



BARAGA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 - 8:45 AM

Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

Call Meeting to Order - President Debbie Stouffer called the meeting to order at 8:37 AM.

BCCC Mission Statement - The mission statement was read by Dianne Koskinen.

Roll Call -

- Board Present: Burt Mason, Debbie Stouffer, Daniel Mares, Joan Kruzich, Cielle Waters-Umfleet, Nicole Acciacca, Cody Mayer, Nathan Grave, Chris Davidson
- Staff Present: Mary Mervar, Dianne Koskinen
- Board Absent: Danielle Reeves

Guests and Visitors - Fran Whitman, Anne Koski, Steve Koski, Rhonda Nachtigall, Stacy Froese

Consent Agenda -

Agenda 9/10/25, Minutes 8/13/25

Discussion: Additions and corrections to agenda - Action item (A) Change Tyler Hill to Stacy Froese, Discussion item (G) Community Knowledge Mapping Association.

Action: Motion to approve the consent agenda with one addition and one correction by Nathan Grave, supported by Nicole Acciacca. All in favor.

Board Training - None

Support Staff Report -

- Thank you letters presented from the Summer Reading Program.
- ATV ride is sold out.
- Professional development will replace Business After Hours in the fall. Northern Initiatives will present workshops on business plans.

Action Items -

A. Appoint new board member

Discussion: Stacy Froese from the Baraga County Federal Credit Union has applied.

Action: Motion to appoint Stacy Froese to the board of directors effective immediately, eligible for term renewal at the 2026 annual meeting by Nicole Acciacca, supported by Nathan Grave. All in favor.

Discussion Items -

- A. Bingo - The Chamber was unable to obtain a KBIC gaming license, and as a result, bingo will not be held at the Whirl-I-Gig. While the American Legion in L'Anse may be a viable alternative venue pending adjustments to the Michigan license, the Chamber will not pursue bingo further unless one of the following conditions is met: Dan is able to arrange a sale, loan, or rental of the Whirl-I-Gig's bingo equipment or Dianne determines the cost of purchasing new bingo equipment and it is deemed acceptable. Proceeds from bingo were originally intended to support Dynamo grants.
- B. Cross country ski trail - Anne and Steve Koski provided an overview of the history and current needs of the cross country ski trails in L'Anse. Key priorities include acquiring equipment and constructing a storage shed, with an estimated total cost of \$20,000. Chamber representatives will support efforts by helping to organize and participate in an upcoming meeting focused on trail development and funding opportunities.
- C. Bowling tournament - The Big & Little Family Bowling Tournament is scheduled to take place at the Whirl-I-Gig in December. Planning efforts are progressing steadily under the direction of the PLAN committee.
- D. Art Sale - Artwork available for purchase will be on display at the Chamber through September 17, 2025. Sales are cash and carry, and reasonable offers will be considered.
- E. Board member recruitment - The Chamber currently has 11 board members and may appoint up to 15. Directors are encouraged to contact the Chamber office to request an application if they know of individuals who may be interested in serving. To be eligible, a prospective director must either be affiliated with a Chamber member organization or hold an individual Chamber membership.
- F. Website member directory - The Chamber's online business directory has been fully redesigned and significantly improved. It now features direct phone links for mobile users, category-based organization, keyword search functionality, and clickable links to member business websites—making it easier than ever to connect with local businesses.
- G. Community Knowledge Mapping Session - Local organizations are invited to participate in a Community Knowledge Mapping Session focused on sharing insights related to community development and natural resource stewardship. The goal is to identify existing knowledge and determine what additional information would be most valuable moving forward. Baraga County session details: Ojibwa Casinos Conference Room in Baraga, October 15, 2025, 3:30–5:30 PM. RSVP by September 19 to Robin Meneguzzo, Executive Director, Keweenaw Community Foundation, Office: (906) 482-9673, Cell: (906) 369-1120, Email: robin@keweenawgives.org.

Committees Updates -

- Dynamo: The Dynamo Committee will meet on September 10, 2025, at 6:00 PM to review submitted applications and proposed plans. Final decisions will be announced on Monday.

- Next Gen: Gary Kruzich expressed interest in assisting with the old-timers hockey tournament. Next Gen has purchased a new sound system. 2026 event dates: Keweenaw Bay Classic fishing tournament on the Michigan free fishing weekend in June. Old Timers Hockey Tournament TBD. Egg Hunt TBD. Glow Golf TBD.
- PLAN: see notes in board packet.
- Membership: Second-round invoices for outstanding Chamber memberships will be mailed today.

Announcements / Members' Good News -

- Ribbon cutting .Alberta Sawmill, Friday, 9/12/25, 3 PM.
- Ribbon cutting Intention Yoga, Thursday, 9/11/25, 5 PM.
- Ground breaking historical museum in Baraga, Wednesday, 10/8/25, 3 PM.
- CCISD Advisory Committee in conjunction with KBOCC, will meet every six months with the topic "What to teach future employees".

Next Meeting - The next BCCC board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, in the Chamber conference room. Closed session at 8:30 AM. Open session at 8:45 AM.

Adjournment -

Discussion: None.

Action: Motion to adjourn at 9:35 AM by Nathan Grave, supported by Nicole Acciacca. All in favor.