



# Detroit Lakes CHAMBER NEWS

Naturally, your resource

March 2025 | Volume 32 | No. 3

**Official Newsletter of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce**



## 2025 ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce

**THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS:  
SHAPING TOMORROW TOGETHER**

**Wednesday, March 26th**

Historic Holmes Theatre—806 Summit Ave,  
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8:00AM Doors Open  
Networking, buffet breakfast and sponsor  
displays

9:00AM Economic Summit

**Featured Speaker:**  
**Neel Kashkari, President and  
CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank  
of Minneapolis**



Neel Kashkari

**Presenters include:**

- Kelcey Klemm, Detroit Lakes City Administrator
- Carrie Smith, Becker County Administrator
- Vern Schnahorst, DLHS Academies
- Tammy Anderson, Acorn2Oaks Consulting on Childcare
- Cody Piper, Becker County Economic Development Director
- Elise Sturdivant, VP of Student Affairs MState
- Introduction of select new businesses

Registration information  
\$35 to attend

Register to attend:  
Use the QR code, go online at  
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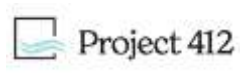


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## HR CONNECT

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, March 6th | 8:15 – 9:30 am

## Get in Touch

(218) 847-9202

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Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

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

Wednesday, March, 12th at 8:15 – 9:00 am  
Chamber Office, 700 Summit Ave

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

## Women's Edge is back in 2025

Women's Edge, the Chamber's women's speaker series is evolving and rebranding in 2025!



## Save the date for April 30th, 2025

Details to come!  
Sponsor opportunities available.



## Chamber Annual Meeting Set for May 15th

Attend the afternoon annual meeting to network with Chamber members, learn about the Chamber's rebranding and strategic initiatives, recognition of our Ambassadors and more! Details to come...

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# Chamber News

## Meet our Intern!

DLHS Project Explore student, **Emily Prellwitz** along with Job Coach, Angie, assists with administrative tasks and light cleaning. She is a great addition in helping with many tasks and always excited to work. Welcome Emily!



## Strategic Planning Session Held on January 30th

The Chamber Board held a strategic planning session to ensure that our mission remains aligned with the evolving needs of our members and the broader community we serve. A well-defined strategic plan establishes a **roadmap for the Chamber's future. It allows for informed decisions, setting priorities, and allocating resources efficiently.** But most importantly, it serves as a guiding framework to ensure we continue to adapt, grow, and meet the challenges ahead with purpose and confidence. The board will review the draft and finalize the multi-year strategic plan. Learn more at the annual meeting in May.

## Chamber and League of Women Voters Enter Partnership

The Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce a new partnership with the League of Women Voters to enhance community engagement through informative sessions that bring valuable insights into the workings of our local organizations and services. This collaboration is dedicated to fostering education, building awareness, and deepening understanding of the key functions that shape our community. Throughout the year, we will host a series of panel discussions where community, business and organizational leaders will share their knowledge, experiences, and insights. Each session will be designed to promote understanding, support community growth and connections. We invite you to join us in these sessions, where we will continue to create a platform for learning, collaboration, and understanding.

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>December 2024</u>	<u>2024 Totals</u>
Walk-Ins	
116	2,602
Phone Calls	
174	2,925
Website Viewers	
27,067	498,127



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Jaime DeRaney, MD



Michael Bergard, MD



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# 4 Ambassador Visits



Chamber Ambassadors visited Quality Equipment on February 5. They toured the new facility and learned about the Products they carry and the services they provide. Paula Okeson presented General Manager, Brandon Ferkinhoff, with their First Dollar of Profit. The new store is located at 2024 Highway 10 East. See next page for more business details.



Chamber Ambassadors participated in a Ribbon Cutting at Creating Community Junction in Frazee on February 21. Creating Community Junction is an incubator for new businesses in Frazee. Currently, it houses Frazee Floral and Evergreen Creations. First Dollars of Profit were given to all three new venues.

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# Welcome New Member

5

## Quality Equipment

Brandon Ferkinhoff, General Manager  
2024 Highway 10 East  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
218-325-23050  
Email: bferkinhoff@qualityequipmentmn.com  
www.qualityequipmentmn.com

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# Member Renewals

Thanks to the following members who have renewed their DL Chamber Membership from January 25–February 21, 2025. Chamber Memberships renew throughout the year. For a complete list of members, see <https://business.visitdetroitlakes.com/list/>

A Place to Belong  
Becker County EDA  
Briard Construction  
Dana Chase Brands  
Detroit Lakes Breakfast Rotary  
Feldt Plumbing & Excavating  
First National Bank  
JH Signs & Designs  
Lakes Country Networking

Long Bridge Bar Grill & Marina  
Pizza Ranch of Detroit Lakes  
Precision Electric  
Solutions Behavioral Healthcare Professionals  
Strive Chiropractic  
Sunset Shores Resort & Campground  
True Sports Performance  
United Savings Credit Union  
Zorbaz at the Beach

# Member News

Congratulations to Scientist Moriya Rufer, **Houston Engineering**, for being named Super Partner of the Year by the Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District.

**Maplelag Resort** has begun a major remodel of the Great Northern building. They are creating open spaces that can be used for yoga, scrapbooking, other wellness groups, etc. The building represents a feel of the original Maplelag. They are also remodeling the adjoining Jewelry Store room for a rental unit.



Like us on Facebook/Instagram and watch for member posts!

Mondays, we will introduce you to our new Chamber members.

Thursday's posts will highlight renewing Chamber members.



# Your Local Legislators

## Legislative News

**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/>

The Chamber's board of directors formed a legislative committee to monitor legislative activity and other public policy to ensure Chamber members are educated and informed, advocate for their interests and connect members with legislative subject matter experts, policy makers, candidates, and other information sources as policy issues arise. There are several ways the Chamber has accomplished this including the formation of the HR Connect group; the partnership with the League of Women Voters for candidate forums and entering into an enhanced partnership; and providing education and information in the monthly newsletter. The Chamber will continue to develop ways to keep members informed.

The legislative committee is meeting regularly to monitor Minnesota legislation that will impact businesses. With 1331 bills introduced in the House of Representatives and 1861 introduced in the Senate, it is a challenge to find, understand and monitor the bills. There are daily committees hearings to discuss the proposed bills as well. There may be bills that impact specific industries or sizes of businesses in addition to addressing specific local community issues.

The legislative committee is following these bills as it affects all employers regardless of industry or size.

- Senate bill SF671 regarding setting the Minnesota minimum wage
- House bill HF11 that delays the implementation of the Paid Family and Medical Leave program
- House bill HF260 that delays the implementation of the Paid Family and Medical Leave program for employers less than 20 employees until 2028

HF11 has been referred to the Workforce, Labor and Economic Development Finance and Policy committee and the Ways and Means committee. It has not been transmitted to the Senate.

HF260 has been referred to the Workforce, Labor and Economic Development Finance and Policy committee and has not been transmitted to the Senate.

SF671 has been referred to the Senate Labor committee.



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# The MN Legislative Process

## The Process

Whether you are new or seasoned at watching the legislative process, it is a complex process with multiple steps before a bill becomes a law. More detailed information can be found at <https://www.leg.mn.gov/leg/howbill#> as to the process.

### Steps a Bill Goes Through to Become Law

[Idea](#) → [Legal form](#) → [Authors](#) → [Introduction](#) → [Committees](#) → [Floor](#) → [General Register](#) → [Calendar for the Day](#) → [Special Orders](#) → [Conference](#) → [Floor](#) → [Governor](#)

## Tracking Minnesota Legislation

The Minnesota Legislature website has a tool called MyBills that makes it easier to track pending legislation. Once you create an account, the bills to follow can be added to the dashboard. Below are a few screen shots to show the information that can be found on the dashboard in MyBills:

The screenshot shows the MyBills dashboard for bill HF0011. At the top, it says "Minnesota Paid Leave Law implementation delayed by one year." Below this, there are several sections:

- Alerts:** A list of links to view the status of the bill in the House and Senate, recorded roll call floor votes, the text of the bill, unofficial engrossment, conference committee page, and legislative budget office fiscal notes.
- Description:** A brief description of the bill: "Minnesota Paid Leave Law implementation delayed by one year."
- Authors (29):** A list of authors including Baker, Schultz, Borchers, Niska, Dunn, Poiryman, Evers, Zelenskiar, Knudsen, Bennett, Dotsch, Anderson, P. H., Jacob, Robbins, Skrab, Anderson, P. E., Burk, Backer, Scott, and Wanwan.
- Actions:** A table showing the history of actions taken on the bill, including introduction, author additions, and committee reports.

Separated	Chronological
<b>House</b>	
02/06/2025	Introduction and first reading, referred to <a href="#">Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development, Finance and Policy</a> pg. 30 <a href="#">Intro</a>
02/10/2025	Authors added Duran, Penymann, Engen, Zelenskiar, Knudsen, Bennett, Dotsch, Anderson, P. H., Jacob, Robbins, Skrab, Anderson, P. E., Burk, Backer, Scott, and Wanwan pg. 182
02/13/2025	Authors added Joy, Franzen, McDonald, Rymes, Murphy, Van Binsbergen and Kozick pg. 197
02/17/2025	Committee report, to adopt and re-refer to <a href="#">Ways and Means</a> pg. 207
02/17/2025	Author added Gander pg. 257
02/20/2025	Author added Ahendorf pg. 348



Thanks to the businesses who sponsored the Great Polar Hunt:

- Al's Bar & Grill/Audubon Liquor
- American National Bank
- Beaudry Oil & Propane
- Becker Pet & Garden/Candy Store
- Breezy Shores Resort & Beach Club
- Detroit Lakes Tribune
- First National Bank
- Midwest Bank
- Minuteman Mortgage
- Pizza Ranch of Detroit Lakes
- Pro Print
- Star of the Lakes Hotel
- The Dashery
- The Title Team



Congratulations to the prize package winners!

- Karen Husted
- Pam Knapper
- Paula Schwarzrock
- Team award—Red River Human Services Foundation

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**Vaughn Johnson**

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**Joe Skogmo**

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**Scott Wenner**

Laney's  
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## **What's Happening!**

March 2025

- 1 Free Movie, "HOP", 10am, Odyssey Theatre
- 1 Purse Bingo for Patriot Assistance Dogs, 5pm, VFW
- 2 The Lotvola Cup, 12:12 pm, Maplelag Resort
- 4 Mardi Gras Kings, 7pm, Holmes Theatre
- 5 **Ambassadors, 9:30am**
- 6 HR Connect, 8:15-9:30am, Chamber Office
- 6 Pottery Night, 6-8pm, Bucks Mill Brewing
- 7 Comedy Night, 7:30pm, Bucks Mill Brewing
- 7-9 **Women's Enlighten Retreat, The Lodge on Lake Detroit**
- 8 Cold Cases Cocktails & Charcuterie, 6-9pm, Becker Co. Museum
- 10-11 Ag in the Classroom, MState
- 12 **:45 Fill-up, 8:15-9am, Chamber Office**
- 14 Gin Blossoms Concert, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino
- 15 Irish Fundraiser for Humane Society, 5:30-9pm, VFW
- 17 **"Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus" Musical, 10am & 12:30pm,**  
Holmes Theatre
- 20-21 Youth Drive Transformation: Models & Tools for Action Conf.,  
Frazee Event Center
- 21 Deep Dive DL Speaker Series, 8am, LaBarista
- 22 Cirque Mechanics Pedal Punk, 7pm, Holmes Theatre
- 26 **Economic Development Summit, 8am-noon, Holmes Theatre**
- 27 **Chamber Board of Directors, 8am, Chamber Office**
- 28 Killer Country Concert, 7pm, Holmes Theatre
- 28 Diamond Rio Concert, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino
- 29 Spring Market Shops, 10am-3pm, Washington Square Mall
- 29 Holistic Healing & Wellness Fair, 10am-5pm, Holiday Inn
- 29 Purse Bingo for Veterans Honor Flight ND/MN, 2pm, Amer. Legion

See full calendar of events and local information at  
[VisitDetroitLakes.com](http://VisitDetroitLakes.com)

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