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

September/October 2017

### The Value of our Members

We talk often about our value proposition—what it is that we offer to our membership. Education, savings, economic development, networking, leadership training, legislative work, and more. That's why we exist - to make it easier for our members to conduct business. But our value to our members and to the community through our members is just part of the puzzle. Another piece is our members' value to us. Our members matter. Here's why.

- Chambers of Commerce are designed to be a powerful collective voice (hence the IRS designation of 501(c)6 with the ability to lobby versus a (c)3 or (c)4 organization). Numbers matter when it comes to speaking out on behalf of business in Northeast Michigan.
- **The strength of a community can often be measured by the strength of its local chamber of commerce.** The more members who stand behind the chamber, the greater amount of work the chamber is able to achieve and the more impact the chamber is able to have. Member and board oversight maintains positive impact.
- Your voice matters. We make decisions on what is best for the entire business community so we rely on input from our members. A net cast wide is the best way to get a feel for what the business community thinks, but in most cases, we only reach out to our members for their input. Your voice, as a member, is very valuable to us.
- Our membership investments make up about 50% of our annual budget and nearly 100% of our economic development budget. Every membership strengthens our work because it is added to the support of all the other members.

### 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 2017

- 6 - Ambassador meeting, 8:00 a.m.
- 7 - Government Relations Committee meeting, 7:30 a.m.
- 8 - Good Morning Alpena event, United Way kick off, 7:00 a.m., \$9 per person, advanced registration to the Chamber required\*
- 12 - Economic Development Board meeting, 7:30 a.m.
- 12 - Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance call
- 14 - Alpenopoly Grub Crawl, 5:30 - 10:00 p.m., tickets available now, \$20 (\$25 after 9/7/17)\*

#### October 2017

- 4 - Ambassador meeting, 8:00 a.m.
- 5 - Government Relations Committee meeting, 7:30 a.m.
- 5 - Leadercast Women event, 9:00 a.m., advanced registration required\*
- 10 - Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance meeting
- 18 - Shredder Day, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Michigan Confidential Document Destruction
- 19 - Vision Board party - 6:00 p.m., advanced registration required\*

\* register by contacting the Chamber: [info@alpenachamber.com](mailto: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 (retired); Adam Poll - City of Alpena; Shawn Shankie - Days Inn; Dylan Wallace - The Wallace Firm, P.C.



**Blue Cross  
Blue Shield  
Blue Care Network**  
of Michigan

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

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Abend Brothers Collision**  
10130 US 23 South  
Ossineke, MI 49766  
989.471.2811

**Clow and Associates  
Insurance Agency**  
**Lauren Medina - Agent**  
PO Box 319  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
616.212.6632

**Cutting Edge Construction**  
8250 Dietz Road  
Alpena, MI 49707  
989.766.3408

**Abbott Excavating &  
Septic**  
4836 Scott Road  
Hubbard Lake, MI 49747  
989.727.2340

**Wolgast Corporation**  
1691 M-32  
Suite 100  
Alpena, MI 49707  
989.354.8520

**Bella Rose Yoga & Fitness  
Studio**  
428 N. 2nd Avenue  
Alpena, MI 49707  
989.464.1883

**McDonald Cabinetry &  
Decorating**  
1275 M-32 West  
Alpena, MI 49707  
989.356.6888

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.

Our value to you is strong and continually growing. But your value to us is equally as important. Without our members, we would not be able to continue to improve the business climate in Northeast Michigan. Our efforts are diminished with each member we lose and truly strengthened with each member we gain.

**That's why when we say we appreciate your investment in us and the work we do, we mean it.** We could not do it without the combined investment of more than 500 members.

Thank you!

Chamber Staff

Alpenopoly Grub Crawl tickets are now available at the Chamber of Commerce...don't wait!

Don't forget about Shredder Day on October 18th



## Strategic Plan Update: Education/Leadership Training

One of our strategic goals this year focuses on providing educational opportunities including leadership training opportunities for our members and their staff. So far this year we have offered Leadercast, a human resources training day (in partnership with Northeast Michigan Human Resource Association), an active shooter training (in partnership with Northeast Michigan Human Resources Association), and a mental health awareness class (in partnership with Partners In Prevention).

We strive for quality over quantity and want each educational experience to be top-notch with valuable content. **That's why we are also hosting a Leadercast Women event, followed by a Vision Board party so the learning at the Leadercast Women event can continue.** This event is not just for women to attend, but is jam-packed full of high-performing women leaders who will share their experiences and advice.

Invest in Yourself and Your Staff - Consider joining us!

### Leadercast Women

Date: October 5, 2017

Time: Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., program runs from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Location: Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, theater and education rooms

Cost/registration: \$75 per person for employees of Chamber Members, \$105 for others; advanced registration to the Chamber is required - no new registrations will be offered at the door the day of the event

Registration includes: entrance into the event, event materials/workbook, entry into prize drawings, snacks, lunch, a discount on a 2018 Leadercast ticket, and other goodies

For sponsorship information, contact Ashley at the Chamber ([adefisher@alpenachamber.com](mailto:adefisher@alpenachamber.com) or 989.354.4181)

### Vision Board Party

Date: October 19, 2017

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Thunder Bay Winery, Second Avenue, Alpena

Cost/registration: Cost is \$50 per person, registration is required in advance to the Chamber of Commerce space is limited to the first 15 participants

Sponsored by Better Living Massage Center and Spa

Registration includes: entrance into the event, vision board materials, two drink tickets, and appetizers



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

DTE Energy provides natural gas to 1.3 million families and businesses over a 20,244-square-mile service area, including Alpena. The company is focused on providing customers with competitive and affordable rates. In fact, DTE Energy lowered its gas rate — the market price it pays for natural gas its customers use — by 8.8 percent in April 2017, generating savings for both business and residential customers.

While the primary focus of the company is providing safe and affordable gas, the company also engages with the communities it serves and in which DTE employees live. Both DTE Energy and the DTE Energy Foundation are supporting events across northern Michigan to support tourism and help spur local economies. Additionally, DTE Energy committed to spending dollars with Michigan companies nearly seven years ago. In 2016, the company spent \$1.3 billion with Michigan businesses, creating 13,000 jobs in more than 280 communities. DTE Energy is 40 percent ahead in its yearly target for Michigan spending, putting the company on track to spend more than \$1 billion again this year with Michigan companies.

To learn more about DTE Energy, visit their website at [dteenergy.com](http://dteenergy.com). Their corporate citizenship report, which details their work both in local communities and across the state, is available at [dtecitizenship.com](http://dtecitizenship.com).

Jac and Paula Clutter have been the owners of property on Long Lake since 2001 and owners of Clutter's Cottages on Long Lake since 2011. Paula is a native to the area growing up in Alpena and Jac grew up in Florida. They love the outdoors and the water and are anxious to share the beauty and fun of the lake with you.

The unique setting of their cottages on Long Lake provides a respite from wind and waves in the serene little Brother's Bay. A short trip East on the lake and you are at the "Sandies", the all-sand bottom, clear-water swimming hang out area. Some of the best perch fishing is right at the mouth of the bay and many other good spots are a short boat ride away. They have the most spectacular sunrises directly across the lake, if you can wake yourself from the quiet restful sleep to see it.

Their property features two **2-bedroom vintage log cottages, 235' of shoreline, two docks, a sandy beach area,** picnic tables, grills, fire pits, kayaks, paddle boat and plenty of room on the grassy grounds for outdoor fun and games. Each cottage sleeps four comfortably or five with use of the sofa. Each has a 1/2 bath and the use of one private shower room in the shower house located directly behind the cottages. Each has a view of the bay and lake. Both cottages are provided with linens, dishes, Wi-Fi, TV for games or movies, heater for those chilly days, and yard games for your everyday use. Rent one cottage for a family get-away or both and bring friends! Contact them at 304.546.4251 or find them online at <http://paulyclut.wixsite.com/clutterscottages>.



### Accident Fund to Pay Dividends to Participating Businesses

We are pleased to announce that our members who participate in the **Accident Fund Workers' Compensation program are receiving dividend checks** this year, in addition to their up front discount.

You can participate as well - ask your insurance agent for more information or contact the Chamber for a list of participating agencies.