



The Great Polar Hunt

Thank you to the businesses that have registered to be a part of the 2024 Great Polar Hunt! We are excited to encourage Polar Festers to get out and visit businesses around Detroit Lakes. Included in this newsletter is a registration form for you, your co-workers, friends or family to participate in this fun event. Complete the hunt in February for a chance to win great prizes! Contact Melissa@VisitDetroitLakes.com for more information.

2024 Visitor Guides

The new 2024 Detroit Lakes Visitor Guides are here! Thank you to all our advertisers and to those that shared their photography to be featured in this year's guide. (pictured right: Brian Merritt, owner **Minuteman Mortgage**, with his drone photo of Dunton Locks as our 2024 cover.)

If you would like Visitor Guides for your business lobby, new employee recruitment packets, or an upcoming conference/reunion give us a call.



Thank you Chamber Staff

The DL Chamber staff is excited for all that 2024 brings. With a combined 80 years of dedication, we look forward to continuing to help members and promote our region!

Pictured left to right:

Sandy — 10 years

Jean — 41 years

Carrie — 13 years

Melissa — new in 2023

Cleone — 21 years

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Carrie Johnston
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Get in Touch

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DLChamber@VisitDetroitLakes.com

VisitDetroitLakes.com/Chamber

DL Chamber is Even More Social

You may notice a bit of freshening for 2024 on our marketing and communications pieces. Our new year's resolution is to bring you great information with clear messaging. Give us a follow on social media and be sure to check out our DL Chamber meetings and event calendar online at <https://business.visitdetroitlakes.com/events>



CONNECT WITH US!



DETROIT LAKES
REGIONAL CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE



#DLCHAMBER



HR CONNECT

Whether you have 1 employee or you manage many, this is a great place to ask questions and share best practices.

This is open to everyone!

- Free for DL Chamber members
- \$10 for non- members



4 JANUARY 2024
8:15 AM - 9:30 AM



DETROIT LAKES REGIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CONFERENCE ROOM
700 SUMMIT AVE, DL

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:45 FILL-UP

January 10, 2024
8:15 AM - 9 AM



Detroit Lakes Chamber members are welcome to join us for 45 minutes of networking!

Bring your business cards, event flyers and business information.

Detroit Lakes Chamber Office
Conference Room
700 Summit Ave
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Our Mission

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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.

Get Social



@DLCHAMBER

Our Reach in 2023

November 2023	Year to Date
Walk-Ins	
96	1,997
Phone Calls	
164	2,653
Website Viewers	
9,210	339,371

Walk-Ins

96

1,997

Phone Calls

164

2,653

Website Viewers

9,210

339,371

SAVE
-THE-
DATE

Economic Development Summit

April 5, 2024

The Arc Minnesota through funding from DHS is excited to launch the Minnesota Inclusion Initiative (MII)! The MII is a grant program that will support community inclusion projects created by & with self-advocates. If you have ideas on how to make your community more inclusive for people with disabilities, contact maraiswakem@arcminnesota.org for more info.

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Ambassador Visits

On December 6, the Detroit Lakes Chamber Ambassadors visited three local businesses that have new owners and presented them with their first dollar of profit.

The Ambassadors met new owner of **DL Towing**, Ryan Swanson, and learned about how he was presented with this new business opportunity and took it on as he believes that there is a need for 24/7 towing in the Detroit Lakes area. (Pictured right)



The Ambassadors went to the **Detroit Lakes Dairy Queen** to present a First Dollar of Profit to Michael Griffin and learned how his first month as owner is going. (Pictured left)



The Ambassadors met new owner of **Becker Pet & Garden and The Candy Store**, Tiffany Brown, and heard about how her wonderful staff is helping her family transition into their new roles as owners. (Pictured right)



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Member Renewals

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Thanks to the following members who have renewed their DL Chamber Membership from Nov. 25–Dec. 21, 2023. Chamber Memberships renew throughout the year. For a complete list of members, see <https://business.visitdetroitlakes.com/list/>

Adventist Community Services & Thrift Store
Becker County Food Pantry
China Buffet
DL Noon Rotary
Do-Right Construction
Forest Edge Gallery
Integrative Therapies & Wellness
Lend A Hand Up

Minnesota Flyers Gymnastics
MLC Custom Homes
Nature's Embrace Soap Company
Outlet Recreation
Propel DL
S & S Promotional Group
Toy Box Motorsports

Member News

Bremer Bank has celebrated their 80th Anniversary all year by making a total of \$80,000 in donations to eight non-profit organizations that embody their three charitable pillars of economic empowerment, affordable housing and financial education.

Fair Hills Resort made the top ten list for best All Inclusive Resorts. At the best all-inclusive resorts in the U.S., there is no cooking, cleaning up or even having to plan what the day's adventures hold—it's all been figured out for you!

SJE welcomes Ana Bashi as Chief Financial Officer. Bashi brings an impressive background with over 18 years of experience in various leadership and financial roles.

Essentia Health has been recognized for its leadership in the use of technology by The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME). This is the fourth consecutive year that Essentia has been cited as a technology leader by CHIME. Using a scale of 1-10, Essentia was certified at level 9 for both acute and ambulatory settings.

M State is one of 48 colleges currently working with the national Institute on Open Educational Resources to expand the use of free or nearly free textbooks.

M State Foundation recently awarded over \$91,000 through 105 student scholarships in Detroit Lakes, Moorhead and Wadena campuses. Eight scholarships were awarded in Detroit Lakes.

Arvig was awarded grant funding from the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development to extend existing fiber infrastructure to more than 118 unserved locations in several lakes area counties.

Essentia Health welcomes the following new staff to their Detroit Lakes location: Dr. Benita Behm, Family Medicine Specialist; Dr. Sandy Yeh, Surgeon; Lindsey Sand, Advanced Practice RN specializing in family medicine; Abigail Schramel, Certified PA specializing in emergency medicine.

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AVAILABLE!
CALL 218-847-9202
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ONE MONTH OR FOR
ONE YEAR!**



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Chamber Bucks

DL CHAMBER BUCKS are actual checks from the DL Chamber issued to your business.

Any DL Chamber member can accept DL CHAMBER BUCKS.

Put DL CHAMBER BUCKS in your cash register and treat them like other checks in your bank deposit.

DL 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.

DL 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.

WANT TO JOIN THE DETROIT LAKES CHAMBER AMBASSADORS?



About Us:

The Chamber Ambassadors extend a welcoming hand recognizing new businesses, expansions, new locations and new ownership.

We Help With:

- Monthly Visits to local businesses
- Grand Openings
- Ribbon Cuttings
- Ground Breakings
- Any other special events local businesses want to celebrate!



AMBASSADOR VISITS
MEET ON THE 1ST WEDNESDAY OF
EACH MONTH FROM 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM



HAVE QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO JOIN?
CONTACT MELISSA HARMS AT
MELISSA@VISITDETROITLAKES.COM

Market your Business here

From Member News to Ambassador Visits, we want to help you promote your events and milestones.

DL Chamber members can market their businesses & help support this publication.

There are 2 ways to advertise: Display ads and inserts.
Space is limited, so be sure to call ahead.

Display Ads

These can be placed for one month OR save money by reserving your space for 6 or 12 months for as little as \$35.00/month! Your ad can be the same for every issue or changed as often as you like.

Inserts

Call to reserve your insert place in the next newsletter.
\$160 | Non-Profits are \$60
Drop off (625) 8½" X 11" copies to the Chamber office by the 24th of the month. Copies can be double-sided, but need to be on standard copy paper, not card stock.

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Mark Your Calendars

February 9-25 | Polar Fest

April 5 | Economic Development Summit

May 16-18 | Festival of Birds

May 31-June 1 | Street Faire at the Lakes

July 4 | Fireworks on Detroit Lake

July 12-21 | Water Carnival

July 25-28 | Frazee Turkey Days

July 28 | Art in the Park

August 1-3 | WE Fest

August 5-11 | Pine to Palm Golf Tournament

August 6 | Detroit Lakes Crazy Daze

August 7-10 | Becker County Fair

August 8-11 | Vergas Looney Days

December 2 | Detroit Lakes Parade of Lights

For a full list of events go to
VisitDetroitLakes.com/events

Your Local Legislators

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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
Jep.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
<https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>

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2026

Emily Haverkamp
2026

Liz Holzer
2026

Jennifer Morton
2026

Stacey Omberg
2025

Joe Skogmo
2026

Scott Wenner
2026

Katie Willie
2026

What's Happening!

January 2024

- 3 DL Chamber Ambassadors, 9:30am
- 4 HR Connect, 8:15-9:30am, DL Chamber Office
- 6 Free Movie "Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie", 10am, Odyssey Th
- 6 Lakes Area Boxing presents "New Years Bash", 3pm, DLHS
- 6 Live Music by Chuck Boehm, 8pm, Zorbaz
- 10 :45 Fill-up, 8:15-9am, DL Chamber Office
- 11 Food & Beer Pairing, 6-8pm, Bucks Mill Brewing
- 12 Joe Nichols Concert, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino
- 18 The Heartshakers: A Tom Petty Experience, 7:30pm, Holmes Th
- 19 Bachmann-Turner Overdrive, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino
- 20 Live Music by Runestone Rebellion, 9pm, Zorbaz
- 25 DL Chamber Board Meeting, 8am, DL Chamber Office
- 27 Live Music by "The Wicked Bees", 9pm, Zorbaz

February 2024

- 9-25 Polar Fest, complete schedule at www.polarfestdl.com
- 13-23 Great Polar Hunt

See full calendar of events and local information at

VisitDetroitLakes.com

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