



chamber Xpress

DULUTH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY NEWS

Vol. 25 • Issue 1 January 2024

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Ignite Your Fuse with AICHO on January 18

On January 18, join Fuse Duluth for a behind-the-scenes tour of the American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO) and to hear from Executive Director LeAnn Littlewolf about the mission, vision and community impact of AICHO.

Created in 1993, AICHO started in a parking lot outside a social service agency with a conversation between Native community members who asked why our community had no resources, no community spaces and no services that met our cultural needs. AICHO was created as an Indigenous response to social conditions in Duluth, powered by the urban Native American community.

Today, AICHO offers an American Indian Community Center, 44 units of permanent supportive housing, a domestic violence emergency shelter, legal advocacy, a climate and cultural resiliency initiative, social enterprise activities, youth programming and an arts and culture initiative. All their work is anchored in their mission to honor the resiliency of Indigenous people by strengthening communities and centering Indigenous values in all aspects of their work.

Ignite Your Fuse Experiential Luncheon

Thursday, January 18, Noon - 1 p.m.
American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO)
202 W. 2nd St.
Duluth, MN 55802

\$20 Chamber Members & Students



Moving business forward. ▶

A Great Evening of Networking at the After Hours Holiday Party

The Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce and Duluth Area Chamber Foundation hosted the annual Chamber After Hours Holiday Party on December 5 at the beautiful Greysolon Ballroom. This year's event was presented by our friends at Cenovus Energy – Superior Refinery. Guests enjoyed delicious food, festive desserts and beverages, and visited member organizations that displayed booths. The event featured the Holiday Mail for Hero's Campaign by the American Red Cross, and all ticket proceeds went to support the Duluth Area Chamber Foundation. Thank you to all those who participated in the event. The Chamber team wishes all our members a wonderful holiday season and looks forward to working with you in 2024!



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Gabe Walsh

Let's Do Lunch – Tuesday, January 9

Presented by Gabe Walsh, CEO, Lake Superior Area REALTORS® Association

Gabe Walsh stepped into his role as CEO of the Lake Superior Area REALTORS® Association in 2022 and quickly became a voice of real estate in the Twin Ports region. Join us on January 9 to kick off the 20th season of our popular luncheon series and hear what Gabe has to say about the state of the current housing market, leading an association of more than 800 members, and the importance of the real estate agent role in property transactions. Thank you to our good friends at Bremer Bank for sponsoring this event.

Sponsored by:



Join us at the beautiful Greysolon Ballroom by Black Woods

231 E. Superior St.

11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Chamber members \$30 / Nonmembers \$40

Leadership Duluth Examines the Importance of Time Management in Various Sectors of Business Community and Economy

The Duluth Area Chamber and Chamber Foundation's Leadership Duluth program enjoyed Time Management Day on Wednesday, December 13. The theme of the day focused on the importance of time management, as well as how arts, culture, tourism and significant community events enhance our local economy and business community. Class members learned from several community leaders including: Maude Dornfeld, executive director of the Minnesota Ballet; Lindsay Kern, community relations at Kern & Kompany; Mariah McKechnie, visionary and principal wedding and event planner at Northland Special Events; Wes Drummond, executive director of the Duluth Playhouse; Annie Roseen, director of BOLD-choice Theatre; and Lucie Amundsen, communications director at the DECC. Classmates were also treated to performances by the Minnesota Ballet and a behind-the-scenes tour of the NorShor Theatre.



Register Now for the 2024 Luncheon Series

This is your opportunity to ensure that you have a ticket for each of our luncheons in 2024. This is the 20th season of our popular luncheon events. Avoid the need to register for each luncheon by becoming a series ticket holder. Plan to join us for the following:

Let's Do Lunch

6 Luncheons at \$35 Each - \$210 for the Series

Greysolon Ballroom | 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tuesday, January 9 - Gabe Walsh, CEO, Lake Superior Area REALTORS® Association

Tuesday, April 9 - Mayor Roger Reinert, City of Duluth

Tuesday, June 11 - Katrina Kessler, Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Tuesday, August 13 - Sue Ross, SVP-Chief Administrative Officer, maurices

Tuesday, October 8 - Sandy Hoff, Broker/Certified Real Property Appraiser, F.I. Salter Co., Inc.

Tuesday, December 10 - Julie Lucas, Executive Director, Mining Minnesota & Kristen Vake, Executive Director, Iron Mining Association of Minnesota

Connect at Clyde

4 Luncheons at \$35 Each - \$140 for the Series

Clyde Iron Works Restaurant, Brewery & Event Center | 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tuesday, February 13 - Dr. David Herman, CEO, Essentia Health

Tuesday, May 7 - Haley Hedstrom, CEO, Lake Superior Zoo

Tuesday, July 9 - Neal Ronquist, Publisher, Duluth News Tribune

Tuesday, September 10 - Chad Ronchetti, Director of Planning & Economic Development, City of Duluth

Series registration is nonrefundable; however, it is transferable. To become a series holder, register at duluthchamber.com or contact Kathleen Privette at kprivette@duluthchamber.com.

Advocacy for the 148th Fighter Wing

The Duluth Area Chamber, Duluth Chamber Foundation and our Military Affairs Committee were proud to partner with the 148th Fighter Wing to host the Minnesota House Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy Committee at the base on November 17. The purpose of the visit was for the committee to tour the base and learn more about the critical mission of the 148th and the incredible economic impact of the unit, as well as learn more about the Military Affairs Committee's state funding request for much needed new hangars at the airbase. We are advocating for \$25 million from the State of Minnesota for essential hangar upgrades at the 148th.

When approved, the funding will go toward demolition of the current, outdated hangars to allow for new and safer hangars to be built, which will also be able to house updated aircraft such as the F-35s for possible future missions. This request received strong bipartisan support in last year's legislative session, yet has not been funded yet. We are working to get this funding approved in 2024 to ensure the 148th has what they need to succeed, as well as be eligible for future updated aircraft which would secure their mission for years to come. Never before has more been asked of the 148th, which has included pandemic response and additional security missions in recent years, as well as combat deployments and training missions.

We are grateful this proposal has broad community support, including a unanimous resolution by the Duluth City Council, and, together, we are determined to support the 148th however we can. Thank you for joining us for the tour and for your support Committee Chair Jerry Newton and State Representatives Steve Elkins, Matt Norris, Dave Lislegard, Mark Wiens and Liish Kozlowski. We are so proud and grateful for all the 148th does for our community, region, state and nation. please visit duluthchamber.com/148fw/ or contact Daniel Fanning at dfanning@duluthchamber.com.



CELEBRATING PROGRESS

Bentleyville USA Turns 20!

Duluth Area Chamber staff and ambassadors were thrilled to support our friends and member, Bentleyville USA, and help wish them a Happy 20th anniversary at their ribbon-cutting celebration. Thank you, Bentleyville, for 20 years of creating holiday memories and supporting our community.



Caddy Shack Indoor Golf & Pub Renovates and Expands to Offer More Than 4,000 sq. ft. of Fun

Congratulations to The Caddy Shack Indoor Golf & Pub! The Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce was happy to join them in celebrating their newly renovated and expanded space. The indoor sporting facility features three state-of-the-art HD golf simulators capable of running 9- and 18-hole games on some of the world's most beautiful and prestigious courses, as well as a variety of chipping or driving ranges. Additionally, they added a new Laser Shot shooting simulator. With more than 4,000 sq. ft., they offer fun for all.



CALENDAR

January 9

Let's Do Lunch with Gabe Walsh, CEO of Lake Superior REALTORS® Association
 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Greysolon Ballroom by Black Woods
 231 E. Superior St.
 Sponsored by
 Bremer Bank



January 11

Chamber 101/Fuse 101
 4 - 5 p.m.
 Sheraton Duluth Hotel - Restaurant 301
 301 E. Superior St.
 Free to attend
 Sponsored by
 Sheraton Duluth Hotel



January 18

Ignite Your Fuse Experiential Luncheon - American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO)
 Noon - 1 p.m.
 American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO)
 202 W. 2nd St.
 Sponsored by Cenovus Energy-Superior Refinery, Essentia Health, maurices, North Shore Federal Credit Union and St. Luke's



January 24

Duluth Chamber Educational Series: The Importance of Leadership Training for Your Workplace Culture
Presented by Julie Visger, Flint Group
 11 a.m. - Noon
 Live webinar + Q&A
 Sponsored by
 The College of St. Scholastica



January 26

Finally Fridays Networking Event - St. Luke's Rejuvenation Center
 7:30 - 9 a.m.
 St. Luke's Rejuvenation Center
 920 E. 1st St., Ste. 102
 Sponsored by St. Luke's



CELEBRATING PROGRESS

CHAMBER STAFF

Planet Fitness Celebrates Grand Opening at New Duluth Location

Congratulations and welcome to Duluth, Planet Fitness! The Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to welcome Planet Fitness to our local business community and as one of the newest members of the Duluth Area Chamber. Members of our team, Chamber Ambassadors and Board members were proud to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Planet Fitness' beautiful new facility at 2325 Mountain Shadow Drive.



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Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation	
1. Publication Title	Planet Fitness
2. Issue Date	April 2024
3. Issue Frequency	Quarterly
4. Number of Issues Published Annually	4
5. Annual Subscription Price	\$100.00
6. Number of Copies of This Issue Published	100
7. Total Number of Copies of This Issue (Sum of 6 and 8)	100
8. Total Number of Copies of All Issues Published This Year (Sum of 7)	400
9. Total Number of Copies of All Issues Published Last Year (Sum of 7)	400
10. Total Number of Copies of All Issues Published in Previous Year (Sum of 7)	400
11. Total Number of Copies of All Issues Published in All Years (Sum of 8, 9, and 10)	1200
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Duluth Chamber Celebrates the Success of the Inaugural Women in Leadership Conference

On Thursday, November 16, 300 female leaders gathered in the Greysolon Ballroom for a powerful day of storytelling, empowerment and connection at the Duluth Chamber's inaugural Women in Leadership Conference. Attendees enjoyed a special video message from Senator Amy Klobuchar, trailblazing keynotes, personalized professional development workshops, pioneering leadership panels, skills-based breakout sessions, and an exciting after-party and women's expo highlighting women-owned and female-led organizations. The event featured 28 talented female and gender-expansive speakers from Duluth and greater Minnesota, with Laura Lee from Northern News Now serving as emcee. Special thanks to our Empowerment Sponsor, APi Group Companies of Northern Minnesota, and all the sponsors, speakers and volunteers who made this event possible.

The Duluth Chamber is also thrilled to announce that we will be moving this innovative conference to the DECC in 2024 to continue growing attendance.

**Save the Date: Monday, September 30
2024 Women in Leadership Conference
DECC Harborside Ballroom**



Fuse Duluth Looks Ahead to 2024

Each year, the Fuse Leadership Council meets for a half-day planning session to design the engaging lineup of the next year's events. In 2024, the focus of the Fuse program offerings will remain on networking, teambuilding, and education. See below for our exciting lineup of 2024 events! Online registration is available at www.duluthchamber.com.

January 18

Ignite Your Fuse Experiential Luncheon
American Indian Community Housing
Organization (AICHO)

February 8

Fuse Teambuilding Curling Happy Hour
Wild State Cider

March 21

Ignite Your Fuse Experiential Luncheon
Zenith DCHS Apartments

April 11

Zenith Digital Marketing Conference
Greysolon by Black Woods
& Zeitgeist Theatre

May 30

Ignite Your Fuse Experiential Luncheon
Ursa Minor Brewing

June 25

The GREAT Duluth Race -
A Teambuilding Scavenger Hunt
The Garden Event Center

July 18

Ignite Your Fuse Experiential Luncheon
Duluth Harbor Monsters

August 28

Fuse Fest 2024 - Celebrating 19 Years
of Fuse Duluth
Clyde Malting Building

September 30

Women in Leadership Conference
DECC Harborside Ballroom

October 24

Ignite Your Fuse Experiential Luncheon
The Haunted Ship

December 5

Ignite Your Fuse Experiential Luncheon
Spirit Mountain



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218-590-0014

www.daredevils2512.org

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Nonprofit

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www.wallinpartners.org

Wallin Education Partners is a college and career success program for high-potential students. We provide financial aid, advising, and career development through our UpTurnships program to support students through college and into the workforce.

chamberXpress

The Chamber Xpress newsletter is published monthly by the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce. Members of the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce receive the Chamber Xpress at an annual subscription rate of \$12, which is included in their membership dues.

Periodicals mail postage paid at:
Duluth, MN
Publisher, Matt Baumgartner
5 W. 1st St.,
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218-722-5501
Fax: 218-722-3223
Email: inquiry@duluthchamber.com
Website: www.duluthchamber.com

The printing of the Chamber Xpress is done at: Arrowhead Printing, Duluth, MN.

POSTMASTER:
Please return form 3579 to the Chamber Xpress,
Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce, 5 W. 1st St.,
Duluth, MN 55802 • Phone 218-722-5501

Publication # 526-390

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