



Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce
Serving all of Northeast Michigan
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.

March/April 2019

Help us WELCOME Valerie Skorupski to the Chamber Team!

A Note from Valerie

It was so nice meeting so many of you at annual dinner. Over the next several months I hope to visit with you and develop better relationships as I grow in my position. I moved to Alpena in January to assume the role of Membership Director at the Alpena Chamber of Commerce and things have started out fast and furious!

The Chamber's mission is, "By serving its members, the Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce actively champions economic development and advancement of the community's quality of life". This is what I plan to do. I plan to serve the members of the Chamber, and increase membership. I want to develop close relationships in the business and membership community and to help the Chamber meet your needs. I would love for members to feel comfortable reaching out to me with any questions, concerns, ideas, or even just to say hi. I desire to know what the members' needs are, and help the Chamber create and carry out plans to tackle them head on. I want our businesses to be heard and feel appreciated because without our members, the growth here in Alpena would not be possible.

I moved to Alpena from Grand Rapids. Although Grand Rapids is a very nice City, Alpena is already starting to feel like home. I feel more included in the past month since moving here than in two years in Grand Rapids. I am so excited to be here and to build relationships. I am eager to branch out and to be part of such an accepting and flourishing community. It's incredible to see how many people are involved and are trying to make Alpena a better place. I don't think I've ever come into a community where everyone has been so accepting and so kind! Everyone has given warm smiles during such a cold time of the year.

The Chamber is such an exciting place to work because I think it's a phenomenal way to help people progress their business goals. I have already been able to add value to the community and Chamber by seeking out new members and by talking with current members to understand their businesses and discuss ways we could potentially increase our value to them.

This community has a lot of people with a lot of drive. I think it is important to surround yourself with like-minded people because you pick up their habits. If you have a group that doesn't push you to grow, then you only become stagnant. I am already proud of how hard we work at the Chamber. I believe I am part of a great team that always strives for excellence. I am here to add to that excellent service, working hand-in-hand with our members. I am very happy to call Alpena my home. Thank you for giving me this opportunity and I look forward to the journey!

CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

March 2019

- 6 - Ambassador meeting
- 8 - Good Morning Alpena breakfast
- 12 - Economic Development Board Meeting
- 12 - NMCA meeting
- 14 - Government Relations meeting
- 20 - New Member breakfast
- 21 - Fireworks fundraising kick off
- 21 - Dehazing Marijuana in the Workplace

April 2019

- 3 - Ambassador meeting
- 4 - Government Relations meeting
- 4 - Good Mid Day Alpena Lunch
- 9 - Annual Economic Development meeting
- 23 - Chamber Board meeting

2019 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson: Brian VanWormer, Employment Services Inc
Past Chairperson: Cindy Limback, RE/MAX New Horizons
Vice Chairperson: Eileen Budnick - mBank
Secretary/Treasurer: Diane Shields - MidMichigan Health

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; Shawn Shankie - Days Inn; Anna Soik - City of Alpena; Adam Szydowski - Besser Company



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Valley's Canvas 1040 Joseph Road Alpena, MI 49707 989.464.1191	Alpena Dry Cleaning Co. 435 W. Campbell Street Alpena, MI 49707 989.354.4829	Lemmon Custom Design 5540 US 23 North Alpena, MI 49707 989.340.1699	Alpena Embroidery and Trophies, LLC 3111 US Hwy 23 South Alpena, MI 49707 989.354.0121	Sunrise Fencing LLC Alpena, MI 989.354.7801
Jackie Nicoll Bookkeeping 515 Brentwood Drive Alpena, MI 49707 586.944.6223	Control Solutions Inc 1391 M-32 West Alpena, MI 49707 989.379.2404	Prudential Advisors 131 River Street Alpena, MI 49707 989.356.6111	Marsh's Collision LLC 3382 US 23 South Alpena, MI 49707 989.340.1577	Alpena Adventures 3001 Werth Road Alpena, MI 49707 989.464.7241

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

Leadercast will include even more value this year! All attendees will be invited to participate in a private on-going, on-line guided leadership discussion to make the most of what they learned from Leadercast. Mark your calendar for May 10th to participate! Look to future communications for event registration details.

Starting 2019 Off Strong!

We are thrilled with how 2019 is starting! Read below for information/details on what we have achieved so far this year...and then keep reading for information on some upcoming values.

- Annual Dinner 2019 was held on one of the most treacherous days of the year. Ice, wind, snow, rain, and sleet didn't keep attendees from venturing out to enjoy the evening. Even with some cancellations, we still had over 600 people in attendance. It was an incredible night of celebration and positive networking.
- Our first Good Morning Alpena event of 2019 saw an incredible turnout, and was very well received. The topic was, "Resolutions for You and Your Business," and left attendees with tangible take-aways they could implement and practice to make improvements to their customer service, health and wellness, and more.
- Our new employee, Member Services Director Valerie Skorupski, has hit the ground running! She is already adding value by gathering information from members on how we can help them, recruiting new members, and assisting with retention of current members. This will all help add greater value to all of our members and the business community as we will be better able to meet needs and deliver important services.
- Our Government Relations Committee and Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance have already made an impact on legislative topics and policy decisions at the local and state levels. We have met with the Governor and Governor's staff twice already, have weighed in on an alcohol ban on portions of rivers in Northern Michigan, and are working on some education regarding 2019 elections.
- We are right in the middle of assisting with the Robotics Competitions. We are helping with lodging arrangements, meal plans, and recruiting field re-set volunteers. Assisting with this competition fits with our workforce development goals, and we know the influx of visitors is a great thing for our members.
- We are working with the Alpena CRTC on creation of a community council. We are currently in the research/development phase of this project and will provide more information in the future.
- Although our workforce development/career readiness training for all juniors at Alpena High School was delayed a month due to mother nature, we are fully prepared to begin the training on March 1st. Volunteers will be covering resume writing, interviewing, soft skills, and more. A big thank you to all of our career readiness volunteers!
- We had a full house at our digital marketing presentation, with 40 people in attendance.

Upcoming and On Going Value (for more details on events, visit www.alpenachamber.com)

- Our next Good Morning Alpena event is March 8th. The topic is, "No More Status Quo." Join us to learn from presenters about how they beat status quo and constantly evolve to stay relevant.
- There is a new member breakfast on March 20th. Invites have been mailed.
- March 21st is a "Dehazing Marijuana in the Michigan Workplace" seminar (we are a marketing partner with host Lappan Agency).
- March 21st kicks off fireworks fundraising efforts for 2019. This year we will also be exploring the impact of the fireworks on our members.
- Our first Good Mid Day Alpena event of 2019 is on Thursday, April 4th, and the topic is, "Alpena Made."
- We are hosting a customer service workshop on May 23rd (details are not released yet).



- Our economic development team is making loans to start ups (with new requests coming in regularly), working with developers and management companies to develop several properties, and increasing marketing for the work they are doing.
- Our advocacy efforts through our Government Relations Committee and the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance remain strong and committed to promoting policy that is business-friendly.
- We are expanding recognition for members who invest at higher tiers of membership.

Stay up to date on all Chamber work via our ENotes, newsletter, events, and website.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Alpena's post-collision reconstruction engineers are ready, willing and able to serve you! Opening their doors in 1987 and having a combined 100+ years of professional experience, **D&M Collision** provides customer-centric auto body collision repair. D&M Collision works with a wide array of major insurance companies, gladly assesses damaged vehicles, and provides both free estimates and loaner car options.

The certified technicians have received extensive training to handle ever-evolving auto body collision repairs and specialized licensing to provide services such as:

- Computerized Frame Repair
- Advanced Paint Mixing System
- PPG Paint System
- Laser Measuring

In addition, D&M Collision specializes in unique types of auto body repair services such as auto body frame straightening and multiple types of vehicular painting techniques. Casting their priority of customer care, D&M Collision also provides vehicle pick up and delivery at no additional charge.

D&M Collision services generations of customers who continue to rely on their expertise, excellent customer service and attention to quality auto body collision work. Stop by their office located on 2685 Pearl Rd., Alpena or call 989.356.4867.

Options Pregnancy Center has been serving the counties of Alpena, Alcona, Montmorency and Presque Isle since 1991. They offer free services to their clients, many of whom are facing unexpected pregnancies and related issues. They consider themselves a "spoke in the wheel," as they often work with other community resources so that they can get their clients the best help available. They do not want to reinvent the wheel, but want to strengthen the connections already available. They offer support groups and free pregnancy tests, as well as compassionate support. There are never any costs for their services.

Options Pregnancy Center has enjoyed being part of the Chamber of Commerce for two years now, and they appreciate the many resources available to them as members. Options was started in Alpena by native Sylvia



Owens years ago, and they are thankful for the legacy she has given them. From the humble beginnings as a hotline to a free-standing office with expanding services, Options Pregnancy Center has come a long way. They hope with the education opportunities they continue to get from the Chamber, they can tailor their services to fit the needs of their clients and the community.

They can be reached at 989.354.6089, or more information can be found at www.optionspregnancycenter.org. You can also stop in to see them at 526 West Chisholm Street in Alpena.

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