



Exploring AI For Your Business

When: January 29 from 8:30—9:30 AM

Where: M State Room E105 (enter through door S1)

900 Highway 34 East, Detroit Lakes

Join us for a hands-on session how AI can streamline business functions like marketing and HR. Dive into live demonstrations, answer AI questions, and provide feedback to shape future trainings and workshops.



Two ways to participate

Your Business:
 Register your business to participate by calling Jean at the Chamber. With a \$50 registration fee, your business will receive a sign to post for participants to find and solve the word puzzle. Deadline extended to January 15th.

Individuals, families and teams:
 Register to participate and solve the Great Polar Hunt. Completed puzzles are entered to win prizes! See the insert for more details.





Featured Speaker

Save the Date!

Economic Summit 2025 Wednesday, March 26th

Details to come including sponsorship opportunities



Neel Kashkari

President and CEO,
Federal Reserve Bank
of Minneapolis

Get in Touch

(218) 847-9202

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Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

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HR CONNECT

If you have HR in your title or not and you deal with employee issues, this is a great place to ask questions and share best practices. Open to anyone (free to chamber members or \$10 for non-members).

Thursday, January 2nd | 8:15 – 9:30 am
Chamber Office , 700 Summit Ave



Join the :45 Fill Up for networking and share business and event information! Be sure to bring business cards and flyers to share!

Wednesday, January 8th at 8:15 – 9:00 am
Chamber Conference Room , 700 Summit Ave

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

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First Annual Lake Lights and Holiday Nights

With 14 businesses entering the inaugural business holiday light display contest, the judges had a challenge selecting the winners.

Thank you to the participating businesses! Alysia's Art Studio, Ambience Salon, AmericInn by Wyndham, Arvig, Bluebird Books, Historic Holmes Theater, Lakeshirts Beach Shop, Mi Cartagena Café, Nature's Embrace Soap Company, Pizza Ranch, Project 412, Rural MN CEP, Skirting the Rules, and Sunlite Bar and Grill.

Thank you to the judges! Anna Carlson, initiator of the Lake Lights and Holiday Nights, Trish Johnson, Leighton Broadcasting, and Ron Zeman, Vice Mayor.

And the winners are....

Best Spirit of the Season
Nature's Embrace Soap Company



Indoor Wonderland
Rural MN CEP



Brightest (a.k.a. the Griswold Award)
Mi Cartagena Café



Judges' Choice
Alysia's Art Studio

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



Our Reach in 2024

<u>October 2024</u>	<u>2024 Totals</u>
Walk-Ins	
288	2,381
Phone Calls	
213	2,620
Website Viewers	
27,286	456,658

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Ambassador Visits



Chamber Ambassadors participated in a Ribbon Cutting at Connect Interiors, 920 Washington Avenue. The business (formerly Hannaher's) did a showroom refresh and was celebrating their 10th Anniversary in Detroit Lakes. Chamber President, Jackie Buboltz, presented a 10th Anniversary certificate to CharRae Chwialkowski, President, along with staff Peggy Akers, Amy Hannaher-Overby and Kim Dean. Connect Interiors is a certified women-owned Steelcase dealership furnishing spaces across the upper Midwest. For over 80 years they have been providing workplace solutions for the region's business community.



Chamber Ambassadors participated in a Ribbon Cutting at the new Public Works Facility at 1759 North Tower Road on December 5, prior to their Open House. Mayor Matt Brenk and Sean King, Public Works Director, told about the new facility and tours were offered. The new building is over 58,000 square feet and allows for them to store all of their equipment in one location.

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Alysia's Art Studio Paint and Party

Alysia Podges, Owner
14799 US Hwy. 59
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
218-849-8294
Email: avcsvg@mail.com
Alysia's Art Studio on Facebook

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Member Renewals

Thanks to the following members who have renewed their DL Chamber Membership from November 23—December 24, 2024. Chamber Memberships renew throughout the year. For a complete list of members, see <https://business.visitdetroitlakes.com/list/>

Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations
China Buffet
Detroit Lakes Noon Rotary
Detroit Lakes Youth Soccer Assoc.
E-Bike MN Outlet, LLC
Fair Hills Resort
Fairfield Inn & Suites
Five Lakes Resort
Laker Prep

Lakes Digital Sign Guys
Metal Sales
Minuteman Mortgage
MLC Custom Homes
Odegaard's Sinclair
Outlet Recreation
S & S Promotional Group
ULTRA

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- ◇ June 11th
- ◇ July 9th
- ◇ August 13th
- ◇ September 10th

4:00—8:30 pm
City Beach



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
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/>

News Alert!

MN Secure Choice Retirement Plan not expected to launch until 2026. The law passed in 2023 creating the MN Secure Choice Retirement Plan would mandate employers with five or more employees that do NOT offer a retirement program to transmit a payroll deduction from an **employee's pay and remit to the state run individual retirement account** for the employee. Employees are allowed to opt out. The timeline for implementation is set for the first quarter of 2026 at the earliest and then likely phased in by employer size. No action is needed by employers at this time. More information can be found at <https://lcpr.mn.gov/SecureChoice.htm>

Hospitality Minnesota has been seeking clarification from the Attorney General's (AG) office regarding the **2025 Minnesota Price Transparency Law**. The AG website will have updated guidance soon. A recent FTC ruling was announced that restaurants and bars are exempt from this law, otherwise known as "Junk Fees" legislation. **The MN AG has stated the FTC ruling does not have an impact on Minnesota's law. As part of their legislative priorities, Hospitality MN will seek a legislative fix to this law.** (Hanna Zinn, Government Relations Update Dec. 20, 2024, Hospitality Minnesota)

Member News

Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union recently promoted Joe Reed to Chief Revenue Officer. In his new role, Reed will enhance efficient communication among stakeholders, develop ownership responsibility at all levels and ensure swift, best decision making.

In December, five higher education institutions in the region—**M State, Concordia College, NDSCS, NDSU and MSUM**—all came together for a **signing ceremony at M State's Moorhead campus to enter into a course exchange agreement** called the Metro College Alliance. Effective January 1, the agreement will allow degree-seeking students at any one of these institutions to enroll in undergraduate courses at the other institutions without having to undergo separate admission procedures.

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DL Chamber Bucks Reminder:

For good customer service, please continue to accept ALL Chamber Bucks but let the Chamber office know if you take any \$10.00 checks from First Security Bank; we will exchange them for **new** 1st National Bank checks.

Now Available!



Stop by the Chamber office to get copies for customers and visitors.



2025 Snowmobile Map

Promote your business in the Chamber newsletter

Renew your space or start advertising in the Chamber Newsletter today.

Reach over 450 member businesses and over 100 organizations by advertising in the monthly Chamber newsletter.

Contact Jean at the Chamber to reserve your ad spot.

Display Ads

Space is limited! Ads are scheduled on a first come basis.

Single ad:	
One month	\$40.00
6 months	\$210.00
12 months	\$360.00
Save \$120 by reserving for 12 months	

Double ad:	
One month	\$75.00
6 months	\$420.00
12 months	\$720.00
Save \$180 by reserving for 12 months	

Newsletter Inserts

The number of inserts each month is limited. Call to schedule an insert.

1 month	\$175.00
	(non-profits \$75.00)
6 months (choose the months)	\$900.00
Save \$150 by reserving 6 months	

After reservation is confirmed, provide 625 copies of the 8 1/2 x11 insert by noon on the 24th of month.

New in 2025! Additional \$25 per insert to include your information in the monthly online newsletter.

Member Benefits Reminder

Membership has its advantages:

- Free use of the Chamber conference room for client meetings, off-site interviews and group meetings up to 15 people. Call the Chamber to reserve.
- Notary and Certificates of Origin services.
- Use of the bulk-mail permit.
- Job postings on www.visitdetroitlakes.com.
- Subscription to the weekly member e-blast with Chamber and community information.
- Your business listed on the www.visitdetroitlakes.com website.



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Joe Skogmo

First Lutheran Church
2026

Scott Wenner

Laney's
2026

What's Happening!

January 2025

- 2 HR Connect, 8:15-9:30am, Chamber Office
- 2-3 Winter Camps, Becker County Museum
- 3,10,17,24,31 Live Music Fridays, 6:30-9pm, Detroit Mountain
- 4 ULTRA Classic Cruise Ride North, 9:30am
- 4 Free Movie, "Kung Fu Panda 4", 10am, Odyssey Theatre
- 4,11,18,25 Live Music, 9pm, Zorbaz
- 8 :45 Fill-up, 8:15-9am, Chamber Office
- 9-10 Electrical Expo & Contin. Ed Class, 7am-4:30pm, Holiday Inn
- 10 Lou Gramm, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino
- 11 Winter Ice Fishing Mentor Adventure, 1-4pm, Long Bridge Bar & Grill
- 23 Chamber Board of Directors, 8am, Chamber office
- 23 Little Texas, 7:30pm, Holmes Theater
- 24 LoCash, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino
- 25 ULTRA Classic Cruise Ride South, 9:30am
- 29 AI for Your Business, 8:30-9:30am, M State

February

- 7-23 Polar Fest, see www.polarfestdl.com for event schedule

See full calendar of events and local information at
VisitDetroitLakes.com
Please let us know if you have events for our calendar.