



BARAGA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Our mission is to grow, enhance, and support a vibrant business climate through leadership, professional development, and community involvement.

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*Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, February 12, 2025 - 8:45 AM  
Chamber of Commerce Conference Room*

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**Call Meeting to Order** - President Debbie Stouffer called the meeting to order at 8:43 AM.

**BCCC Mission Statement** - The mission statement was read by Nathan Grave.

**Roll Call** -

- Board Present: Debbie Stouffer, Carla Engle (phone), Nathan Grave, Burt Mason, Jamie Smith, Danielle Reeves, Cody Mayer (phone), Dan Mares
- Staff Present: Mary Mervar, Dianne Koskinen
- Board Absent: Cielle Waters-Umfleet (excused), Nicole Acciacca (excused), Annie Fish, Trevor Juntunen

**Guests and Visitors** - Chris Davidson LAS, Joan Kruzich KBOCC

**Consent Agenda** -

Agenda 2/12/25, Minutes 1/8/25 of Closed and Open sessions

*Discussion:* None.

**Action:** Motion made to approve the consent agenda by Burt Mason, supported by Nathan Grave. All in favor.

**Board Training** - None

**Support Staff Report** -

- Four unpaid memberships.
- Daily Mining Gazette coloring contest request. The Chamber will not pursue it at this time.

**Action Items** -

A. Open bingo checking account

*Discussion:* \$50 is the minimum balance needed to open a new checking account.

**Action:** Motion made to open a new bingo checking account with authorized signers being Jamie Smith, Dan Mares, Nathan Grave and Debbie Stouffer by Burt Mason, supported by Nathan Grave. All in favor.

B. Rental agreement with Whirl-i-Gig for bingo

*Discussion:* Bingo will be held one time per month on the second Thursday. The lease runs through 2/28/28. The admission to play bingo is to be determined. The cost of the hall rental is \$300 per session.

**Action:** Motion made to approve the bingo rental agreement with the Whirl-i-Gig by Nathan Grave, supported by Dan Mares. All in favor.

- C. Request for donation BEST VIKES Winter Wellness Night  
*Discussion:* BAS is a Chamber member. The Chamber has not contributed to this in the past. The Chamber is projected to be under budget for donations in 2025.  
**Action:** Motion made to donate at the gold level for \$150 to BEST VIKES Winter Wellness Night by Jamie Smith, supported by Nathan Grave. All in favor.
- D. Request for donation Kaleidoscope Art Camp and Around the World Camp  
*Discussion:* Kaleidoscope is a Chamber member. The Chamber contributed to Kaleidoscope educational programs in the past. Dianne will ask them to include the Chamber logo on their materials.  
**Action:** Motion made to donate \$500 to Kaleidoscope Art Camp and around the World Camp by Nathan Grave, supported by Burt Mason. All in favor.
- E. New hire (Liz Wanhatalo) to conduct bank reconciliations and prepare monthly reports  
*Discussion:* Nathan agreed to continue as treasurer but needs assistance in preparing monthly reports. There is historic precedence in hiring a financial assistant. Liz will be contracted at \$100 per month and will prepare reports for Nathan to present at meetings, reconcile the Chamber checking account, and assist Dianne with Quickbooks entries.  
**Action:** Motion made to contract with Liz Wanhatalo for \$100 per month as a financial assistant with a start date of February 12, 2025 by Dan Mares, supported by Jamie Smith. All in favor.

#### **Discussion Items -**

- A. Annual meeting - RSVPs received are 60. Details were finalized.
- B. Sponsorship asks - It is the responsibility of each board member to solicit sponsorships. Board members may contact Dianne for information regarding previous sponsorships and sign up for five solicitation prospects..
- C. Mix & Mingle - April 11 at the L'Anse Golf Club. This is a fundraiser, open to the public, with the proceeds from the brown bag auction designated for Chamber scholarships.
- D. Dynamo grants - Jamie will contact the Dynamo grant recipients, reminding them of their required progress reports due in April. Continuing Dynamo grants for a second round in 2025 will be discussed at the March meeting.
- E. QuickBooks online fees - Changing levels of service to save money will result in the loss of the financial report option. The Chamber will continue with Quickbooks at the current level and price.
- F. SNB company administrator - Nathan will resolve this.

#### **Committees Updates -**

- Dynamo: see discussion item (D). March meeting-decide for 2025. April meeting-hear reports.
- Next Gen: Old Timers Hockey Tournament will be held on March 1 and March 2. The LHS and BHS travel clubs will be assisting and receive proceeds from the "Chuck-a-Puck" event. The date for Glow Golf has not yet been set. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 26. Early donations are coming in for the Keweenaw

Bay Classic fishing tournament with BCMH committing as a lead sponsor in the Friday contest.

- PLAN: see notes in board packet.
- Membership: 139 members with an additional four unpaid to date. Nathan will reach out to 906 Trucking.
- Housing Taskforce: The LACDC L'Anse Area Community Development Corporation, who is working in conjunction with WUPPDR Western U.P. Planning & Development Region, has received a \$50,000 grant to accelerate housing development in Baraga County. The CCISD Building Trades will be starting construction in spring, 2025 of a new home on Spruce Street in L'Anse.
- Scholarship: Scholarship applications and information has been distributed. The proceeds from the Mix & Mingle will help fund three (3) \$750 scholarships.

**Announcements / Members' Good News -**

- Smith Holistic Care has contracted with KBIC Health Service and 5 Elements Academy to provide services.
- Smith Holistic Care is delivering a virtual on-line seminar today.
- Lunch & Learn will be held on February 26, with Beyond XR speaking about Artificial Intelligence.
- Chamber annual meeting and dinner will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at the Press Box.

**Next Meeting** - The next BCCC board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 8:45 AM in the Chamber conference room.

**Adjournment -**

**Action:** Motion to adjourn at 9:32 AM by Nathan Grave, supported by Jamie Smith. All in favor.