CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

2016 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Chairperson: Luciana King – Lappan Agency; Past Chairperson: Chad Esch – Bannan Funeral Home; Vice Chairperson: Ryan Fairchild - Omega Electric; Secretary-Treasurer: Ken Gembel - DPI, Directors: Eileen Budnick – First Federal of N. Michigan, Pat Gerow - R.S. Scott and Associates; Cindy Limback - RE/MAX New Horizons; Elaine Orr - Alpena Power Company; Adam Poll – City of Alpena; Shawn Shankie - Days Inn; Brian VanWormer - Employment Services Inc; Dylan Wallace - The Wallace Firm, P.C.

February 2016
3 - Ambassador meeting
4 - Government Relations meeting
5 - Business Expo Business After Hours, 6 - 8 p.m., APlex, please pre-register*
9 - Economic development board meeting
11 - Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance meeting
11 - Annual Dinner, APlex, advanced tickets only, $30 per person*
* registration can be accomplished by contacting the Chamber: info@alpenachamber.com or 989.354.4181

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Chamber. We continue to grow in membership which also means we are able to accomplish more. We appreciate all of our members - both new and returning ones.

Coping Auto Service, LLC 7329 US 23 North Alpena, MI 49707 989.359.6000
Assisting Services 309 N. Second Avenue Alpena, MI 49707 989.354.6900
District Health Dept. #4 100 Woods Circle, Suite 200 Alpena, MI 49707 989.356.4507

McKenzie Auction Service 2762 Werth Road Alpena, MI 49707 989.354.3552
McLaren Northern Michigan 416 Connable Avenue Petoskey, MI 49770 231.487.4836
Harbor Town Market Place 410 East Main Street Harrisville, MI 48740 989.736.6881

Happy Tails Pet Resort 2631 Hubbard Lake Trail Hubbard Lake, MI 49747 989.727.8031
Alpena Biker Coalition PO Box 1 Alpena, MI 49707
Process Efficiency Group 464 W. Main Spruce, MI 48762 989.884.0174

2016: Opportunities Abound
2016 will be another year filled with opportunities for your business through your local Chamber of Commerce. We are very careful when we plan our events so we don't waste participant's time. We encourage you to engage staff or yourself in the opportunities available. One such event that we are very excited to be offering in 2016 is the Thriving Michigan program. Attendance at this event is highly recommended. The event is January 20th from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. in the Granum Theater at Alpena Community College. Cost per person starts at $25 (members). Find out more on the inside pages of this publication.

We also have a strong Good Morning Alpena series planned for 2016. The first event kicks off the series on January 8th with the topic: business lessons learned the hard way. We are pleased to again host a Business After Hours in conjunction with the Alpena News Business Expo. The Business After Hours is scheduled for February 5th at the APlex. This event is an opportunity for you to engage in business to business networking. We are also working on bringing back a social media series, in partnership with Constant Contact. The 2015 series received such positive participant reviews that we want to offer additional opportunities. Of course, there is also our very popular Annual Dinner on February 11th. This is again expected to be a sell-out event so don't wait to make your event reservations.

There is plenty more planned for 2016. In addition to educational and networking opportunities, there are also plenty of opportunities for savings. One of our savings programs that is currently and steadily growing is our Accident Fund Insurance program. Another program you will hear much more about in 2016 is our credit card processing program with CardConnect.

More information on any of these programs, and others can be found on our website, on the flyers in this newsletter, or in future communications via email/mail.
Do you know anyone who works for your organization can receive our weekly email. It is not limited to just one or two per organization. Interested in signing someone else up? Just email us! info@alpenachamber.com

Join us for Thriving Michigan

We have a strategy for marketing our events, making sure members receive plenty of communication about them. We leave it up to the members to choose whether or not to register for an event. Although all of our events are designed to be helpful, we know that every event is not for every business. Sometimes an opportunity comes along that we are confident has value for everyone. Thriving Michigan is one of those events. If you are available the morning of January 20th, we strongly encourage you to attend this event. Thriving Michigan is a program focused on Conscious Capitalism - an innovative and effective way to run a business. When Chamber President Krauzcali attended an event on Conscious Capitalism earlier in 2015, she knew we had to bring the concept to the Alpena Chamber members.

The event is January 20, 2016 from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. in the Granum Theater at Alpena Community College. Cost starts at just $25 (for members, $40 for prospective members). Registration is required to the Chamber.

This is one event we want to pack the house for - we strongly believe in the value of the content. We hope to see you there.

2016 Strategic Plan, Thank You for Your Input

We don't like to conduct surveys unless we truly plan on using the data collected. Your time is more valuable than that. We sent out a survey earlier in 2015 to gather information to help us plan for 2016. The data we collected from our members was extremely helpful in designing our 2016 strategic plan. Thank you if you participated in the survey!

2016 Strategic Plan

This plan is “pending approval” and will be presented to the full Board of Directors at their February meeting

The overall theme that emerged in a significant way was economic development. The Board recognizes that much of what the Chamber is already doing is directly tied to economic development. The belief of the Board, and as the results of the survey demonstrated, the Chamber can and should do more to further enhance and support economic development through a variety of strategies (also very clearly identified in the survey results).

Proposed strategies:

- Workforce development
- Educational attainment
- Mentoring/Connections

These three strategies were strongly identified by our members through the survey, and will be the focus (pending approval of the Board) of the Chamber for 2016, in addition to continuing our efforts in Government Relations, education, and savings opportunities.

Some of the actions that will be taken to achieve these strategies include:

- Increase involvement in the Alpena College and Career Access Network
- Dialogue with career day planners on expanding career day experiences
- Expand leadership training to a younger demographic
- Increase awareness of skilled trades careers
- Continue to explore a SCORE chapter
- Communicate to members our ability to make connections for them on business topics or mentoring relationships
- Better communicate resources available to businesses, both from the Chamber and from other sources

As we progress with these goals, we will keep the membership updated through our various forms of communication.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Thunder Bay Electric, Inc. was founded in 1987 with the purpose of serving the electrical needs of the residents of Northeast Michigan. Over the years as needs of their customers have grown, and their desire to remain competitive in the contracting field, the services that they provide have grown. However, their commitment to quality work and great customer service remain at the forefront of their business.

Thunder Bay Electric, Inc. is owned by Tim Modrzynski and currently employs twelve full-time electricians, a full-time draftsman and one full-time office employee. Most of their staff have been with them throughout their construction career and share the same values as well as understand their commitment to the community and their customers. Thunder Bay Electric, Inc. is a full service electrical contracting providing services to residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers. In addition to their electrical services they also provide design-build services, directional drilling services, datacom, fiber optic cabling services, nurse call and security. They are also the only licensed fire alarm installer in the area.

If you are in need of any of the services offered by Thunder Bay Electric, Inc. you can contact their office at 989.354.2840 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or Tim can be reached via email at tim@thunderbayelectric.com.

Kenyon Construction Inc. is a full service Design-Build General Contractor serving many communities throughout all of Alpena, Montmorency, Presque Isle, and Alcona Counties. They perform residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial work. They have the capabilities to handle a complete job from start to finish. With a Registered Professional Engineer and Computer Aided Design (CAD) Operator on staff they can use their sophisticated 3D design software to produce a complete set of construction drawings with full color renderings, interior perspectives, and exterior perspectives for their projects as well as handle all phases of the construction process.

Kenyon Construction Inc. was founded in 1957 and has continued to grow and diversify over the years by changing the range of services they offer their clients as the economy and market has continued to change. They have evolved from a single individual working from the back of his pick-up truck to a fully staffed, fully bonded, general contracting firm that can offer their clients a complete design and construction package for any type of residential, commercial, industrial, or institutional project.

For more information about Kenyon Construction Inc. please view their website at www.KenyonConstruction.net. They can be reached at 989.356.0022 or 989.742.4533.

The Time is Now to Make Your Nominations

Several businesses and individuals are honored at our annual dinner each year with awards. Now is the time for you to make nominations for these awards. All award nomination forms can be found on our website. Awards include: Business of the Year, Outstanding Citizen of the Year, Customer Service of the Year (no nomination form available as the process is different), Up and Coming Award, and Culture Change Agent. Awards can be self-nominated (with the exception of Citizen of the Year). Please reach out to Chamber staff with questions.