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[www.alpenachamber.com](http://www.alpenachamber.com)

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## CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For ribbon cuttings and event details, contact the Chamber at 989.354.4181 or visit [www.alpenachamber.com](http://www.alpenachamber.com).

### September 2018

- 5 - Ambassador meeting
- 6 - Government Relations Committee meeting
- 7 - Good Morning Alpena breakfast, United Way Campaign Kick-Off, 7:00 a.m. breakfast with program at 7:30 a.m., APlex, \$9 per person, advanced registration required\*
- 11 - Economic Development Board meeting
- 13 - Alpenopoly Grub Crawl, 5:30 - 10:00 p.m., various locations around Alpena, tickets \$20 through September 6th, then \$25 until the day of the event or until sold out

### October 2018

- 3 - Ambassador meeting
- 3 - Flu Clinic at the Chamber, 8:00 -10:00 a.m.
- 4 - Government Relations Committee meeting
- 12 - Leadercast Women, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., tickets start at \$65, advanced registration is required\*
- 13 - Red White Blue Review, tickets \$25 each through September 30, then \$30, Alpena CRTC, doors open at 5:00 p.m.
- 17 - Shredder Day, no reservation necessary, take up to five paper-case sizes of papers and one hard drive for free to Michigan Confidential Document Destruction at 4344 M-32 West between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Members only, additional boxes \$5 each, hard drives \$10 each.

- 23 - Chamber of Commerce Board meeting
- 24 - Economic Development Lunch, contact us for details

\* register by contacting the Chamber: [info@alpenachamber.com](mailto:info@alpenachamber.com) or 989.354.4181

## 2018 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson: Cindy Limback, RE/MAX New Horizons  
Past Chairperson: Ryan Fairchild, Omega Electric  
Vice Chairperson: Brian VanWormer, Employment Services Inc.  
Secretary/Treasurer: Eileen Budnick - mBank

Directors: Tom Berriman - Alpena Public Schools/AHS; Kevin Burr - Burr Auctions; Bruce Duncan - Thunder Bay Therapy; Pat Gerow - R.S. Scott and Associates; Rose Nowak - Better Living Massage Center and Spa; Adam Poll - City of Alpena; Shawn Shankie - Days Inn; Diane Shields - MidMichigan Medical Center - Alpena



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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.

September/October 2018

## Young and Successful in Alpena, MI

We are a few months into our new video series - Young and Successful in Alpena, MI. The videos are on the Chamber's website ([alpenachamber.com](http://alpenachamber.com)) and posted on our social media. The series serves several purposes. The videos fall under our workforce development/educational attainment and economic development work. The Chamber Board wanted to showcase stories of successful young professionals in the area to: 1) help the community see the value these young professionals are adding to the community, 2) show a different side of the community than the more familiar retirement-friendly side, 3) demonstrate to area youth that we have many opportunities to come back to, or stay in, this area after graduation, and 4) to inspire other young professionals to consider making this their home.



To create a video (for which we have no shortage of interested participants so far), we first interview the participant, asking them to share regarding four areas. We ask them to: 1) walk us through their career/education path from high school graduation to where they are today, 2) talk about their experience as a young professional in the Alpena area, 3) talk about their personal experience living in Alpena, outside of their work life, and 4) offer advice to someone who is just starting out after high school or college graduation, especially as it relates to where they may make their home. We then create a script out of the interview, record the script (thank you Jim Klarich, Steve Wright and LeAnne Schultz for help with recording), and then overlay the recorded script onto a video montage of photos submitted to us by the participant. We are releasing one video every two weeks.

This video series has met with great interest and reception. But what has surprised us about the series is what we are learning through the process. There are some trends among the young professionals that we didn't expect to see. The participants agree there are plenty of opportunities in the area for careers including plenty of opportunities to create your own way. They all agree this is a wonderful place to raise a family. They think it is beautiful here and that the outdoors is of great value. They talk about there being plenty of activities in which to participate. They also talk often about the fact that they choose to live here because they love it. The videos tell a story about this community that isn't always told. They send a message with their common threads about the value of living in this town.

Creating these videos has been inspiring and has left a positive impression on us, reaffirming that what we are doing with our strategic goals is indeed moving us in the right direction. If you haven't had a chance to watch the videos, take a moment to do so. They are each just a few minutes long and, after watching all of the ones released so far, you should feel the same (perhaps a renewed) pride in this ever-blossoming community.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Bounty - Sport Fishing Charters**  
4029 El Cajon Beach Road  
Alpena, MI 49707  
989.354.3855

**Peninsula Fiber Network**  
1901 W. Ridge Street, Suite 2  
Marquette, MI 49855  
906.226.2010

**Garage Kings**  
10662 W. Hall Road  
Roscommon, MI 48653  
989.387.5801

As we continue to grow in membership we are able to accomplish more. We appreciate all of our members - both new and returning.

Are you a young professional 40 or younger and willing to participate in the video series? Contact Jackie at the Chamber of Commerce.

Congratulations to Brandy Boucher of Roar Salon! Brandy was the winner of the two tickets and travel voucher to attend Leadercast Women LIVE in Georgia later this year. Brandy will be taking Alpena Power Company employee Angela Montie. You can access the excellent content of Leadercast Women by attending the LIVE BROADCAST event right here in Alpena. Visit [www.alpenachamber.com](http://www.alpenachamber.com) for the details.

## We Hope to See you in September and/or October

This year's September and October are exceptionally busy months. With all that is happening with the Chamber, there are lots of opportunities for you to get involved. We hope to see you at one or more events during those two months. Will you join us for one or more of the following opportunities? Keep reading below the opportunities to learn more about the VALUE in participating in these (and other) events.

**Good Morning Alpena United Way Kick Off - Friday, September 7, 2018:** Join us as we kick off the United Way Campaign at this Dr. Seuss themed Good Morning Alpena breakfast. The event will be held at the APlex, starting at 7:00 a.m. with breakfast, followed by the program from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Advanced registration is required to the Chamber of Commerce, and cost is \$9 per person. Sponsors of this event include: WATZ, Alpena Agency, Ball Tire, Besser Company, and mBank.

**Alpenopoly Grub Crawl - Thursday, September 13, 2018:** Tickets are available (fun tie-dyed bandanas - selling faster than any other year) and are \$20 through September 6, 2018, and then \$25 until the day of the event or until sold out. The evening runs from 5:30 until 10:00 p.m. Visit all ten locations on the game board, collecting your stickers along the way, and turn in completed boards to a volunteer by 10:00 p.m. to be entered into the drawing for great prizes (prize drawings will be conducted via Facebook Live at 10:30 p.m. as well as posted on social media the next day). Each of the ten participating locations have food samples, drink specials, and games for ticket holders.

**Flu Shot Clinic - Wednesday, October 3, 2018:** LeFave Pharmacy will be at the Alpena Chamber of Commerce from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. for a flu shot clinic. Stop by during those hours for your flu shot. Bring your insurance information. No advanced registration required. All participants can enter to win prizes.

**Leadercast Women - Friday, October 12, 2018:** This single-day, highly affordable and with great value live broadcast event for both MEN and WOMEN (the presenters are all female leaders which is what gives this event its name, but it is certainly not limited to only female attendees) will leave you better prepared to meet your biggest leadership challenges. This event will take place at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Advanced registration is required with the Chamber. Tickets are \$65 for members, and \$95 for all others.

**Red, White, Blue Review - Saturday, October 13, 2018:** This is a major fundraiser for our military support efforts, and happens only every two years. This event features dinner, drinks, and a variety show of local talent - from comedy to music. Tickets are \$25 each through September 30, and are then \$30 and can be purchased by contacting the Chamber of Commerce. No tickets will be sold at the door. The event is held at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center in an airplane hangar, with the doors opening at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m., and the show at 7:00 p.m.

**Shredder Day - Wednesday, October 17, 2018:** This event has become increasingly popular, bringing in more material and members each year. You are legally required to destroy certain documents before disposing of them. This is your opportunity. Bring your papers for shredding to Michigan Confidential Document Destruction (4344 M-32 West) between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to have them professionally shredded. Up to FIVE (paper size case or smaller) boxes of paper and ONE hard drive (removed from the computer) can be destroyed for free, while additional hard drives will be \$10 each and additional boxes of paper, \$5 each. Advanced registration is not required - simply show up. This is for members only.

### WHY Should You Participate in one or more of these events?

- Promote your business
- Network
- Fun (who doesn't want to have more fun?!)
- Personal development
- Professional development
- Support your community
- Support other businesses
- Encourage new businesses
- Maintain/improve your mental and physical health

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Laser Team Challenge** was established in 2004 by Jim and Carol Makowske and their family. In 2005 they moved into the old National Guard Armory (Alpena Memorial Hall) and have been serving thousands of customers every year since. Each year between 7,500 and 9,000 players experience a one-of-a-kind three hour laser tag event. Approximately 60% of the participants visit from distances of 100 miles or more.

The players experience a wide variety of games, ranging from complex reenactments and scenarios to simple games. Each game is tailored for the age and skill of the players. Many customers use their services including businesses, military, law enforcement, sports teams and other organizations for team building. Schools, churches and community groups like to use Alpena's laser tag as a reward, or opportunity to encourage and build relationships.

Most of the events take place in the old armory building utilizing all three floors and over 40,000 square feet of space. Games involve as few as ten or as many as 85 players at the downtown (armory) location. Laser Team Challenge occasionally takes events on the road and can host events outside or at schools, military installations, church grounds or on private property. Travel events have taken place throughout the Michigan and the Midwest.

Laser Team Challenge's goal is to provide a fun, safe, healthy, and unique activity for all ages. They enjoy being part of the Alpena experience that visitors and locals can participate in again and again.

Laser Team Challenge can be reached at 989.358.2444 or you can find them online at [www.LaserTeamChallenge.com](http://www.LaserTeamChallenge.com).

For 63 years, **United Way of Northeast Michigan** has been fighting for the health, education, and financial stability for every person in Alcona, Alpena and Montmorency counties.

Integral to these efforts is their commitment to childhood success. They ensure that children get a strong start, with a solid foundation for success in school and life. Research tells us that 90% of a child's brain develops in the first five years of life. That's why United Way starts early, by helping children ages 0-6 achieve crucial developmental milestones on time and start school ready to succeed.

Today, third grade reading proficiency is an essential milestone for lifelong success. Research shows that children who read proficiently by third grade are more likely to graduate high school. These benefits stack up over time: students who graduate high school are better able to find jobs that pay a livable wage, live longer lives, stay out of the justice system, and have children who also graduate high school on time.

United Way's strategy for early childhood success includes:

- Supporting early learning environments and expanding access to those programs
- Identifying families and children in crisis and providing solutions through support services
- Enrolling children in "out-of-school-time" programs (e.g., after-school, weekends and summers)



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You can stand firm in knowing that the United Way will continue to support agencies that offer solutions that address the unique needs and aspirations for our most vulnerable citizens - our children.

Visit their website for more information, [www.unitedwaynemi.org](http://www.unitedwaynemi.org) or contact them at 989.354.2221.