



Serving all of Northeast Michigan

235 West Chisholm Street  
Alpena, MI 49707  
989.354.4181  
[www.alpenachamber.com](http://www.alpenachamber.com)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 86  
Alpena, MI 49707

# 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 2019

### What the Growing List of New Members Means to US and YOU

If you read below, you will see a long list of new members to the Chamber of Commerce, a trend we hope to continue, as we also work to maintain a high renewal rate. But what does this mean to us and to you?

To us, it gives us more resources to work with, a stronger voice when we represent businesses on a variety of issues, more businesses to reach out to for insight as to what the needs of the business community are, and more businesses for us to connect to customers and one another.

For you, added members means more value, especially if we capitalize on the value a growing membership adds to our organization and services, as mentioned above.

Boiled down to our very basic structure, Chambers are designed to be membership-based, lobbying organizations (the reason behind the 501(c)6 IRS designation). We rely on our members for support, and they rely on us to continue to provide value and achieve goals that have positive impacts on the business community.

We are very proud of this growing organization - not only does it allow us to provide more value for you, but it is also a sign that the work we are doing is appreciated and valuable.

### 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).

#### May 2019

- 1 - Ambassador meeting
- 2 - Government Relations Committee meeting
- 3 - Front Door Fireworks Fundraising sales event
- 4 - Front Door Fireworks Fundraising sales event
- 10 - Leadercast, registration required\*
- 14 - Economic Development board meeting
- 17 - Good Morning Alpena breakfast, registration required\*, sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
- 23 - Award Worthy Customer Service, registration required\*
- 31 - Drive By Sales fireworks fundraising event

#### June 2019

- 5 - Ambassador meeting
- 6 - Government Relations meeting
- 6 - Good Mid Day Alpena lunch, registration required\*, sponsored by Lappan Agency & Auto Owners Insurance
- 25 - Chamber Board meeting

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

### 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 - Alpena County; 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 Szydlowski - Besser Company



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

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

<b>Medilodge of Rogers City</b> 555 N. Bradley Hwy. Rogers City, MI 49779 989.734.2151	<b>Green Acres Feed and Seed</b> 2316 M-32 Alpena, MI 49707 989.884.1865	<b>Alpena Childcare and Development Center</b> 511 Long Rapids Road Alpena, MI 49707 989.354.3213	<b>Prell's Sawmill</b> PO Box 121 Hawks, MI 49743 989.734.2939	<b>AJ's Auto Service &amp; Repair Shop</b> 2089 US 23 South Alpena, MI 49707 989.354.5350
<b>The Embers Cabin</b> 10086 Whiskey Pt. Road Presque Isle, MI 49777 989.464.1786	<b>Pompeyos Mexican Grill</b> 1120 State Avenue Alpena, MI 49707 989.340.2036	<b>Quality Lawn Care</b> 1331 S. Second Avenue Alpena, MI 49707 989.884.4524	<b>Rosa's Lookout Inn</b> 6808 N. US 23 Spruce, MI 48762 989.471.2118	<b>Northern Industrial Wood Inc.</b> 507 State Road Lincoln, MI 48742 989.736.6192
<b>Clear Strategy</b> 1223 S. Sate Avenue Alpena, MI 49707 989.358.8000	<b>Joel's Guitar Shop</b> 1008 S. State Avenue Alpena, MI 49707 989.356.6384	<b>Alpena General Store</b> 826 W. Washington Ave. Alpena, MI 49707 989.916.7708	<b>Cardell and Sons Landscaping</b> PO Box 846 Alpena, MI 49707 989.916.9061	<b>Cattails Bar &amp; Grille</b> 12087 US 23 South Ossineke, MI 49766 989.471.5517
<b>Robert Barrigar Agency Farm Bureau Insurance</b> 123 S. Ripley Street Alpena, MI 49707 989.340.2500	<b>My Glass Wings Stained Glass Studio &amp; Gifts</b> 106 N. Second Avenue Alpena, MI 49707 989.358.9464	<b>Audio Video Innovations By: Jeremiah</b> 6193 East County Road 634 Posen, MI 49776 989.884.1909	<p>As we continue to grow in membership we are able to accomplish more. We appreciate all of our members - both new and returning.</p>	

## Fireworks Fundraising Update:

This year's goal is \$22,500 - a lofty goal, indeed. We wish to remind everyone that the fireworks show belongs to the community, we simply assist by organizing fundraising efforts. How can you help? Make a donation. Host a fundraiser of your own. Sell bracelets at your business. Contact us with questions about any of the options.

## Strategic Plan Update

At the end of the first quarter of 2019, we are on track to meet the goals laid out in our strategic plan. The Board chose to focus on advocacy, education, and economic development this year, while still maintaining the areas of savings and exposure. Read below for more information on what has been accomplished thus far and some actions for the near future.

**Advocacy:** The Government Relations Committee continues to evaluate and consider positions on legislation and policies that impact businesses. They work with the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance on most State and Federal issues. This year, per the Board's direction, they have also increased their roundtable discussions with elected officials. As 2019 moves forward, you can expect more roundtable opportunities and conversations with elected officials, more time spent in Lansing by the Chamber President/CEO and the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance partners, increased education on available openings in local offices, and continued work on legislation and policies that impact your business.

**Education:** The Chamber has added value to the GMA/GMDA series (did you know that attendees now receive follow up communication after each event with highlights of the event and reminders of any tangible take-aways?) and has hosted a digital marketing series. Looking ahead, there will be added value to the Leadercast event (several weeks of private group discussion to help embrace what was learned at Leadercast), a Customer Service workshop, and additional other educational events throughout the year - more than were offered in 2018.

**Economic Development:** The Chamber hosted a very well-attended and well-received annual economic development meeting in April. We are working to provide added recognition for members in the economic development tiers of membership, already having added value at our Annual Dinner, and anything in print that lists the members. We have a draft of an economic development value statement and are working to finalize that piece so we can share it with our members and prospective members. Our team also has a stronger presence in Presque Isle County, as an effort to strengthen that relationship. We have also continued to add to our Young and Successful video series and don't foresee an end to that series anytime soon. Finally, we have finished up our 2019 career readiness work with the Alpena High School Juniors. The school is planning to invite us back to work with next year's Juniors.

We continue to offer our various savings and exposure opportunities, with no significant changes so far in 2019. For a list of all savings, visit [www.alpenachamber.com](http://www.alpenachamber.com). Keep an eye on our weekly email and this publication for exposure opportunities for your business.

We will continue to work through our 2019 Strategic Plan, while already looking ahead to the future to assure we are meeting our members' needs well beyond 2020.

## JOIN US! Award Worthy Customer Service

We want a community that shines when it comes to customer service! We want your customers to leave your business feeling great about their experience. We want visitors to tell their friends and family how wonderful their visit was because of the outstanding customer service they received. It doesn't matter where your businesses' current level of customer service is, we can always improve, or find value in a refresher course. Those are the reasons we are bringing you a customer service seminar on May 23, 2019 from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. at Alpena Community College in CTR 106.



Advanced registration is required for this seminar - but that's easy to do! Just contact the Chamber. Cost starts at \$25 per person (for Sponsor, Partner, Leader and Chairman Level members). Business Level members are \$35 per person, and prospective members are \$50 per attendee. This event is sponsored by Northland Area Federal Credit Union.

Advanced registration is required for this seminar - but that's easy to do! Just contact the Chamber. Cost starts at \$25 per person (for Sponsor, Partner, Leader and Chairman Level members). Business Level members are \$35 per person, and prospective members are \$50 per attendee. This event is sponsored by Northland Area Federal Credit Union.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Stanson Floor Covering & Furniture** has been in business since 1987. They offer a large variety of high-quality flooring for you and your family. Their selections include all types of hard woods, laminate, tile, vinyl and carpeting. They have a large selection of in-stock ready-to-install carpet, vinyl, laminate and vinyl plank. There are over 500 remnants for you to select from.

Stanson's also features high-quality furniture for any room in your home. You will feel comfortable purchasing right from their showroom floor or choosing from their custom design centers where you can pick fabric patterns and textures as well as wood grain and stain colors.

Their services go far beyond furniture and flooring. They offer interior design services to help you see the design potential of your entire home and one-on-one personal service to guide you through the details of your selections. Their skilled and trained installers add the finishing touches to your home. They are experts in installing wood, laminate, vinyl, tiles, carpet and more. Their customer service professionals have years of knowledge in the furniture and flooring industry. They are here to help you as you make decisions on upgrading your home. The focus is on you and your home, making sure to have every option available so you can find just what you need to fit your lifestyle.

Visit their showroom at 1275 M-32 West or contact them at 989.356.2807. Find them online at [www.stansonfloorcoveringandfurniture.com](http://www.stansonfloorcoveringandfurniture.com).

**AmeriGas** is the nation's largest propane company, serving over two million customers locally in all 50 states from over 2,500 locations. Their mission since 1959 is to be the most reliable, safest and most responsive propane company in the United States. They use the size of their organization to your advantage every day, while staying true to their grass roots by offering friendly smiles and personal attention found only at local family businesses.

AmeriGas commercial propane is the preferred fuel for businesses. Whether your business is looking for bulk propane, flexible delivery options, or is interested in becoming a tank exchange partner - they offer a service to fit your propane needs.

When natural gas isn't available, propane fuels your home with the same comfort and reliability while offering significant advantages over electricity and oil. Propane can be used to power a variety of appliances within your home. From furnaces and boilers to heat for your entire home, to water heaters and stoves, propane provides exceptional comfort and efficiency. For comfort and service, you can count on, choose AmeriGas as your propane provider.



EXPLORE GROUP POLICIES.  
[AccidentFund.com/Groups](http://AccidentFund.com/Groups)



AmeriGas of Alpena would also like to announce their Annual Pet Food Drive. In an effort to feed the furry friends of our community they will be collecting canned or dry puppy/kitty food, toys, treats and cleaning supplies at their office on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from March 1st until April 30th to benefit the Huron Humane Society. Your good deed won't go unnoticed! Make a donation or an adoption and receive a free 20lb. cylinder fill!

Contact your local AmeriGas location at 800.822.0883 or stop by 492 C Ripley Blvd., Alpena. You can learn more about AmeriGas at [www.amerigas.com](http://www.amerigas.com). AmeriGas is also a drop-off location for, "Cell Phones for Soldiers."