

# CHAMBER NEWS

March 2026  
Volume 33 - No. 3



Official Newsletter of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce

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## ECONOMIC SUMMIT 2026

Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce

FRIDAY  
MARCH 27, 2026  
8:00 AM - 12:30 PM

MIDWEST BANK BALLROOM  
HISTORIC HOLMES THEATRE



SPONSORED BY:



## Annual Economic Development Summit 2026

Join Chamber members, business leaders, and elected officials for a high-energy conversation focused on our region's economic future. This year's Summit features insights from **Anthony Schaffhauser**, Regional Analyst for Northwest Minnesota at Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, and **Erick Garcia Luna**, Regional Outreach Director for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, along with additional regional and local voices.

Gain valuable updates on labor market trends, economic conditions, workforce insights, and community outlooks – and walk away better prepared to adapt and grow.

**Friday, March 27, 2026**  
**8:00 AM - 12:30 PM**  
**Midwest Bank Ballroom**

This is a can't-miss event for leaders invested in the future of our region. Register today!



## Plan Your Year of Visibility!

We're pleased to share our **Sponsorship & Visibility Guide** – a helpful resource designed to make planning your Chamber marketing and sponsorships simple and strategic.

This guide brings all available opportunities into one convenient place, allowing members to map out year-round visibility, align sponsorships with business goals, and thoughtfully plan involvement in the events and programs that matter most.

Scan to view the digital Sponsorship & Visibility Guide and begin planning your sponsorships for the year ahead.



## GET IN TOUCH

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**FOLLOW US!**



#DLCHAMBER

## OUR MISSION



*The mission of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce is to promote and enhance a vibrant business community while contributing to the quality of life through leadership, connection and community.*



## Our Reach in 2025

Jan 2026	2026 Totals
<b>Walk-Ins</b> 78	<b>Walk-Ins</b> 78
<b>Phone Calls</b> 138	<b>Phone Calls</b> 138
<b>Website Viewers</b> 23,640	<b>Website Viewers</b> 23,640

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair

**Kim Bettcher - 2026**

DLCCC

Chair-Elect

**Liz Holzer - 2026**

Dynamic Homes

Treasurer

**Jason Kuehn - 2026**

DL School District

Past Chair

**Nate Hunter - 2027**

HomeSmart Adventure Realty

Directors

**Molly Albrecht - 2028**

Lakelife Hospitality

**Cara Frank - 2026**

Bell Bank

**Emily Haverkamp - 2027**

MState

**Jennifer Hagman - 2026**

Better Every Day Consignment

**Joe Skogmo - 2026**

First Lutheran Church

**Tiffany Voigt - 2028**

DL Tribune/Forum Communications

**Jennifer Winn - 2027**

Arvig

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## Chamber Interior Refresh Underway

As we approach nearly 20 years in our current space, the Chamber is beginning a phased interior refresh to ensure our building continues to reflect the energy, professionalism, and pride of the business community we serve. This work will take place in stages, so if you stop by, you may catch us mid-project. The refresh is an important investment—not only to support our members with welcoming meeting space and resources, but also because the Chamber serves as an official visitor center, often providing a first impression of our community. Creating a warm, functional environment also supports our staff as they work daily to connect, advocate for, and elevate our local businesses and region.

As we update our space, we'll be transitioning out some of our conference room chairs and guest

chairs. These items will be available for purchase, and we'd love to see them continue to be used in our community. If you're interested, contact Jackie at the Chamber for more information.



10 Guest Chairs Available

## Advertise in the Chamber Newsletter!

**Get Your Business Noticed - Advertise in the Chamber newsletter!**

Your advertisement gives your business consistent visibility in a trusted communication that our members rely on to stay informed and connected. The newsletter is **mailed to 600 people each month**. The newsletter is also available online and was **opened 1551 times last year**.

**Single Ad (2" tall x 2 1/2" wide)**  
 6 Months \$210  
 12 Months \$360

**Double Ad (2" tall x 5" wide)**  
 6 Months \$420  
 12 Months \$720

Contact Jackie@visitdetroitlakes.com to reserve your space.



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Jaimie Deraney, MD



Michael Norgard, MD



Becky Peterson, APRN



Jenny Lessman, PA-C



**SANFORD**  
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Sanford Detroit Lakes Clinic  
 1245 Washington Ave.  
 (218) 846-2000



# HR

## CONNECT

### 1st Thursday of every month!

If Human Resources is in your job description, this is the group for you! Join us to share best practices and discuss HR topics & issues.

**Thursday, March 5**  
**8:15 – 9:30 am**

**LOCATION:**  
 Chamber Conference Room  
 700 Summit Ave.  
 Detroit Lakes

*Free for Members*  
*\$10 for Non-Members*




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## Ambassador Visits



Our Ambassador team recently visited Janke's Sew & Vac to celebrate their move to a new location and learn more about what's ahead. We appreciate the opportunity to recognize their continued growth and investment in our community. Congratulations on this next chapter, and thank you for the lasting impact you make locally!



Our Ambassador team enjoyed visiting **Noah's Insurance** to celebrate their new location and connect with the team. We appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the services they provide to support individuals, families, and businesses in our community. Congratulations on the move, and thank you for the important role you play locally!



Our Ambassador team was pleased to celebrate Mae's Cafe with a ribbon cutting and first dollar of profit presentation. We appreciated the opportunity to recognize their growth and success as part of the Frazee business community. Congratulations on this exciting milestone, and thank you for all you bring to our local business community!



Our Ambassador team was pleased to celebrate Sting Nutrition in Frazee with a ribbon cutting and first dollar of profit presentation. While this location operates under a different name, it brings the same menu and concept many know from McKinley Nutrition in Detroit Lakes. Congratulations on this exciting milestone, and thank you for the warm welcome!



Our Ambassador team enjoyed visiting Middy, located inside Manna Food Co-op, to celebrate their first dollar of profit and learn more about their expanded menu. We appreciated the opportunity to hear how they continue to grow and serve the community. Congratulations on this exciting milestone!

## Welcome New Member

### Potty Shacks

Kathy Bristow, Owner  
20555 Co. Road 7  
Park Rapids, MN 56470  
218-732-1272

Email: [pottyshacks@gmail.com](mailto:pottyshacks@gmail.com)  
[www.pottyshacks.com](http://www.pottyshacks.com)

Portable toilet rental and services for construction and events.



## Member News

Congratulations to **Fair Hills Resort, Five Lakes Resort and Wildflower Golf Course** for being recognized as winners in the *2025 Minnesota's Best Readers' Choice Awards* by the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Fair Hills Resort won gold in Summer Resort, silver in Resort & Boat Cruises and bronze in Family Getaway & Group Getaway. Five Lakes Resort won bronze in Vacation Rentals. Wildflower Golf Course won bronze in Golf Course.

**Fair Hills Resort** celebrates their 100th anniversary this year! The Kaldahl family has proudly owned and operated the resort since 1926. **Five Lakes Resort** was added in 1976 and is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. **Wildflower Golf Course** was added in 1993.

**Olander Bus Service** has purchased the former Red River Trails in Moorhead, MN. New equipment is being added to the current fleet to make your journey better. You can contact the bus company in Detroit Lakes or Moorhead.

Beginning March 2, 2026, **Detroit Lakes Animal Hospital** will launch their new exotic pet care services. Species they will see are: rabbits, small rodents, rats, Chinchillas, Hedgehogs, Guinea pigs, lizards, geckos, turtles and snakes.

**Fireside** is now serving brunch on Saturdays from 10am-2pm with a new brunch menu being offered.

Abby Fostveitt, **DL Tribune** reporter, won the *Dave Pyle New Journalist Award* at the 2025 Minnesota Newspaper Association Annual Conference and Better Newspaper Content for excellence in writing and photography. The judges stated, "Abby Fostveit burrows into the minds of her interview subjects to enlighten readers. Her stories focus on the crucial points, and they're a pleasure to read. A superb writer for sure, with a fine journalism future ahead."



## MEMBER RENEWALS

Thanks to the following members who have renewed their Chamber Membership from Jan. 24, 2026 - Feb. 23, 2026!

**APEX Townhomes**

**Briard Construction, Inc.**

**Country Inn & Suites by Radisson**

**Feldt Plumbing & Excavating**

**Hoban's Plumbing & Heating, Inc.**

**J H Signs & Designs Inc.**

**Light Consulting**

**Long Bridge Bar, Grill & Marina**

**Marsh McLennan Agency**

**My Kind of Bank – 1st National**

**Principal Mortgage Group, Inc.**

**Quality Equipment**

**Richwood Heights Townhomes**

**Starboard Point Luxury Condominium**

**Thrifty White Pharmacy**

**Timberland Exteriors**

**Union Square Townhomes**

**United Savings Credit Union**

**Vintage n Vogue**

**YMCA Camp Cormorant**

Chamber Memberships renew throughout the year.

For a complete list, visit [business.visitdetroitlakes.com/list](http://business.visitdetroitlakes.com/list)



**Monday, March 9, 2026**  
**5:00 – 7:00 PM**  
**Bucks Mill Brewing**

Celebrate the season with a fun and festive social! Team up for a Minute to Win It–style competition, enjoy great company & green beer, and test your skills in this friendly showdown. Compete for bragging rights and gift cards!

Please register before **March 2nd** so you can be assigned a team! **Must be COMPASS YP member to attend.**



Scan here  
to register  
for free!

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## Chamber Legislative Priorities 2026

As the 2026 legislative session begins, the Chamber will focus on advocating for policies that support a strong business climate, workforce participation, and Greater Minnesota competitiveness. While many important issues will be considered this session, the priorities below represent the areas the Chamber will be most actively engaged in as we meet with legislators at the Capitol and monitor proposed legislation.

These priorities were developed with member and regional input, recommended to the Chamber Board of Directors, and formally approved to guide our advocacy efforts and ensure a consistent business voice.

### 2026 Legislative Priorities

- **Employer Mandate Reform** – Pursuing practical adjustments to workplace mandates to balance employee support with business sustainability.
- **Child Care Investment & Reform** – Expanding access to affordable, reliable child care while reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens so parents can work and providers can succeed.
- **K-12 & Higher Education Alignment** – Increasing local funding flexibility and strengthening career-connected learning to better align education with workforce needs.
- **Reducing Costs & Affordability** – Supporting policies that address the rising cost of doing business and living in Minnesota.
- **Health Care & Affordability** – Protecting access to quality, affordable health care in Greater Minnesota while addressing cost drivers.
- **Inclusive Access for Greater Minnesota** – Ensuring statewide policies and funding structures work effectively for rural communities.

These priorities will guide our conversations with legislators during the Chamber's Moorhead and Detroit Lakes Day at the Capital on March 11th and 12th and shape our advocacy efforts throughout the legislative session as proposals move forward.

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## MCCE Winter Conference



*Pictured with Ann Johnson, MCCE Chair  
Redwood Area Chamber & Tourism*

President Jackie Buboltz recently represented the Chamber at two key statewide events focused on advocacy and professional leadership. She attended the Minnesota Chamber Legislative Priorities Dinner hosted by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, where business leaders and policymakers gathered to discuss priorities for the upcoming legislative session, with a focus on workforce, economic competitiveness, and a strong business climate for Minnesota.

Buboltz also attended the MCCE Winter Conference hosted by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Executives (MCCE), where she was honored with the **Rookie of the Year Award**.

This award recognizes a chamber executive with less than two years in the industry whose work goes above and beyond in service to their organization, community, and the chamber profession, while successfully navigating their first year and creating new opportunities for impact.

In addition, Buboltz graduated from the MCCE Executive Leadership Program, a multi-session experience hosted at chambers across the state that dives deep into core leadership areas through facilitation by leadership presenters, business and community leaders, and industry experts. Together, these experiences reflect the Chamber's commitment to strong leadership, continuous learning, and advocacy on behalf of the Detroit Lakes region.



*MCCE Group*



*MCCE Executive Leadership Program  
Group*



### 2nd Wednesday of every month!

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 11  
8:15 – 9:30 am**

#### LOCATION:

Chamber Conference Room  
700 Summit Ave.  
Detroit Lakes

*Want to host a :45 Fill Up  
at your business?*

**Contact the Chamber!**

#### Detroit Lakes Chamber Bucks Reminder:



For good customer service, please continue to accept ALL Chamber Bucks but let the Chamber know if you receive any \$10 checks from First Security Bank; we will exchange them for **new** 1st National Bank checks.



**Detroit Lakes**  
Regional Chamber  
of Commerce

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Tuesday March 31, 2026

# JOB FAIR

**Tuesday, March 31,**  
**2026**  
**2:00 - 5:30 PM**  
**MN State Community**  
**and Technical College**

Join us for our Spring Job Fair  
and discover your next career  
move!

Enjoy casual conversations,  
network with local employers,  
take home some awesome  
swag, and take a chance at  
finding your next career.

Free to attend



Scan here  
to register a  
booth!

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## What's Happening - March 2026

Every Saturday – Music, 9pm-1am, Zorbaz

- 5.....**HR Connect, 8:15-9:30am, Chamber Office**
- 5,6,7 ....Holmes Community Theatre presented "Annie", 7pm,  
Holmes Theatre
- 6 .....Hinder Concert, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino
- 6&13....Live Music, 6:30-9pm, Detroit Mountain
- 7.....Winter Farmer's Market, 11am-1pm, Bucks Mill Brewing
- 7.....Purse Bingo for Patriot Assist. Dogs, 6pm, VFW
- 8 .....Holmes Community Theatre presents "Annie, 2pm, Holmes  
Theatre
- 11.....**:45 Fill-up, 8:15-9am, Chamber Office**
- 13 .....Deep Dive DL, 8am, Bucks Mill Brewing
- 14 .....Irish Fundraiser for Humane Society, 5pm, VFW
- 14 .....Flight Notes, 7pm, Holmes Theatre
- 20 .....BlackHawk Concert, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino
- 21 .....Pollinator Expo, 12-4pm, Becker County Museum
- 26.....**Chamber Board Meeting, 8am, Chamber Office**
- 27 .....**Economic Development Summit, 8am-noon, Midwest  
Bank Ballroom**
- 28.....Spring Market Shops, 10am-3pm, Washington Square Mall
- 28.....Bridge Over Troubled Water, 7:30pm. Holmes Theatre
- 31.....Job Fair, 2-5:30pm, M State

See full calendar of events and local information at  
**VisitDetroitLakes.com**

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

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