Grow and Empower!  
Join us for Women's EDGE Speaker Series.

See the insert in this newsletter for more information.

Rebecca Undem, Wednesday, March 4th at 3pm at the Holiday Inn.

Jodee Bock, Wednesday, May 6 at 3pm at M State.

Mariah Prussia, Wednesday, July 29 at 3pm at Holiday Inn.

Amanda Davison, Wednesday, October 7 at 3pm at M State.



Early-bird tickets for all 4 speakers are just \$99 for DL Chamber Members, \$129 for non-members.  
You will receive 1 ticket to each speaker AND the first 50 registrants will receive a FREE book by Rebecca Undem!  
Call 218-847-9202 to reserve your seats!

A program of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Sponsored by Sanford Health, Bell Bank, ReMax & Holiday Inn.  
#igniteyouedge

The Mission of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce is to advance a vibrant business and tourism economy through service, advocacy, networking and innovation.

### We're Working for You:

October 2019	YTD
• Walk-Ins	
170	2,229
• Phone Calls	
292	3,526
• Visitor Guides Mailed	
81	2,661
• Website Visits	
8699	288,208

Online newsletter at: <https://www.visitdetroitlakes.com/chamber/newsletter>

In November, more than 2600 visits on VisitDetroitLakes.com were to the event page

## FREE DL Chamber Services

By being a member of the DL Chamber of Commerce you get a lot of perks... here are just a few you can take advantage of right away!

- Use of Chamber conference room is **FREE** – call to reserve for an hour or all day. Great for job interviews, trainings for up to 20 people, use for conference calls, or just time away from your office.
- **FREE** display space in the Chamber Office. Drop off business cards, flyers and event information and the staff will help promote your organization.
- Job postings on [www.VisitDetroitLakes.com](http://www.VisitDetroitLakes.com) are **FREE** to members.
- Notary and Certificates of Origin Services are **FREE** to members.
- A mailing list of the current DL Chamber membership is available for just \$25. **Members can use the DL Chamber's bulk-mail permit for FREE**—could save you lots of postage fees!
- Qualifying Auto Owners Insurance business policies receive up to a **10% discount**.

## Advertise in this newsletter

~ **Display ads** can be placed for one month or save money by reserving your space for 6 or 12 months. \$35.00 Your ad can be the same for every issue or changed as often as you like.

~ **Inserts:** reserve your place in the next newsletter for your insert. \$160. (\$60 for non-profits) **Space is limited so be sure to call ahead. Drop off 650 ~ 8½" X 11"** inserts (can be double sided, but need to be on standard copy paper – no card stock). These must be at the Chamber Office by the 24th of the month.

If you have any questions please call Carrie 218-847-9202. Thank You!

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20 Years Experience

**CONGRATULATIONS to the Chamber Staff!**  
Jean Erickson—celebrating 37 years at DL Chamber!  
Cleone Stewart—celebrating 17 years at the Chamber!  
Carrie Johnston—9 years at the Chamber!  
AND to Sandy Stilke on her 5 year anniversary!

## 2020 Visitor Guides are in!

Happy New Year! We are kicking off 2020 with our new visitor guides. Watch for these magazines to be on news stands around the state of Minnesota!

Let us know if you could use a few for your:

- ✦ Lobby/break room
- ✦ For new clients
- ✦ For new employees or recruits
- ✦ Or we can mail them to someone thinking of coming to the area!

Thank you to all the advertisers that support this publication and help us promote tourism for the Detroit Lakes Region!



## Member Renewals

Thanks to the following members who have renewed their membership from November 26—December 27, 2019. Chamber memberships renew at different times throughout the year,. For a complete list, see <http://business.visitdetroitlakes.com/list>

- Anytime Fitness
- Becker Country Food Pantry
- Bleachers Bar & Grill
- China Buffet
- Do-Right Construction
- Fairfield by MARRIOTT
- Let's Go Fishing**
- Minnesota Flyers Gymnastics
- MLC Custom Homes
- Outlet Recreation
- Shorewood Pub

## Member News

**Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union** has opened a new full-service location in downtown Ada, MN. They are a member owned financial cooperative serving central Minnesota and have ten full service locations.

Julia Okeson has joined **Principle Mortgage Group Inc.** as a mortgage lender. She will handle residential purchases, refinance, new construction, vacation home and investment property loans. Okeson has 18 years of experience.

Eddie Geffre has joined **Midwest Bank** as a commercial/ag loan officer. Geffre has 20 years of banking experience.

**Marco** is expanding out east with the purchase of Image Systems for Business, a copier/printer company located in Somerset, New Jersey.



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# In the Community



Ambassadors participated in a Ribbon Cutting on December 7, at Ultima Gaming in the Washington Square Mall. The business is owned by David Jopp and has retro-modern games & collectibles.



On December 17th, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce brought their statewide policy tour to SJE. This session included updates on business issues soon to be discussed at the state capitol as well as a listening session to hear what issues our local businesses are facing. Workforce, employment laws, housing and taxes were a few of the top items discussed.

**Please make sure your employees know... as a member, your business takes DL Chamber Bucks!**

- ~ CHAMBER BUCKS are actual checks from the DL Chamber.
- ~ Put CHAMBER BUCKS in your cash register just like other checks in your deposit.
- ~ Any Chamber member can accept CHAMBER BUCKS.
- ~ CHAMBER BUCKS are not meant to be redeemed for cash, however, practice good customer relations and give change as you would for other checks written over the amount of purchase.
- ~ CHAMBER BUCKS are being used by businesses and individuals in the community for gifts, incentives, bonuses, promotional prizes, special event drawings and more. Keep their gift excitement going by making it easy for them to redeem their DL Chamber Bucks.



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# December Fun at the 2019 Parade of Lights



(Pictured: Detroit Mountain with Polar Fest, DLCCC and DL Jaycees)



Thank you to parade floats: Arvig, Boys & Girls Club, Bremer Bank, BTD Manufacturing, DL Fire Department, DL Jaycees, Detroit Lakes Lions Club, Detroit Lakes Public Utilities, Detroit Mountain Recreation Area, DL Bike Shop, DL Shriners, DLCCC/Holmes Theatre, Eagles Aerie #2342, First Lutheran Church, High Point Networks, Humane Society of the Lakes, J & K Marine, Lakes Area Kinship, Lakeshirts, Leighton Broadcasting, Lighthouse Construction, M State, Mi Cartagena Café, Mini Donuts by Denise, MN Dept. of Transportation, Mt. Tabor Masonic Lodge, Paul Davis Restoration, TS Dock & Lift, Zion Lutheran Church.

Thank you to others: Natalie Nash/Wave 104.1  
Detroit Lakes Public Works and Utilities  
DL Police Department  
DL Lions Club  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Holy Rosary Church  
Fundamental Technologies  
And to all the volunteers that gave of their time!

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## 2020 Dates to Remember:

Feb 6-17 Polar Fest and  
DL Ice Palace

**Mar 4 Women's EDGE starts**

Mar 21-22 Home Show

Mar 27 Econom Dev. Summit

April 17 Preparedness Wksp.

May 14-16 Festival of Birds

May 29-30 Street Faire

June 10 Cruise DL Night start

July 4 DL Fireworks

July 10-19 DL Water Carnival

July 23-26 Frazee Turkey Days

July 26 Art in the Park

July 29-Aug 1 Becker Co Fair

Aug 6-9 Vergas Looney Days

Aug 10-16 Pine to Palm Tour.

Aug 14-15 YL Triathlon

Aug 27-29 Ojibwe For. Rally

Sept 12 Beardsley Run

## Tourism Update

A blanket of snow, morning sunshine shimmering through the trees - what a wonderful time to be outdoors! A new Detroit Lakes cross country Nordic Ski Club has formed. More members are needed!

Fireball Lin Peterson is leading the charge of the new ski club. Following is information from Lin:

Our kick-off meeting was held in mid-November at Detroit Mountain Rec Area (DMRA), with 21 people attending, which was great! Our original and main purpose was to coordinate trail grooming on ski trails in the Detroit Lakes area. It has turned into much more to serve the needs of the community into the future with:

### 1) Equipment for grooming trails

✦ Currently grooming equipment is owned by individuals, DMRA or the county. Individuals and the county have graciously lent their equipment to the ski club so that the trails are groomed and ready for skiers.

✦ Detroit Lakes area trails are located on all types of property, which can make grooming difficult to coordinate if there isn't a ski club in charge.

✦ Becker County has been very supportive and involved in our efforts.

### 2) Affordable entry point for young skiers and families

✦ Right now there is no affordable way to rent or borrow skis and boots for young people and families to try out the sport.

✦ The DL Nordic H.S. team participa-

tion numbers reflect this with about 20 kids on the team.

Bemidji and Grand Rapids Schools have up to 80 kids, as well as large and active ski clubs.

**3) Nordic Ski Center:** there is no public gathering place for Nordic skiers. While this is a huge project that may take many years to come to fruition, it is a dream! It could be located at the trail head of the DMRA Nordic Trail system, where the H.S. team practices—think of this:

- ✦ A H.S. Nordic Team headquarters, wax room, meeting place
- ✦ Lessons, races, events
- ✦ XC ski rental
- ✦ Lighted ski trail for night skiing

The DL Nordic Ski Club is maintaining over 70km of trails in six trail systems, on a volunteer basis. The trails are listed on the website. We are pursuing a non-profit, 501C3 status for future growth and funding. At this time we are operating on a shoe-string budget and volunteer help. We have a very dedicated, core group of Nordic skiers who are passionate about our sport. There is no club fee to join. We are operating on a donation basis. We need more members—check out the website and contact me if you have an interest in joining our enthusiastic group!

<http://www.dlxcski.com>

Lin.peterson@henkel.com



Cleone Stewart, Tourism Director

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# Information your biz can USE!

The Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce is excited to bring you information and trainings you can use to better your organization. The spring of 2020 not only kicks off our new Women's EDGE series but we also have 2 other events!



**DL Economic Development Summit**, Fri, March 27, 8:00-11:30am, MState

- ◇ Workforce 2020—featuring Kelly Ashe, what can we do to retain and attract the employees we need..
- ◇ Road Construction—hear from MN Dot, City and County officials on what roads will be improved in the upcoming months.
- ◇ New Building and Business Construction around the region
- ◇ Tourism in Becker County and a new website launch.

## Is Your Organization Prepared?

- ◇ **Preparedness Workshop**, Fri, April 17, 8-12Noon, MState
  - ◇ Learn best practices for emergencies at work.
  - ◇ This workshop includes three hours of training by MG Security Group AND a panel discussion with local agencies who can help keep your organization secure and prepared.
  - ◇ Excellent training for front-line staff, managers, owners, churches, non-profit Board Members

For more information on sponsorship or registration contact the DL Chamber and watch for the February Chamber newsletter.

## Contact your local legislators

**Senator Amy Klobuchar (DFL)**  
202.224.3244  
senator.klobuchar@senate.gov

**Senator Tina Smith (DFL)**  
202.224.5641

**Seventh District Collin Peterson (DFL) US House**  
D.C.: 202.225.1593  
218.847.5056

**Paul Utke (R)**  
Senate 2  
218-255-1131

**Kent Eken (DFL)**  
Senate 4  
651.296.3205  
Sen.kent.eken@senate.mn

**Steve Green (R)**  
House 2B  
651.296.9918  
Rep.steve.green@house.mn

**Paul Marquart (DFL)**  
House 4B  
651.296.6829  
rep.paul.marquart@house.mn

For more information go to [www.gis.leg.mn](http://www.gis.leg.mn)

### Snowmobile maps are at the Chamber office!

Becker County has over 250 miles of groomed trails for locals and visitors. Be sure to pick up a new 2019-20 map. Routes change over the years so this map is the best way to be sure you have current information. Thank you to the landowners that allow trails on their land and to the many volunteers that groom these trails! Please be respectful, stay on the trails and be safe around traffic and on the ice.

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### Board of Directors

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Jill Brandt ..... 2020

Jackie Buboltz..... 2020

Vern Schnathorst..... 2022

Mike Sidders ..... 2022

Amy Wolf ..... 2021

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www.VisitDetroitLakes.com

## What's Happening!

### January 2020

- 3-5 The Big Detroit "1 Lunger 100" Race, Holiday Inn
- 3 "LIVE" at The Lodge, 6-8pm, The Lodge on Lake Detroit
- 4 ULTRA 80's & Older Classic Cruise Ride (south), 9am, Becker Co. Fairgrds
- 8 :45 Fill-up, 8:15-9am, DL Chamber Office
- 11 The Nunnery, 8pm, Holmes Theatre
- 12 Lakes Area Bridal Show 2020, 12-3pm, Holiday Inn
- 16 James Sewell Ballet, 7:30pm, Holmes Theatre
- 17 John Anderson Concert, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino
- 18-20 Take a Kid Ice Fishing
- 18 ULTRA 80's & Older Classic Cruise Ride (north), 9am, M State
- 18 MMA Fights, 7pm, Shooting Star Casino
- 19-21 Canadian Carefree Senior Ladies Bonspiel, Lakes Curling Club
- 21 Tourism Bureau Board of Directors, 8:15 am
- 23 Chamber Board Retreat, 8am-noon, Pelican Landing
- 23 Sawyer Brown Concert, 7:30pm, Holmes Theatre
- 25 Eagles Roast Beef Dinner Fundraiser, 5:30pm, Eagles Club
- 31 Tommy James & the Shondells, 7pm, Shooting Star Casino

### February 2020

- 1 Midnite Riders Old Timer's Snowmobile Run, Lake Park
- 5 Chamber Tourism Committee, 8am, Chamber Office
- 5 Chamber Ambassadors, 9:30am, Chamber Office
- 6-17 Polar Fest, event schedule at [www.polarfestdl.com](http://www.polarfestdl.com)
- 6 Mn Sn'Ice Palace Lighting, 7pm
- 8 Great Polar Race, Scavenger Hunt around DL
- 8 Poles 'n Holes Fishing Derby, Little Detroit Lake
- 10 Jared Munch: Paddle Boarding from Duluth to the Arctic Ocean, 7pm, DL Public Library

See full calendar of events: <http://business.visitdetroitlakes.com/events>

Please let us know if you have events that should be on our website calendar.