

The Great Polar Hunt starts Feb. 14th



Need a fun activity for you, your family or your co-workers? Join The Great Polar Hunt for just \$10! Teams as small as one person are encouraged to participate. Simply sign up to play, get your clue sheet emailed to you on February 14th, then find the “secret letters” at participating businesses around Detroit Lakes... decode the secret message and you could win a prize package worth over \$100!

Find more information at:

<https://business.visitdetroitlakes.com/events>

2024 Economic Development Summit

Join us Friday, April 5th, for a morning filled with regional Economic Development news and local construction updates. Featuring Sean O’Neil, MN Chamber’s Director of Economic Development and Research.

8:30 AM | Networking with table-top displays and breakfast

9:00 AM | Summit presentations

Sponsorship information inside this newsletter. For more information or to register for the event go to:

<https://business.visitdetroitlakes.com/events>



DYSLEXIA AWARENESS, SIGNS, AND ADAPTATIONS

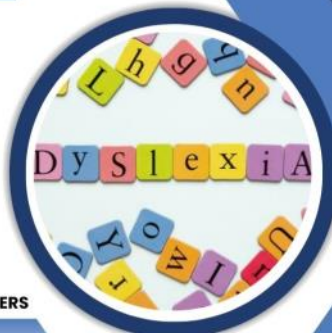
 **DATE**
April 18, 2024

 **TIMES**
AFTERNOON SESSION
1 PM – 3 PM

EVENING SESSION
6 PM – 8 PM

 **LOCATION**
Becker County Museum
714 Summit Ave

**FOR PARENTS, EDUCATORS, CAREGIVERS
& EMPLOYERS**



FREE Dyslexia Training for Your Business

Did you know dyslexia affects 20% of the population? That means 1 in 5 of your employees may need a little extra help. Dyslexia is an inherited, neurologically based disorder that interferes with a person acquiring and processing language (Barton 2015).

DL Community Ed, Early Childhood Initiative and the DL Chamber invite you to join Jen Eggen from the non-profit organization HIGH HOPES for this free, informative session and demonstration along with ways to support.

For more information and registration link at:

<https://business.visitdetroitlakes.com/events>

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VisitDetroitLakes.com/Chamber

Member Resource Directory Updates Due Feb 2nd

Please return your yellow Verification Forms that you received in the mail. The DL Chamber staff is preparing to print our new Member Resource Directory and we want to be sure your information is accurate and up to date. This directory listing is free and included in your membership. If you have any questions please contact jean@visitdetroitlakes.com.



February is the perfect time to show your love of local business! If you need help finding a product or service locally, call the Chamber or search our online member directory at:
<https://business.visitdetroitlakes.com/list>

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



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presents
Brr-ific Handbag
February 20th
Tickets at the DL Chamber \$50

:45 FILL-UP

February 14, 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

Connecting in 2023

December 2023	2023 Totals
Walk-Ins	
106	2,103
Phone Calls	
175	2,828
Website Viewers	
10,943	350,314

Walk-Ins

Phone Calls

Website Viewers

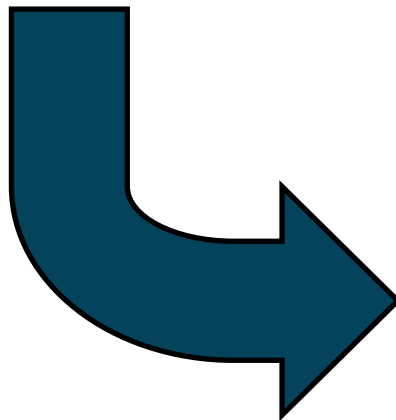
Check out our numbers!

The DL Chamber staff is here to help connect locals and tourists with our members and community information.

In the past 12 months, our Chamber staff personally helped over 2,000 people who walked into our office, took almost 3,000 phone calls and happily answered too many emails to count.

In 2023, we had over 3000 followers on our DL Chamber social media and 23,000 followers on the Tourism social media. People also get great information from www.visitdetroitlakes.com with over 350,000 views!

Your membership helps support this work.



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Ambassador Visits

On January 3rd, the Detroit Lakes Chamber Ambassadors visited three local businesses.



The Ambassadors visited and received a tour of the new location of **Patriot Assistance Dogs (PAD)**. Linda Wiedewitsch, founder of PAD, shared her story of why she started this program, how much it has grown over the years and how they found a new location that fits their needs and has plenty of space for them to grow.

The Ambassadors visited the new second location of **Haga Kommer, CPAs** (pictured right) and presented them with their First Dollar of Profit.

Even though they have a new name on the door, the accountants that you love are still there for you - Sheri Leitheiser, Nancy Soberg, and Gregg Benson (not pictured).



The Ambassadors visited Rena Bjerke Agency, American Family Insurance and presented the team with their First Dollar of Profit. You can find them located in Downtown Crossing.



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Member Renewals

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Thanks to the following members who have renewed their DL Chamber Membership from Dec. 22, 2023-Jan. 23, 2024 Chamber Memberships renew throughout the year.
For a complete list of members, see <https://business.visitdetroitlakes.com/list/>

APEX Townhomes
Becker Pet & Garden/The Candy Store
Frazee Auto Body & Glass
Jack Chivers Realty
Laker Prep Preschool
Minuteman Mortgage
Northwestern Bank
PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital

Principle Mortgage Group
RCH Custom Homes
Richwood Heights Townhomes
Skillings Lakeside Resort
ULTRA
Union Square Townhomes
Zirbel Construction
Zorbaz

Welcome New Members

Adobe

Ellen Sartin
P. O. Box 33190
Raleigh, NC 27636
408-753-5826
Email: cit46532@adobe.com; www.adobe.com

Creativity is in our DNA. Our game-changing innovations are redefining the possibilities of digital experiences. We connect content and data and introduce new technologies that democratize creativity

YMCA Camp Cormorant

Kelly Billings, Camp Director
14563 YMCA Lane
Lake Park, MN 56554
218-359-2340
Email: Kelly.billings@ymcacassclay.org

Our camp mission is to provide a safe, enjoyable, creative and challenging camping opportunity that fosters individual growth in the areas of self-esteem, responsibility, communication, independence, leadership, environmental awareness and Christian values.

Member News

The MN DNR recognized Brian Lund and Mark DeMay, **ULTRA** members, for their 40 years of volunteer youth snowmobile safety training. ULTRA hosted 52 students this year at the annual safety training.

Haga Kommer, CPA's has acquired the firm of Benson Leitheiser & Soberg. Sheri, Nancy & Gregg will stay on with the firm, and the office will remain in their current location at 910 Lincoln Avenue.

Valhalla Resort was honored as Outstanding Conservationists by the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Each year, the state's SWCD's recognize individuals and organizations for outstanding accomplishments in implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota's natural resources. The resort was recognized for a variety of conservation practices.

Essentia Health St. Mary's Detroit Lakes welcomes cardiology specialist Candace Mecklenburg. She is an advanced practice registered nurse and certified nurse practitioner specializing in cardiology.

**THIS SPACE IS
AVAILABLE!
CALL 218-847-9202
TO RESERVE FOR
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.

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.

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

WITH SPECIAL
GUEST SPEAKER

MELISSA MCDUGALL
BECKER COUNTY JAIL RELEASE
COORDINATOR



1 FEBRUARY 2024
8:15 AM - 9:30 AM



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

Did you know?

The 20 person conference room at the DL Chamber Office is available to DL Chamber Members to use FREE of charge.

Job Interviews ~ Trainings ~ Meetings ~ Lunches

Simply call to reserve any time Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm.

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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Member Advantages

Business Connections:

- o **Listing in Business Directory** on VisitDetroitLakes.com. (First category listing is included. Additional business categories available for \$50/year.)
- o Listing in printed **Member Resource Directory**.
- o Subscription to Monthly Chamber **Newsletter**.
- o Subscription(s) to **weekly Member E-blast** featuring local events.
 - o Accommodation members receive **lodging inquiry e-blast** too.
- o **Free Job Postings** on VisitDetroitLakes.com.
- o Access to **DL Chamber Bucks** program to encourage local shopping.
- o **Referral Services** - Chamber staff refers our members first .

Business Discounts and Services:

- o **Notary and Certificates of Origin** services are free to members.
- o **Ribbon Cutting, Groundbreaking and First Dollar of Profit** recognition.
- o A **mailing list** of the current DL Chamber members is available for \$25.
- o Members can use the DL Chamber's **bulk-mail permit**.
 - o Please call for more information.
- o Membership dues may be **tax deductible**. Ask your accountant for details.
- o Participating Auto Owners Insurance offers a **10% discount** on your policy.

Additional Marketing Opportunities:

- o **Chamber Newsletter Ads** - The monthly Chamber newsletter is mailed to over 600 leading business members. The \$35 business card sized ad helps support the printed and online newsletter.
- o **Chamber Newsletter Inserts** - Each month for just \$160, Chamber members can provide a full page 8.5" x 11" ad insert distributed to over 600 on our list.
- o **Membership Resource Directory** - The annual directory printed each year includes alphabetical and classified information about Chamber members.
- o **Annual Coupon Book** - Each spring, printed copies of the coupon book are designed to feature DL Chamber members. Custom design your own coupon or ad to attract additional customers. Included in the price is an online coupon too.
- o **Web Hot Deal Coupons** - Members can advertise hot deal/coupon on the Chamber website. These can be changed as often as you wish for \$10/month.
- o **Winter Trails Map** - Copies of the winter trails map are available online and are distributed to snowmobiling enthusiasts visiting our area.
- o **Detroit Lakes Street Map** - Full-color, maps to help give directions.
- o **Detroit Lakes Visitor Guide** - High quality, full color, annual guide is distributed throughout the region, chambers and travel information centers. This is also online with links to advertiser websites.

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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Jason Kuehne
2026

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Jackie Buboltz
2024

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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!

February 2024

Every Sunday Free Movie, 2pm, Tamarac NWR

- 1 HR Connect, 8:15-9:30am, DL Chamber Office**
- 3 Free Movie, "Bad Guys", 10am, Odyssey Theatre**
- 3 Midnite Riders Old-Timers Snowmobile Show, 8-10am, LP Liquor**
- 3 Stand-up Comedy, 7pm, Bucks Mill Brewing**
- 7 Ambassador Visits, 9:30am, meet at DL Chamber Office**
- 8 Giving Hearts Day, www.givingheartsdays.org**
- 8 Giving Hearts Collaborative, 10am-1pm, Washington Square Mall**
- 8 Polar Fest Kick-off Party, 6-9pm, Bucks Mill Brewing**
- 9-25 Polar Fest, complete schedule at www.polarfestdl.com**
- 9 Daddy's Little Sweetheart Dance, 6-9pm, Holmes Ballroom**
- 9 Mom & Son Bash, 6-9pm, Becker County Museum**
- 9 Tyler Farr Concert, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino**
- 10 Freeze Your Buns Run, 9am, DLCCC**
- 10 Poles 'N Holes Fishing Derby, 12-3pm, Little Detroit Lake**
- 10 Way North of Nashville, 7pm, Holmes Theatre**
- 10 Frozen Fireworks, 7pm, DL City Beach**
- 11 Kites on Ice, 10am, Little Detroit Lake**
- 13 Mardi Gras Kings, 7pm, Holmes Theatre**
- 13 Chocolate Fantasy Fundraiser, 11am-4pm, Becker Co. Museum**
- 14 :45 Fill-up, 8:15-9am, DL Chamber Office**
- 14-23 The Great Polar Hunt, information at DL Chamber**
- 17 ULTRA Vintage Snowmobile Rally & Swap, 8am, DL City Beach**
- 17 Fabulous Armadillos, 7:30pm, Holmes Theatre**
- 20 Kiwanis Brrr-ific Handbag Bingo, 5-9pm, VFW**
- 23 Three Dog Night Concert, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino**
- 24 Central MN Pond Racing, Holiday Inn**
- 24 Boys & Girls Club Polar Fest Plunge, 1pm, Little Detroit Lake**
- 24 Tuxes & Tails, 6pm, Holmes Ballroom**
- 24 Frozen Fireworks, 7pm, DL City Beach**
- 29 Fairy Tales on Ice, 7:30pm, Holmes Theatre**

See full calendar of events and local information at

VisitDetroitLakes.com

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