



235 West Chisholm Street
Alpena, MI 49707
989.354.4181

www.alpenachamber.com

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CHAMBER NOTES

Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce

By serving its members, the Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce actively champions economic development and the advancement of the community's quality of life.

May/June 2017

Staff Share Their Chamber Favorites

Alisha Bouchard, Administrative Assistant: Alisha's favorite Chamber event is the annual dinner because she gets to use a lot of creativity for that event. Her favorite thing about being the administrative assistant is when people come in excited about Alpena and everything Alpena has to offer. Alisha's favorite thing about working in this building is her co-workers.

Deb Page, Bookkeeper: Deb's favorite event is the annual dinner because there are a lot of components to it, with lots of tracking. It is chaotic but she enjoys it. Her favorite day in the office is Monday mornings because after the staff meeting, the staff does a Jumble word puzzle together. Deb's favorite office memory is when staff was talking about requiring employees to sing to receive their paychecks and Nicole from the Convention and Visitor's Bureau belted out a Christmas song.

Ashley DeFisher, Member Services Director: Ashley's favorite part of her job is her event responsibilities because she feels like managing the events is like putting a puzzle together and she enjoys piecing the puzzle together to create a successful event. Her favorite thing about the Chamber is all that the team accomplishes every day. She says so much happens out of this office - it makes her proud.

Jim Klarich, Economic Development Director: Jim's favorite thing is seeing everyone in the office smile. His favorite phone call he has taken was when he couldn't answer the person's question and told them to call back when someone smarter than Jim was available. Jim's favorite thing to do with co-workers is grab mid-day ice cream in the summer.

Jackie Krawczak, President/CEO: Jackie's favorite thing about working in this office is the fun they have. There is a whole lot of laughter that happens in the building and Jackie believes laughter is a good thing, even when everyone else is laughing at her. Jackie's favorite Chamber event changes depending on what she is working on at the time, but rising to the top of the list time and time again is the work of the military support committee - because no one ever complains about those events.

CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For ribbon cuttings and event details, contact the Chamber at 989.354.4181 or visit www.alpenachamber.com.

May 2017

- 3 - Ambassador meeting, 8:00 a.m.
- 4 - Government Relations committee meeting, 7:30 a.m.
- 5 - Leadercast, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., costs start at \$75, registration required, held at ACC Granum Theater*
- 9 - Economic Development Annual Meeting, 7:30 a.m.
- 12 - Good Morning Alpena event, 7:00 a.m., \$9 per person, registration required, theme: Let's Get Growing!, sponsored by Sunrise Mission*
- 18 - Economic development discussion luncheon, invite only (call with inquiries)
- 23 - Fireworks bracelet sales, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce

June 2017

- 1 - Government Relations committee meeting, 7:30 a.m.
- 2 - Fireworks bracelet sales, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., AAACU
- 7 - Ambassador meeting, 8:00 a.m.
- 19 - Military support event, 6:00 p.m., Ramada Inn, \$10, registration requested*
- 27 - Chamber Board meeting, 7:30 a.m.

* register by contacting the Chamber: info@alpenachamber.com or 989.354.4181

2017 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson: Ryan Fairchild - Omega Electric
Past Chairperson: Luciana King - Lappan Agency
Vice Chairperson: Cindy Limback - RE/MAX New Horizons
Secretary/Treasurer: Brian VanWormer - Employment Services Inc.

Directors: Eileen Budnick - First Federal of N. Michigan; Bruce Duncan - Thunder Bay Therapy; Pat Gerow - R.S. Scott and Associates; Rose Nowak - Better Living Massage Center and Spa; Elaine Orr - Alpena Power Company; Adam Poll - City of Alpena; Shawn Shankie - Days Inn; Dylan Wallace - The Wallace Firm, P.C.



Nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome these organizations to the Chamber. As we continue to grow in membership we are able to accomplish more. We appreciate all of our members - both new and returning ones.

Options Pregnancy Center
526 West Chisholm Street
Alpena, MI 49707
989.354.6089

Oppenheimer & Co. Inc.
100 NE Third Avenue
Suite 500
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
954.356.8233/800.327.8324

Forty-Five North Art Gallery
121 N. Second Avenue
Alpena, MI 49707
989.370.3314

Vacations Unlimited
215 West Chisholm Street
Alpena, MI 49707
989.354.3857

Thunder Bay Folk Society
311 E. Baldwin Street
Alpena, MI 49707
989.590.0892

Turn the Page Bookstore
2205 US 23 South
Suite 94
Alpena, MI 49707
989.354.4461

GOOD MORNING ALPENA

Join us on Friday, May 12th for the third GMA of the year: Let's Get Growing! Cost: \$9 per person, registration is required to the Chamber of Commerce, breakfast at 7:00 a.m., program 7:30 - 8:30 a.m., held at the Alpena County Library, sponsored by Sunrise Mission

Career Readiness Keeps Moving Forward

When the Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce made the decision to officially add educational attainment and workforce development to their strategic goals, they did not expect it to take off as it has. They had been working on various projects that touched on this topic for several years, but decided to make it officially part of their strategic plan beginning with their 2016 plan, and continuing into 2017.

The work being done under this strategic goal can be viewed in the graphic at right, in addition to the Chamber's continued involvement with the Alpena Career and College Access Network.

Staff and the Board are thrilled with how all of this is going, but are most excited about the nine week career readiness training they are conducting as a pilot program with all Alpena High School seniors. Once a week for nine weeks, during the student's advisory period, volunteers teach the students one component of career readiness. The nine week schedule is as follows:

- Week one: Kick off - an introduction to the program
- two: Applying for Jobs
- three: Resume Workshop
- four: Resume Critique/Workshop
- five: The Job Interview
- six: Mock Interviews
- seven: Mock Interviews
- eight: You're Hired! Now what?
- nine: Conclusion and The Real Thing

It has been a very positive experience with these courses so far, and there are already talks among staff, faculty and administration at Alpena High School about what this should look like next year, and how it can be expanded to reach additional grades as well.

In other strategic plan news, the Chamber is also deep into planning for the 2017 Leadercast event on May 5th. Developing local leadership and offering education for Chamber members is another focus of the Chamber's strategic goals. Staff is confident Leadercast will be another event of great value to attendees. Finally, on the strategic goal front, members should start seeing more information about MySidewalk - the data program purchased by the Chamber last year. There is a great level of value in the data and the Chamber is working hard to find the best way to make the data accessible to it's members. There will be presentations about and using the data at the May Good Morning Alpena event, the annual economic development meeting, and other Chamber events.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

By focusing on educational attainment and workforce development, the Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce seeks to advance the success of our entire region by connecting the next generation of workforce with skills, knowledge, and opportunities that will lead them proactively into the future.

SERVICES WE OFFER

Job shadowing

We will match students with job shadow opportunities so they can explore careers. The schedule is flexible and the details of the job shadow are worked out between the student and business contact.

Presentations

We can provide classroom presenters on any/all topics that help connect business and the classroom. Presentation topic suggestions: career readiness topics, specific industry or career presentations, local opportunities.

Leadership training

We can structure a leadership training event that meets the needs of your business or class.

Connecting business to the classroom award

One award will be presented annually to a teacher who goes above and beyond to connect material learned in the classroom to what is happening in businesses.

Tours

We can assist in setting up tours for students, teachers or faculty at area businesses.

Want more information, or to utilize any of these services?
Contact the Chamber at 989.354.4181 or info@alpenachamber.com.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The **Montmorency County Commission on Aging** is a not-for-profit, non-political organization patterned after the Older Michiganian Act, with the purpose of coordinating and implementing public and private programs that promote and safeguard the independence, welfare, and dignity of the senior citizens of Montmorency County. Their 32 employees and additional volunteers provide services for those in Montmorency County that are 60 or older who could use help with maintaining their independence within their homes. The services they provide include meals on wheels, congregate meals at the Atlanta, Hillman and Lewiston senior centers, in-home services of personal care, homemaking and respite care, referral services, educational programs, grandparents raising grandchildren grants, and much more. They are also involved in Project Fresh where fresh foods can be purchased at local Farmer's Markets. They have an extensive loan closet full of items such as wheelchairs, shower chairs, walkers, crutches, canes, tub benches, toilet risers, bed commodes, an electric seat lift, and even a hospital bed. They have a Senior Companion Program where someone will visit your elderly loved one just to check in on that person, providing them security and company. Every six months they deliver a bag of emergency, non-perishable food to ensure clients have adequate food in their homes. They provide private duty services by their RN for foot care and medication set-up in addition to in-home private duty services.

With the exception of private duty services, provided services are based on suggested donations. A monthly service summary detailing services performed and their value is provided to the client and client's family so they can donate accordingly. Services are provided based on need and not on finances. Funding for MCCOA comes from Federal, State and USDA funding sources, county millages, donations for services, and grants or fundraising efforts. MCCOA was incorporated in 1974.

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 11463 McArthur Road in Atlanta, Michigan. If you know of any Montmorency County senior that could use MCCOA's services please call 989.785.2580. Learn more at www.montmorencycoa.org.

Mark and Judy Hall purchased **Camper's Cove** in December of 2002 but it has been in business since 1976. They decided to purchase the campground for many different reasons, including Mark's desire to return to the camping industry and Judy's desire to run a different type of business. One of the biggest reasons was the decision to move to a small town to provide a better atmosphere for their daughter as well as securing their retirement.

At Camper's Cove you will find a variety of camping options. They have everything from space for tents and RV's to rental options like trailers and cabins. Campground amenities include modern facilities, an indoor swimming pool, swimming beach, water trampoline, raft, game room, store, laundry, putt putt golf, funcycle rental, fishing pond, pavilion, playground, full basketball court, Wi-Fi, and cable television. They also have available for rent pontoons, canoes, kayaks, paddle boats, row boats, fishing boats, and docks. They have many planned activities throughout the season including their Halloween weekends and canoe and kayak trips down the Thunder Bay River.



Mark and Judy are very proud to provide a camping and family experience where parents feel comfortable to let their children play in a safe environment and allow kids to be kids playing as they did when they were younger.

Camper's Cove is open from May 1st to October 15th. You can contact them for reservations or other inquiries at 989.356.3708. Find them online at camperscovecampground.com or check them out on Facebook.