

our vision

The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce is the premier business association whose influence, solutions, and networks drive economic growth in the Battle Creek area, engaging businesses, community, and people to prosper in an ever-changing global economy.

mission statement

The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce will provide the best in member services and aggressive business advocacy to create a climate for employer growth and a prosperous community for all.

value proposition statement

To create access to accelerate ideas, opportunities and solutions.

areas of service:

People | BUSINESS | Community

Helping people thrive, businesses excel and our community prosper.

2016-2017 board members

Bud Dunn, Chairman, Atlas Sales, Inc.

Debi Southworth, Chair Elect, Omni Community Credit Union

Dr. Emily Bandeen, Secretary, Bandeen Orthodontics

Jim Lance, Legal Counsel, Kreis Enderle

John Banks, Motor Shop Electrical Construction Company

Shane McClung, Post Foods, LLC

Rebecca Fleury, City of Battle Creek

Jim McKernan, Bronson Battle Creek

Bryan Teff, Col., MI ANG, Air National Guard – 110th AW/CC

John Gayda, Kellogg Company

Denise Jones, Graphix 2 Go

Joey Vernon, CTS Telecom

Michael Miller, Culver's of Battle Creek

We welcome the following new board members:

Jeremy Wilson, DENSO Manufacturing

BATTLE CREEK AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2016-2017 fiscal year

annual report

strategic priorities for 2016-2020

In July 2016, the Board of Directors, the staff, and key stakeholders came together to discuss where we wanted to take the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce in the next 4 years, and I can honestly say that it's truly exciting.

Over the next 3-5 years, we promise to connect you with the network and community, impact your business through business advocacy and community events all while continuing to develop you and your employees.

The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce is poised to create an environment and facilitate partnerships that impact business success and our community's prosperity. The Board envisions the Chamber to create access to accelerate ideas, opportunities and solutions, and most importantly, the Board is governing the staff to help people thrive, businesses excel, and our communities prosper in all that we do.



Our Strategic Priorities

1. Educate the general public on the economy and business roles in the greater community.
2. Fight for public policy and private partnerships that are conducive to employer growth and community development.
3. Retain and attract members through value added programming.
4. Act as a catalyst or conduit for partnering and strengthening the business climates in the communities we serve.

Ultimately, the board chose five goals to focus on through 2020:

Goal 1: Enhancing our Business Resources

Goal 2: Membership Growth

Goal 3: Community Event Growth

Goal 4: Growing the Small Business Ecosystem

Goal 5: Increasing Business Advocacy on the local, state and federal level

Karag Beer
President



269.962.4076

Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

One Riverwalk Centre, Suite 3A,

34 West Jackson Street, Battle Creek, MI 49017

BattleCreek.org



ambassadors

David Barrett, *Minges Creek Village Apartments*

Stephanie Breitbach, *Ermish Travel*

Janis Clark, *Western Michigan University*

Shane Cope, *Comerica*

Laura Daughtery, *Habitat for Humanity*

★ **BJ Etheridge**, *Berkshire Hathaway*

Melissa Payne, *NorthPointe Woods*

Lynn Ward Gray, *Battle Creek Community Foundation*

★ **Noris Lindsey**, *Realtor*

Kayla McCarthy, *Allegra Battle Creek*

Jacob Miller, *Edward Jones Investments*

Leah Ortiz, *Arc of Calhoun County*

Karen Reeves, *Edward Jones Investments*

Karen Rial, *Partners Insurance Agency of SW MI, Inc.*

Brad Scoffin, *Advanced Business Advisors, LLC*

Tracy Small, *Flagstar Bank*

★ **Sue Smith**, *Comerica*

Gerrit ter Avest, *John ter Avest Agency, Inc.*

Charlotte Smith, *Kellogg Community Credit Union*

Dawn Nichols, *Summit Pointe*

The Chamber Ambassadors are dedicated volunteers from diverse businesses through the Battle Creek area. Their mission is to welcome, nurture, and recruit new Chamber members; act as goodwill representatives at Chamber functions, and aid in the support of Chamber members. Interested in becoming an Ambassador? Call us to find out more!

BJ Etheridge, 2016–2017 Chair

Jacob Miller & Shane Cope, 2017–2018 Co-Chairs

★ = *Star Ambassador*

Report From the Board Chairman

Bud Dunn, Atlas Sales President



The Chamber is committed to enhancing the business climate in Battle Creek. Your Battle Creek Area Chamber is led by a dedicated staff and supported by a great board of business and community leaders working together to make the Battle Creek Area Chamber the influential voice of business. I am honored to have represented the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce as Chair of the Board of Directors for 2016–2017. 2016–2017 was another forward moving year for the Chamber. If I could sum your Chamber's year up in a couple words, they would be positive change. Your Chamber Staff led by Kara Beer worked tirelessly with the Chamber membership, elected officials, and community stakeholders to engage our community for positive change.

This year, we engaged over 13,000 members through over 80 Chamber led specific events, including a growing capstone event called Backyard Burgers & BrewsFest at the downtown Festival Market Square, the Centennial Military Ball in June, Fall into the Arts in October, and Spring into the Arts in May. My hope is that if you have not attended these great events that you consider doing so in 2018. They have an amazing sense of community and really take advantage of all the great work that has been done to improve the culture of vitality in our community. As we look to the coming year, your Chamber Staff & Board of Directors will put into motion the strategic plan for 2020. Kara has worked very hard to craft a Strategic Vision and Plan for your Chamber that will expand the Chamber's support of its members, grow the Chamber's influence, and position us to continue to advocate for positive change in our community. I welcome you to stop in and check out one of our Eye Openers, or attend one of our exciting networking events, or play in our Annual Golf Outing. We always have lots of fun, and we always aim to create opportunities to learn and network with your business community.

Thank you for being a Chamber Member and Cheers to Battle Creek.

Bud Dunn

Atlas Sales President

2015–2017 Board Chair

2017–2018 Immediate Past Chair

staff
members



Kara E. Beer,
President



Billy Beers,
Director of Marketing
and Engagement



Jennifer Blank,
Accounting
Manager



Kelly Gierman,
Events and
Member Specialist

In addition to the staff we hosted five (6) interns from various high school/college and universities in Michigan.



2017–2018 calendar of events

for details &
updates, visit
battlecreek.org

november

3 Friday Military Appreciation Luncheon
10 Friday Women in Business Luncheon
14 Tuesday Eye Opener Breakfast & Business Expo
17 Friday Ambassador Committee Meeting
20 Monday Leadership Battle Creek
23 & 24 Office Closed — Happy Thanksgiving!
25 Saturday Small Business Saturday
30 Thursday 5:00 Dash

december

1 Friday Rap with Your Reps
6 Wednesday Small Business Action Team
8 Friday Women in Business Networking Luncheon
14 Thursday 5:00 Dash
15 Friday Chamber U: Orientation
Ambassador Committee Meeting
Leadership Battle Creek
18 Monday Silent Observer Committee
20 Wednesday Java & Beer Coffee Hour
22 Friday Chamber Closed for the Holidays
22–Jan 2

january

2 Tuesday Chambers Opens for 2018
9 Tuesday State of the Community Address
12 Friday Women in Business Luncheon
15 Monday Leadership Battle Creek
17 Wednesday Silent Observer Committee
18 Thursday 5:00 Dash
19 Friday Ambassador Committee Meeting
23 Tuesday Java & Beer Coffee Hour
24 Wednesday Military Affairs Committee

february

2 Friday Rap with Your Reps
6 Tuesday Meet-n-Eat Speed Networking
9 Friday Women in Business Luncheon
13 Tuesday Eye Opener Breakfast & Business Expo
16 Friday Ambassador Committee Meeting
19 Monday Leadership Battle Creek
21 Wednesday Silent Observer Committee
28 Wednesday Military Affairs Committee

march

1 Thursday 5:00 Dash
9 Friday Women in Business Luncheon
13 Tuesday Eye Opener Breakfast & Business Expo
16 Friday Ambassador Committee Meeting
19 Monday Leadership Battle Creek
21 Wednesday Silent Observer Committee
27 Tuesday Java & Beer Coffee Hour
28 Wednesday Military Affairs Committee

april

10 Tuesday Eye Opener Breakfast & Business Expo
13 Friday Chamber U: Orientation
13 Friday Women in Business Luncheon

april cont.

16 Monday Leadership Battle Creek
18 Wednesday Silent Observer Committee
Headshot Photo Day
20 Friday Ambassador Committee Meeting
24 Tuesday Java & Beer Coffee Hour
25 Wednesday Military Affairs Committee

may

4 Friday Rap with Your Reps
8 Tuesday Eye Opener Breakfast & Business Expo
11 Friday Women in Business Luncheon
16 Wednesday Business Excellence Awards
18 Friday Ambassador Committee Meeting
18 Friday Spring into the Arts
23 Wednesday Military Affairs Committee

june

1 Friday Silent Observer Golf Outing
8 Friday Women in Business Luncheon
12 Tuesday Eye Opener Breakfast & Business Expo
14 Thursday 5:00 Dash
15 Friday Ambassador Committee Meeting
20 Wednesday Silent Observer Committee
21 Thursday Chamber Golf Outing
27 Wednesday Military Affairs Committee

july

13 Friday Chamber U: Orientation
13 Friday Women in Business Luncheon
17 Tuesday Meet-n-Eat Speed Networking
18 Wednesday Silent Observer Committee
20 Friday Ambassador Committee Meeting
24 Tuesday Java & Beer Coffee Hour
25 Wednesday Military Affairs Committee

august

2 Thursday 5:00 Dash
10 Friday Women in Business Luncheon
15 Wednesday Silent Observer Committee
17 Friday Ambassador Committee Meeting
22 Wednesday Military Affairs Committee
25 Saturday Backyard Burgers & Brewsfest
28 Tuesday Java & Beer Coffee Hour

september

7 Friday Rap with Your Reps
11 Tuesday Eye Opener Breakfast & Business Expo
13 Thursday 5:00 Dash
14 Friday Chamber U: Orientation
14 Friday Women in Business Luncheon
18 Tuesday Meet-n-Eat Speed Networking
19 Wednesday Silent Observer Committee
21 Friday Ambassador Committee Meeting
26 Wednesday Military Affairs Committee

welcome new members

October 2016

As Needed Mow and Snow
US Staffing Agency LLC
Hot Rods and Handlebars
Whitney Electric & Plumbing
Whitney Holdings LLC
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Craig K. Kempf Family
Funeral Homes

November 2016

Compulink Computers LLC
Integrated Health Partners
Pleune Service Company

December 2016

RCV Services LLC
Healthy Conspiracy

January 2017

Lakeside Professional Center
Williamsburg/Mt. Vernon
Apartments

February 2017

AccessPoint
The Medalist Golf Club
Squirrel Hollow Golf Course
Torti Taco

March 2017

First Direct Financial
PrimeLending
Mulder's Moving & Storage
Consumers Credit Union

April 2017

Western & Southern Life
Progressive Residential Services, Inc.

Freedom Infinite Group LLC
Break Escape
Murphy's Educational Center Inc.
Baymont Inn & Suites - Downtown
SCORE Kalamazoo

May 2017

Burmese American Initiative, LLC
PRP Wine International
Thrivent Financial
Seelye Kia of Battle Creek
Turnkey Merchandise
Programs, LLC
Maggie LaNoue

June 2017

Eddy Graphic Design, Inc
Rock Solid Wellness Studio, LLC
The Fire Hub

August 2017

Wickert Dental Laboratory, LLC
Willow Creek Apartments
& Townhomes
Budget Blinds of Battle Creek
Rosler Metal Finishing
Tap Transport
The Salvation Army
Rain International
WBK Engineering
Venus Pharmacy

September 2017

Battle Creek Door
Advancing Lives, LLC
Gri Fols Biomat U.S.A. Battle Creek
MLive Media Group

chamber corner

Helping People Thrive, Excel, and Prosper



The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce is helping people thrive, businesses excel and our communities prosper. By creating the environment and facilitating partnerships that impact business success and our community's prosperity. We create access to accelerate ideas, opportunities and solutions. Your local chamber of commerce is making a positive impact on the community by leveraging the collective strength of the business community. While we offer a plethora of member benefits, we also have a small portion of services that membership is not required, but is market-driven and a la carte, fee-for-service offerings. Our Chamber Foundation is a 501c (3) organization that financially supports the initiatives of the Chamber through grants and fundraising efforts.

While this membership benefits list is limited, it's not our full menu of services:

1. Training space equipped with technology, equipment and resources to promote learning, innovation and collaboration
2. Touchdown space for working off-site or between appointments
3. One Stop Shop for business: housing strategic small business partners, including:
 - Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation
 - Cereal City Development Corporation — Small Business Economic Development
 - Downtown Development Authority
 - Leadership Battle Creek
4. Operational efficiencies and enhanced collaboration among partner organizations
5. Showcasing of Battle Creek products, services and craftsmanship
6. Advancing of a pro-business agenda
7. Community indicators, small business data and collaborative work groups
8. Leading and advancing community initiatives/projects
9. Representing business in community discussions
10. Networking preferred events
11. Dedicated staff and resources
12. Opportunity to serve on solution groups, think tanks and other volunteer groups
13. Personal and Professional development for the incumbent workforce
14. Best Practice Sharing
15. Industry and Niche Groups
16. Networking events and networks
17. Business Promotion
18. Products and Resources
19. Fundraising and development for projects and initiatives
20. Connects and engages Leadership Battle Creek program participants in broader community efforts

Karag Beer
President



2016–2017 highlights

 **51** NEW MEMBERS

 **20** RIBBON CUTTINGS

Engaged **13,000** MEMBERS & COMMUNITY

84%

RETENTION RATE

1

annual report

6

bimonthly newsletters

52

weekly e-newsletters

60+

member e-blasts

80+

Chamber specific events

WEB PRESENCE

77,988 unique visitors

FACEBOOK

226,744 people reached

8,400 engaged by commenting, sharing, and liking

1,950+ followers



7

community at large events



INTERNS

3 summer college interns

3 high school interns

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER.
Now, everyone in Battle Creek can join
Consumers Professional Credit Union.

We make it easy to borrow for business.



CPCU.CO



member ribbon cuttings



The Battle Creek Walmart Supercenter concluded their 12 week remodel project by having a re-grand opening ribbon cutting! Their project impacted nearly 100% of their sales floor. A few of the improvements include, a vision center of the future, a revamped electronics department, extensive changes to our homelines area as well as significant depth and product improvements to our grocery store. Our Battle Creek Walmart Supercenter store employs nearly 300 associates and has serviced the Battle Creek area since 1994.



Ad Solutions Media has joined the Battle Creek Chamber and moved their offices to the second floor of the Ermisch Travel Building in downtown Battle Creek. ASM, solely owned by Robert Paul of Battle Creek, recognized a need in the Battle Creek and surrounding markets for a knowledgeable and creative social media marketing company. For more information, please contact Robert at **269.579.2130** or visit **adsolutionsmedia.com** (new website coming) or kik9media.com.

member ribbon cuttings



Allen Harmon Ribbon cutting on June 2. Allen Harmon Insurance celebrated their 100th Anniversary as a business by offering several giveaways and "freebies" throughout the day, plus food, games and socializing. **230 Helmer Road N, Springfield, MI**



EG Workforce Solutions Ribbon cutting on June 1. EG Workforce Solutions hosted a "Grand Reopening" in celebration of their Battle Creek office's innovative remodel. This redesign promotes continued growth and an expansion of services to better serve clients in the area. **4651 W. Dickman Road, Battle Creek, MI**



DENSO New Family Health Center (DFHC) strengthens its commitment to the health and wellness of employees and their families as it celebrates opening at DENSO Manufacturing Michigan, Inc. DENSO purchased an adjoining building on Wayne Road in Battle Creek to serve its expanding customer base in North America.



Edward Jones Jacob Miller, local Edward Jones financial advisor and community activist, hosted a ribbon cutting in recognition of his CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification. Jake is one of a small handful of financial advisors in Southwest Michigan that hold the CFP® designation, which represents the highest standard in the financial planning industry. Call **269.962.0791** to schedule an appointment!



Lakeview Square Mall Ribbon cutting on June 8. FunShop Extreme is next to NCG Cinema and is home to the World's Largest PACMAN game! The new, expanded arcade is full of fun, interactive games and amusements that will keep kids and kids-at-heart entertained. **5775 Beckley Road, Battle Creek, MI**



Biggby Coffee The team at BIGGBY COFFEE on Columbia near 20th St. exists to love people. And the community has loved them right back! Since opening in March of 2016, BIGGBY has become a Battle Creek go-to for high quality beverages, love and inspiration. They continue to show impressive growth, as well as a heart for partnering with their community.



Battle Creek Pride is pleased to announce the relocation and expansion of our Resource Center. The Resource Center is located on the second floor of First Congregational Church (FCC) located at 145 Capital Ave NE. Battle Creek Pride is an all volunteer Non-Profit Organization serving the Greater Battle Creek Area LGBTQ Community. We provide resources and referrals for various local services and support. If you would like to donate, volunteer or get involved please visit our website **battlecreekpride.org** or email us at **info@battlecreekpride.org**.



BBC Health Sciences Library Ribbon cutting on May 3. This educational space is for physicians and other providers, employees, and the community offering medical journals/publications, videoconferencing capabilities, physician chart review, and more. **Bronson Battle Creek Outpatient Center, Emmett Street entrance**



Binder Park Zoo staff, local leaders, donors and friends cut the ribbon to unveil the much anticipated African lion exhibit on Monday, July 17 at Binder Park Zoo. While too shy to make their entrance at the event, the trio of lions can now be seen (and heard!) alternating in their new exhibit in Wild Africa. The event capped a multi-year capital campaign called Lions, Tortoise and Bears, Oh, My!, which funded three exhibits at the zoo.



Consumers Credit Union opened their new Battle Creek office at 6081 B Drive North. This new office will allow Consumers to better serve its Battle Creek area members by offering financial products and services with the benefit of local service and decisions. The office features a renovated lobby and drive-thru space with Interactive Tellers which allows the office to extend service hours Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Honor Credit Union Ribbon cutting on May 12. With the recent partnership between Honor CU and Battle Creek Area Community Federal Credit Union (BCACFCU), the BCACFCU branch location on Helmer Road cut the red ribbon to make the transition to Honor Credit Union official. **240 N Helmer Road, Battle Creek, MI**



Edward Jones—Office of Keith Corts Ribbon cutting on May 18. Edwards Jones Investments is a full service brokerage firm and has been a Chamber member since 2008. Keith Corts and his partner Amanda Hoxie specialize in retirement planning and has relocated to a new office space. **4055 W. Dickman Road Ste. E., Springfield, MI**



Venus Pharmacy Grand Opening celebration for Venus Pharmacy on the corner of Capital and Columbia Avenues in Battle Creek. Venus Pharmacy offers free home delivery. **865 Capital Ave SW, Battle Creek, MI 49015**



Rolling Hills Community The Chamber and Ambassadors celebrated with ribbon at Rolling Hills Community for their latest expansion phase of 2017 with an outdoor cookout and ice cream social this past September. An award winning community of over 25 years invites the community out to tour one of their brand new model homes. **500 Morgan Road, Battle Creek, MI 49017**

Report From the Incoming Board Chairman

Debi Southworth,
OMNI Community Credit Union



Dear friends of Calhoun County and the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce,

I am honored and humbled to serve as the Chair of the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce for 2017–2018. I follow a strong legacy of leaders who have worked together with the staff, board, community, and businesses to make Battle Creek and Calhoun County the best place to live, work and play.

Since 1912, the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce has been a driving force behind ensuring that our local economy is strong and that our community is prosperous and vibrant. It's an incredible honor to work alongside my fellow Board members, our volunteers, Ambassadors and most importantly — all of you — our Chamber partners. You make our Chamber and our community exceptional!

Battle Creek and the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce has changed greatly in the last 106 years as we have learned that we can use the best resource we have — our people — to improve economic and community development. Over the years we have faced challenges, but I want us to be able to look back and say we are better because of the challenges we overcame together to make Battle Creek what it is today. Throughout it all, the Chamber has been an encouragement and resource to lead the way for the future.

As a Chamber partner, you directly contribute to the growth of an outstanding business climate that receives global recognition. Every day, we are proud to facilitate success, talent and innovation in the Battle Creek area.

I look forward to working with prospective and existing partners this year as Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce continues to accelerate ideas, opportunities and solutions.

Debi Southworth

Chief Lending Officer
OMNI Community Credit Union
2017-2018 Board Chair

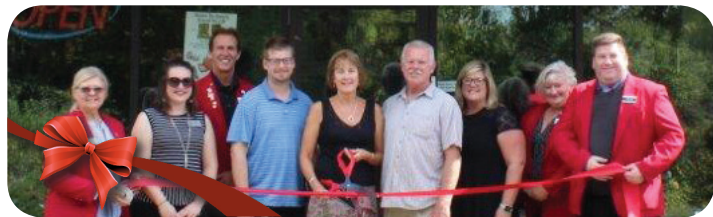
member ribbon cuttings



Heartland Healthcare Center of Battle Creek The Chamber Staff, Ambassadors and Heartland Health Care Center–Battle Creek celebrated with ribbon on Monday, September 18 with the newest additions to their therapy team, a new Director of Rehab, Tonya Morgan-Oday, OT, and new Physical Therapist, Bill Strong. **200 E Roosevelt Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49037**



Applebee's – TEAM Schostak Family Restaurants The Chamber Staff and Ambassadors celebrated the Fifth Year Anniversary of Team Schostak Family Restaurants becoming the proud owners of 64 Michigan Applebee's locations. The Applebee's Grill & Bar Ribbon Cutting at Lakeview Square Mall took place on September 20, 2017 with food and drink specials, plus a chance to win FREE Applebee's for a year. **5775 Beckley Rd, Battle Creek, MI 49015**



Burtrum Furs & Leathers, Southwest Michigan's largest full service furrier is celebrating 27 years on Beckley Road in Battle Creek with a Grand Reopening and Ribbon Cutting on September 25, 2017. Marilyn and Eric Burtrum's son Matthew is an apprentice furrier in training and is helping with the day-to-day operations. Please stop by and see all of their new inventory and newly remodeled showroom, and visit them online at www.burtrumfursandleathers.com for more information. **5568 Beckley Rd, Battle Creek, MI 49015**



Evergreen
Senior Care & Rehab Center

111 Evergreen Road, Battle Creek, MI 49015
269-969-6110 | www.evergreenscc.com

"The Therapy Team at Evergreen not only possesses great skill and training, they have a talent for making you believe in yourself. Not only did they restore my physical health, they worked just as hard to rebuild the confidence I needed to progress." – S.S.

Featuring:

- Rehab to Home
- Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy Services
- Long-Term Skilled Nursing
- Private Rooms Available
- Respite Care

• Admissions 24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a week- Cable & Wi-Fi



Come tour today!



2017–2018
services | programs | activities

for details &
updates, visit
battlecreek.org

Networking opportunities, professional development, community involvement, recognition and regional exposure — whatever your plans dictate — you can launch them by attending one of the many Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce's programs and events. We host annual, quarterly, and monthly programs and series to ensure you get the results you desire and the tools you need to succeed in our business community. All of the specific dates may be located on our calendars by mail, email and online.

Annual Business Excellence Awards (May 16, 2018)

An evening affair that will be recognizing the achievements of successful businesses, nonprofits, organizations and industry people in the Greater Battle Creek area, and the contributions they make to the growth and prosperity of the economy. The slate of awards for 2018 will include: Start Up Business of the Year, Small Business of the Year (under 25 employees), Mid-Size Business of the Year (26–50 employees) and Large Business of the Year (51 + employees), Footprint Award, and the 2018 Women in Business Awards. This year we are also presenting the Ambassador "Star Awards", Harley Simmons Award, the graduation of Leadership Battle Creek, Regional Health Alliance's "Workplace Wellness Recognition Award", and the Urban League of Battle Creek's "Randall Brock Memorial Award" at KCC Binda Theatre.

Military Appreciation Luncheon

formerly named Armed Forces Day Luncheon

(Friday, November 3, 2017)

During the event, the Military Affairs Committee will present the General of the Army Omar N. Bradley Service Awards to all of the military installations along with several other distinguished acknowledgments. We will also be presenting a Community Service Award to an individual who has provided outstanding service to our community.

5:00 Dash (Quarterly)

Every quarter, the Chamber hosts 5:00 Dash networking event designed for members to meet and build relationships with business people from small, mid-size and large Battle Creek Area companies and organizations representing a variety of industries. These events usually take place between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at various locations.

Meet n' Eat — Speed Networking (Quarterly)

In this networking event we gather 25 to 30 people at local restaurants to be surprised and inspired from each other. Sign up for lunch and we will arrange the opportunity to connect with potential new clients, friendships, board members or more over lunch.

Eye Opener Breakfast & Business Expo (8 months)

The program provides opportunities for members to meet, mingle, and do business with each other. The Chamber's Eye Opener Breakfast and Business Expo consists of informational speakers presenting on timely topics of interest to our business members as well as a business-to-business expo. Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month (No January, July, August or December Eye Opener) from 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. at the Kool Family Community Center.

Annual Chamber Golf Outing (June 21, 2018)

Golf has always been known as the top sport for mixing business and pleasure. Playing a great round on the golf course with clients, coworkers and business leaders is an invaluable asset for men and women in business. An opportunity for you to build business relationships! Opportunities for face-to-face time with important clients, introducing yourself to competitors, and possibly gaining a little name recognition if you play well. Expected golfers: 128 players

Chamber U (Quarterly)

Begin or refresh your involvement with the Chamber by networking with other newly engaged members! Learn how to best utilize your Chamber membership and learn more about all of the amazing benefits we have to offer.

State of the Community Address (January 9, 2018)

The second Tuesday of January, we invite you to hear from the Mayor of Battle Creek and the County Board Chair on the state of our community. Both representatives will have an opportunity to inform attendees on what was accomplished in 2017 and what is planned for 2018. This event will be held at the Kool Family Community Center.

Ribbon Cuttings (Ongoing)

A ribbon cutting is a great way to introduce your business to the community and your fellow Chamber members. It can be as simple, informal, extravagant or ceremonious as you want it to be. It's your event and should reflect your company's values and personality.

Silent Observer Golf Outing (June 1, 2018)

Golf with local law enforcement and business professionals. All proceeds from this golf outing go towards the Silent Observer crime prevention programming. This is an opportunity for you to build relationships for your business. Expected golfers: 100 players

Fall/Spring into the Arts (October 20, 2017 & May 18, 2018)

Downtown Battle Creek's annual Artwalk. The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce believes these events provide businesses and arts organizations with the tools they need to create meaningful partnerships that support a healthy, creative, and artistic community, but that also give businesses a competitive advantage. Spring and Fall into the Arts demonstrates how the arts can help businesses enhance the critical thinking and creative skills of their workforce and how artists can develop new innovative business strategies. Together, we can advance the community in which they live and work in new and resourceful ways.



CEREAL CITY CONCERT BAND

Conductor: Dr. Stephen White

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

"Home for the Holidays"

Sunday, December 10, 2017
KCC Binda Theatre, 3:00pm

email: cccb@cerealcityconcertband.org
CCCB is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization

www.cerealcityconcertband.org



2017–2018 services | programs | activities

for details &
updates, visit
battlecreek.org

Backyard Burgers & Brewsfest (August 25, 2018)

Your taste buds will thank you on August 25! The 4th Annual Backyard Burgers and Brewsfest will feature local food and brews, a burger competition, live music, backyard style games, including a corn hole tournament, and more!

Java & Beer Coffee Hour (Monthly)

Mornings are always a struggle without a cup of coffee. That's why your Chamber president, Kara Beer is brewing up a pot just for you! Join her and other Chamber members for the Java & Beer networking series. Grab coffee and breakfast treats from 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. and enjoy coffee hour with YOUR president and energizing benefits such as:

- Staying connected with YOUR Chamber
- Learning more about other members
- Giving members the opportunity to learn more about YOU
- The ULTIMATE ice breaker — GIANT Jenga

The event is free for Chamber members. Not a part of the Java & Beer mug club? The special 22 oz. beer stein will be available to purchase ahead of time by calling 269.962.4076, or at the door when you arrive. See you bright and early!

Headshot Photo Day (April 18, 2018)

NEW PROGRAMMING ALERT!

It's time for an update. Join us as we host Headshot Photo Day at the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce office to update your professional headshot. 15 minute sessions. Choose from three backgrounds. Final shot will be emailed in jpeg format.

Chamber on the Go (Ongoing)

Chamber on the Go brings services to Battle Creek area businesses. Chamber on the Go focuses on supporting and enhancing the various activities of the Chamber. The goal of this outreach is to provide on-site assistance to business owners, while at the same time building a healthy and robust business environment throughout the Battle Creek area.

Chamber on the Go provides:

- On-the-ground, proactive Chamber services. Businesses have access to a variety of services on location, which are designed to help them flourish and grow.
- On-demand, mobile assistance that serves as a resource for businesses struggling or having issues with a government entity.

Chamber ChitChats (Quarterly)

ChitChat series will be based on professional fields. Seating is limited in each of the groups. Manufacturing | Human Resources | Family Owned Business | Entrepreneur | Young Professional

Women in Business Networking Lunch (Monthly)

Join us for monthly networking and collaborating in the Chamber Loft and quarterly at our special luncheons to be held off site.

The Battle Creek Area Women in Business Networking Lunch is an initiative of the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce that promotes and empowers women business leaders to achieve their personal and professional goals.

The Women in Business Initiative inspires women to succeed by:

- Learning from and networking with women in all stages of their careers
- Promoting women entrepreneurs and helping improve their business prospects
- Conducting research with leading institutions to explore women's business issues and highlight their economic potential
- Working together, we can inspire, empower, and help women around Battle Creek enhance their personal, business, and career goals

We will be providing resources that are important to ensuring women are successful:

- Supporting entrepreneurs as important contributors to our economy
- Working with local chamber members to facilitate the advancement of women in business
- Mentoring for women to build strong networks and advance careers
- Supporting military spouses in planning careers and building networks
- Building formal and informal networks that are critical for career advancement

Salute to the Military Ball (June 2018)

Join the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce for our 2nd Annual Salute to the Military Ball, a black-tie affair giving Calhoun County citizens and surrounding business communities an opportunity to show their thanks and support to local military members and their families.

What's Up Wednesday (Ongoing)

This is an opportunity for members to connect with our Chamber Ambassadors as they "pop" in to say hello and check in. Thank you to NCG Cinema for providing popcorn to our members as we show our appreciation for being a part of our network.

Rap with Your Reps (Quarterly)

Offering you the opportunity to connect with lawmakers about what's important to you. Share your concerns and in return, lawmakers have an opportunity to listen and hear from their community first hand.



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2016–2017 fiscal year

Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce

One Riverwalk Centre, Suite 3A
34 West Jackson Street
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017



what makes up our membership?

Organizations/
Non-Profits/Churches

9.61%

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Retail Trade

6.86%

Banks/Credit Unions

6.67%

Manufacturing

4.31%

